

Commissioners in Action Jan. 22

BY MARIAN MCMAHON
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LAKE COUNTY – The Lake County Board of Commissioners meets at 10 a.m. most Thursdays, with some meetings at 2 p.m. on Tuesdays, in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Lake County Administration Building, 105 Main St., Painesville. All meetings are open to the public. Requests to address the government board may be made at any board meeting

or presented to the Commissioners' Office by calling Amy Elszasz at (440) 350-2753.

There was a meeting Jan. 29. The next regular meeting will be Thursday, Feb. 5 at 10 a.m.

At the Jan. 22 meeting, the following resolutions were adopted:

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

- Authorizing advertising for bids for fittings, repair parts, service equipment and

tools with a bid opening date of Feb. 18.

- Authorizing advertising for bids for limestone with a bid opening date of Feb. 18.

The estimated amounts for the divisions are: Water, \$100,000; Sewer, \$8,500; and Solid Waste, \$20,500.

- Authorizing advertising for bids for asphalt cold patch bid opening date of Feb. 18.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

- Approving vouchers date of warrant Jan. 26 in the amount of \$445,714.02.

The breakdown of charges is: Public Assistance, \$112,659.70; Child Support Enforcement, \$2,762.11; Workforce Investment, \$48,928.15; and Child Welfare, \$281,364.06.

COMMISSIONERS OFFICE

- Authorizing execution of an agreement with the Madison Township trustees for participation in the Lake County Regionalized Health Insurance Program, effective Feb. 1.

Madison Township administrator Lee Bodnar called the agreement an "extremely advantageous opportunity from the Township's perspective, saving us significant funds in our health care provision and employee benefits package."

He thanked the commissioners for permitting other public entities to participate in the Lake County health program.

Board President Dan Troy said entities which ask to participate must undergo an underwriting analysis.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

- Approving payment of bills in the amount of \$1,534,020.25.

- Approving purchase orders in the amount of \$470,743.60.

- Increasing appropriations for various non-general fund accounts.

- Transferring cash within various general and

non-general fund accounts.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORT UTILITIES

- The freezing weather now has the county system averaging about one water line break per day, Director Rick Martin said. The west end has most of the breaks.

Troy said the west end communities used to belong to the Cuyahoga County system, but they asked the County to begin a water system about 30 years ago, and it did. However, it had to accept the aging water lines in the west end.

"The good thing is that we have the resources and we have the employees that do a very good job in this cold weather keeping up with those (breaks)," Troy said.

Martin said they are usually able to have workers or site within a couple hours of being notified of a break.

NEW BUSINESS

- Troy noted Kevin Malecek, who was selected to fill the remainder of former Commissioner Bob Aufuldish's term of office, was present.

However, Malecek still had more to do to complete the process before being sworn in as a commissioner, Troy said.

- Commissioner Judy Moran, who sits on the Lake Health Hospital Board noted some of the accomplishments, such as earning a three-star rating from the Society of Thoracic Surgeons for the open heart program; 3-D mammography for early detection of breast cancer; the DaVinci robot for surgery; 38 new physicians; 21 new Allied Health professionals; and received \$3 million in gifts from the Lake Health Foundation.

Moran said the hospital system has instituted a PhysicianFirst program in the emergency rooms so patients are seen by medical staff first, not a receptionist. It reduces the wait time and starts treatment more quickly.