

# Lakeview Area News

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Gotion is in the news again. We have articles from Cindy Havens, Chris Zimmerman and John Moolenaar.

We are getting ice on the lake. Hopefully, there will be enough for the ice fishing tournament next month.

## Winter Forecast

**Thu** Mostly sunny, with a high near 25. Calm wind becoming west 5 to 7 mph in the morning.

**Thu Night** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 13.

**Fri** A 30 percent chance of snow showers after 1pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 24.

**Fri Night** A chance of snow showers before 1am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 17.

**Sat** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 29.

**Sat Night** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 17.

**Sun** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 28.

**Sun Night** A chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 20.

**Mon** A chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 27.



## New Commissioners Oppose Gotion



This sign still stands in a field north of Big Rapids. Newly elected Mecosta County commissioners Greg Adams, Jeff Jackson, Gary Lambrix and Chris Zimmerman responded at the first meeting of 2025.

By Cindy Havens

One of the first items of business for the newly seated Mecosta County Commissioners, was to state publicly that they oppose the Gotion project, a complete 180-turnaround from the previous board of commissioners. According to the Midwesterner, newly elected board chairman Chris Zimmerman stated, "When 92% of the Mecosta County residents opposed the Chinese battery plant in our community, the board of commissioners should have listened. When our congressman says there are security concerns with China in our community, the board of commissioners should have reversed their approval of the project." One gentleman who attended the meeting stated, "Thank you guys so much for finally listening to the people. For a couple of years, this previous board would not even acknowledge us, wouldn't listen to us, they voted 7-0 for Gotion." Victor Skin-

ner, with the Midwesterner reported that, "Within minutes of taking office, the new board voted 5-2 to rescind Resolution 2023-04, which stated the prior commission's support for Gotion, citing "new information and developments...concerning the project and its ownership structure with direct ties to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and broader issues of foreign investment." Chris Zimmerman stated that the four newly elected commissioners – himself, Greg Adams, Jeff Jackson and Gary Lambrix – all won their seats in November, primarily on opposition to Gotion. "All four of us opposed Gotion and we hope the passage of this resolution will help heal the divide in our community. Moreover, as long as the four of us are on the commission, we will no longer ignore the will of the people," Zimmerman stated to applause.

It's hard to tell right now where the results of this action may lead regarding the whole Gotion

situation. The proposed plans for the electric vehicle battery facility are still uncertain. The legal battle between Green Charter Township and Gotion has not yet been resolved. But new facts continue to come out regarding the Gotion project. As reported in the Midwesterner, "Democrats including Governor Gretchen Whitmer, have ignored repeated calls from our Congressman John Moolenaar, (R-Mich), and national security experts, to nix state incentives for the facility, despite evidence Gotion allegedly bribed township officials to seal the deal." The Midwesterner reported that, "The Gotion project landed \$715 million in taxpayer-funded business incentives through secret negotiations with Governor Whitmer's administration and select lawmakers." Rep. Moolenaar said that, "Under no circumstance should the CCP be allowed to benefit from the tax dollars of hard-working American families. Unfortunately, the Biden administration's

45X rule has left the door open for CCP-affiliated companies, like Gotion, to reap billions in taxpayer funding." President-elect Donald Trump has stated that he is "100% opposed" to the Gotion facility. "The Gotion plant would be very bad for the state and our country," Trump posted to Truth Social in August. "It would put Michiganders under the thumb of the Chinese Communist party in Beijing." Vice-President-elect J.D. Vance made that same sentiment crystal clear when he spoke earlier this year at a rally in Mecosta County. The new Mecosta County Commissioners would agree. And there were several Mecosta County residents who attended the first meeting of 2025 to thank the four new commissioners. One woman told the board that she has come to many commission meetings. "We've been shot down. No one would listen to a word we were saying. I am so glad that finally people are listening to us." Anyone wishing to stay in-

formed about happenings in Mecosta County and what your commission is doing, can attend a Mecosta County Commission meeting. All meetings are held on the first and third Thursdays in Mecosta County Services Building – Conference Room F, entering through Door 3, Big Rapids. The first Thursday meetings are at 10:00 am. and the third Thursday meetings are at 3:00 pm. Meetings are open to the public. People can visit the website at: mecosta-county.org to find your district and how to contact your commissioner. Let's make 2025 the year we stay informed and get involved to preserve our liberties and freedoms. Remember the great quote attributed to Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Jr. when he was Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives: "All politics is local." The heroes of Green Charter Township have certainly proven that to be true. Happy New Year, all!

## Commissioner's column: Day One on The Job



By Chris Zimmerman  
I must admit, on the

eve of getting sworn in as County Commissioner, I was a little nervous. Even though I was prepared for the meeting, the last time I had a "first day on the job" was decades ago. After all, I've been an insurance agent since 1990. Nervousness was to be expected; it always is when you get out of your comfort zone.

Last spring, when I threw my name in the ring to become County Commissioner, I knew that my first day on the job would be in early January, 2025.

The planks in my campaign's platform were simple enough: no to Gotion, term limits for commissioners, promote small business, and restore trust to the board. With a lot of hard work on the campaign trail and a message that rang true with the voters of Wheatland and Morton Townships, I upset a 20-year incumbent. As it turns out, four of the seven incumbent commissioners in Mecosta County were replaced. Results of the election were undeniable:

people wanted a change of direction in local government.

At the risk of tooting my own horn, it took courage to run for office, to say the things that needed to be said, to have a platform that was different from the status quo. Hats off to the other newbies on the board who had the same level of courage. It's easy to sit on the sidelines and stomp your feet, wail, throw slippers at the TV, and complain. It takes courage to step to the plate

and run for office.

On the day of the commissioner's meeting, in front of 30 or so folks in the gallery, I was nominated and elected to be the chairman of the board. Gary Lambrix was elected as vice-chair. His district makes up almost the entire southern tier of townships in the county. And just like that, I whipped out a gavel from my briefcase, and took control of the meeting.

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