

City Clerk

From: S Odgers <odgers_s@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 10:51 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: Correspondence for 8/28/24 meeting. Thank you, Susan

August 27, 2024

Dear Mayor Doud and City Council:

This is my follow-up correspondence to your meeting on August 21, 2024. I watched that meeting on Zoom. I appreciate that you read my correspondence of 8/21/24 into the record.

I'm aware that you have a special meeting on 8/28/24.

Again, I can appreciate the position Sheplers is in. My empathy extends to all of you, all of the employees/businesses and residents on and affiliated with the island, and all of the visitors.

Since 2008, I've written a newspaper column for "The Traverse City Record-Eagle". The column is about psychology, health, seniors, and disability. My last column was about Parkinson's disease. I've featured the island in past columns. My readers especially love coming to the island in the fall. Now, many are asking me what's going on with the ferry service.

Mr. Chris Shepler said several things during the 8/21/24 meeting that I want to address.

*Pertinent points Mr. Shepler made regarding his past ADA training do not match current standards by way of the Great Lakes ADA Center, Disability Network, and other experts in the field.

*If only 1 of the 5 Sheplers ships is ADA accessible, how will patrons know when that exact ferry will be running? I've called and been given unclear and conflicting information.

*Persons with disabilities ride in the stern of the ships because they have no other choice. Currently, Shepler staff will not allow wheelchairs to be taken down steps into the passenger compartment. No other passengers are forced to ride in the stern. And, the view from the stern is scary when the weather is less than perfect.

*These are extremely stressful times for Sheplers and passengers with disabilities fear their needs will not be met.

*Since 8/21/24 no one from Sheplers has acknowledged, knowledge of my concerns. Not even to say they received the correspondence.

Lastly, many of us are concerned Sheplers and their owners will be a monopoly island ferry service. I've yet to talk to anyone who thinks this is a good idea.

I know you will decide what's best, fair and legal for everyone on the island.

With gratitude,

Susan Odgers
Traverse City

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