

“Menominee County – Where the Best of Michigan Begins”

MENOMINEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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RESOLUTION – 2021-23

RESOLUTION TO EXEMPT COUNTIES WITH A POPULATION OF 75,000 OR LESS FROM CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT

WHEREAS, the Menominee County Board of Commissioners has concerns regarding recent changes made to the Michigan Open Meetings Act; and

WHEREAS, prior to the recent changes made to the Open Meetings Act, members of a public body could attend and participate in a public meeting virtually so long as a quorum of the public body was physically present at the meeting location; and

WHEREAS, effective April 1, 2021, the only authorization under the Open Meetings Act for a board member to attend and participate in the meeting virtually is if the board member is physically absent due to military duty, a health condition, or there is in place a statewide or local state of the emergency/state of disaster; and

WHEREAS, this eliminates a public body’s previous flexibility to allow one or two members to participate in public meetings virtually; and

WHEREAS, the Menominee County Board of Commissioners believes that technology is sufficient to provide a reliable and clear method of virtual communication, that flexibility is essential to the recruitment and retention of qualified county commissioners, and that having a county commissioner attend and participate in a board meeting virtually is better than not having the county commissioner attend at all.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Menominee County Board of Commissioners request that the State of Michigan Legislature and Governor Whitmer make changes to the Open Meetings Act to exempt counties with a population of 75,000 or less be exempt from the portions of the Open Meetings Act that restricts a member of a public body to attend and participate in a public meeting virtually, as long as a physical quorum of the public body is in attendance at the meeting location.

