



## GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY CLERK Bonnie Scheele

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*Grand Traverse County provides mandated and necessary services that ensure safety and add value to our community.*

**\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\***

### **New Board of Commissioners' Meeting Schedule**

March 14, 2016

**Grand Traverse County** – Effective April 1, 2016, the Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners' meeting schedule will change.

According to County Clerk Bonnie Scheele, this is a big change that will generate savings for the county. "Ever since I can remember," said County Clerk Bonnie Scheele, "the board has had their regular board meeting on the last Wednesday of the month." Scheele explained that the first three Wednesdays of each month have been devoted to meetings of "committees of the whole board" – Public Health and Safety, Resource Management and Administration, and Ways and Means. During the fourth Wednesday of every month, commissioners met as the "whole board" to review recommendations made by the three committees earlier in the month.

Beginning in April, the full board will meet twice each month, on the first and third Wednesday. Two "study sessions," scheduled to be held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, will take place, as needed. A study session will take place when commissioners wish to analyze an issue further, beyond a regular meeting, prior to voting on that issue. The board will not take any formal action during a study session.

Scheele says she anticipates positive results from last month's board decision to change the schedule. "Fewer meetings mean less time and resources used," she said, "and meetings will be focused, especially with the addition of study sessions to help commissioners make the best possible decisions on our community's behalf."

County Commissioner Alisa Kroupa agrees with the County Clerk, saying, "This change eliminates three committees, which, in turn, will eliminate per diem payments, resulting in nearly \$10,000 in savings for the county."

All meetings begin at 6 p.m. and take place in Commission Chambers on the second floor of the Governmental Center, 400 Boardman Avenue, Traverse City 49686. For a meeting schedule and additional information about the County Board of Commissioners, visit [www.grandtraverse.org](http://www.grandtraverse.org) on line, or call the County Clerk's Office at 231-922-4760.

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