



EMMET COUNTY NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release – August 10, 2021

Emmet County Commissioners to Host Public Session on Workforce Housing

Workforce and affordable housing will be the focus of the Emmet County Board of Commissioners in a strategic planning session set for Thursday, August 26, at 6 p.m. in the Petoskey Middle School auditorium.

At least 16 presenters will provide information to the commissioners on various aspects concerning the county's housing situation in the special public session. County Administrator Mike Reaves extended an invitation to dozens of local officials, organizations, and companies in an effort to bring as several perspectives and knowledgeable voices to the conversation about the persistent housing crisis.

Due to the high level of interest from those dedicated to improving the housing situation in the county, Reaves limited the presenters to 8-10 minutes each with a brief question and answer period to follow if the commissioners wish to engage further.

American Community Developers, Inc., is scheduled to begin the evening's event by providing a brief overview of affordable housing and some of the obstacles to developing it.

Northern Lakes Economic Alliance will offer a presentation on collaborative approaches to meeting the affordable housing needs of the county.

Networks Northwest's presentation will explain the county's target market analysis and other housing data.

Emmet Association of Realtors also plans to provide more data on northern Michigan housing.

The Emmet County Planning and Zoning Department will outline what the county's Planning Commission has learned in reviewing the county's current zoning ordinance, where the zoning standards may be impacting housing, what ordinance amendments have been made and others being considered.

Emmet County Land Bank Authority chairperson Mary Mitchell will explain what the Land Bank Authority does and how the LBA can help return distressed, abandoned, and/or foreclosed properties back to productive use.

Housing North representatives plan to discuss the Charlevoix County housing model and how it might be useful in planning in Emmet County.

A representative from Public Schools of Petoskey will outline how the housing shortage is affecting local schools.

Mayor John Murphy will highlight the City of Petoskey's accomplishments and goals related housing.

Northern Homes Community Development Corporation's representative will discuss public/private partnerships as well as options for using the American Rescue Plan funds to support housing initiatives.

Northwest Michigan Habitat for Humanity will explain the organization's plan to build 42 affordable homes in/near Alanson and offer other general information on family housing.

A representative from Presbyterian Villages of Michigan and Hillside Club Apartments will provide information on the aging demographic of the county and what it takes to put a housing project together.

Petoskey Regional Chamber of Commerce plans to outline how housing development relates to economic development.

Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation will discuss issues related to funding gaps and what other communities are doing.

The Little Traverse Bay Housing Partnership will finish up the schedule of presenters by offering up 12 things that Emmet County can do to address housing needs.

Members of the public who are interested in the ongoing discussions on how to increase housing opportunities in the area are welcome to attend.

#

For questions about this event, please contact Mike Reaves at (231) 348-1701 or mreaves@emmetcounty.org.