

Sales tax collection is up

BY MARIAN MCMAHON
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LAKE COUNTY — Lake County Board of Commissioners President Dan Troy reported the sales tax collection figures were in for the fourth quarter of 2014.

"It appears, based on sales tax revenue, the Christmas shopping in December of 2014 was about 7 or 8 percent higher than what we saw in 2013," Troy said.

He noted the increased sales were not only good for the merchants, but for the county as well. At this time in 2014, the sales tax collected was \$8,645,720, while this year, the figure is \$9,213,343.

"We especially thank those folks from neighboring counties who come here to do their shopping and drop off a few tax dollars," Troy said.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED: UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

- Awarding a bid contract to Unique Paving Materials Corp. and Osborne Concrete & Stone Company for asphalt cold patch.

- Awarding a bid contract in the amount of \$760,566.44 to S.E.T. Inc. for Sandgate, Stirling and Falkirk Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project 320-S and Waterline Replacement Project 367-W.

This is for replacement of old sanitary sewers in Madison Township in conjunction with the LCDU sewer replacement plan.

The low bid is 18 percent less than the engineer's estimate.

- Certifying unpaid sewer and water sums to the Lake County Auditor.

COMMISSIONERS'

OFFICE

- Accepting and approving the recommendation of Planning Commission Member Stephen J. Adams to remove his current alternate and to designate Ron Graham (Lake County health commissioner) as his new alternate on the Lake County Planning Commission.

- Authorizing a contract with Lenco Armored Vehicles for the purchase of a special response vehicle to be utilized by the Lake County Sheriff's Office Regional Swat Team as approved by the FY2014 State Homeland Security Grant Program.

"This was a project that was recommended by the Homeland Security Advisory Committee in the FY 2014 grant cycle," said Larry Greene, director of Lake County Emergency Management Agency. "It will enhance the capability of the three-county regional SWAT team to respond to emergency medical treatment as well as in a hostile area."

He said it was specially designed.

The 10-year-old vehicle currently being used will be redeployed to Geauga County. The new vehicle will be housed in Painesville.

FINANCE

DEPARTMENT

- Increasing appropriations for various non-general fund accounts.

- Transferring cash and appropriations within various general and non-general fund accounts.

SPECIAL

RESOLUTIONS

- Recognizing April as National County Government Month and celebrating its 2015 theme "Counties Moving America Forward. The Keys Are Transportation and Infrastructure."

tion and Infrastructure."

Troy noted counties are responsible for 45 percent of public roads and about 40 percent of the bridges, and about 33 percent of transit systems and airports in the country.

- Congratulating Michael A. Carriabuci of Mentor Troop 280 on attaining the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout awarded by the National Boy Scouts of America.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS UTILITIES

- Sanitary Engineer Randy Rothlisberger reported LCDU had a new contract for electrical power through the County Commissioners Association of Ohio and Palmer Energy with Mid-American Energy. It is estimated the new contract with save LCDU about \$1,700 per month.

"We received a petition for water lines and sewer lines in Hawthorn Woods, a subdivision which is off Ravenna Road, near the border with Geauga County," he said.

On April 1 they had an informational meeting with residents.

They need 75 percent of the residents to agree, then LCDU will move forward with design engineering. A public hearing would be required.

- Public Services Coordinator Matt Armand reported the next special collection coming up would be the computer collection from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 25 at the Lake County Fairgrounds Commercial Building at 1301 Mentor Ave. in Painesville Township.

"Last year I think we collected about 43 tons of items," he said.

Acceptable items are: home computer equipment including CPUs and monitors, keyboards, mice, printers, modems and speakers. Cell phones are also accepted.

No televisions, microwave ovens, typewriters, DVD players, cameras or VCRs will be accepted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- The Board of Commissioners issued a proclamation recognizing April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day.

Troy read the proclamation which stated up to one of 68 children (one of 42 boys) were being diagnosed with autism spectrum.

"In Lake County, that means nearly 35 children will be born this year with autism," Troy read from the proclamation.

This year communities and businesses were asked to Light It Up Blue.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The commissioners adjourned to executive session to discuss personnel interviews, and pending litigation.

MEETINGS

- The Lake County Board of Commissioners meets 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 Elasz at (440) 350-2753.

There was a meeting April 9. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, April 14 at 2 p.m.