

# CCAO garners support for indigent defense reimbursement

BY MARIAN MCMAHON  
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**LAKE COUNTY** – Lake County Board of Commissioners President Dan Troy said the County Commissioners Association of Ohio reported 50 legislative co-sponsors to increase the state's reimbursement for indigent defense to 50 percent of the cost, at the March 26 commissioners meeting. He said it was not too late to call legislators and ask them to support the increase.

"In most cases, in a 99-member body, when you have 50 co-sponsors or more that means that it's pretty certain it will go through, although there have been exceptions," Troy said.

At a previous meeting he had reported at one point the state only paid 20-some percent of indigent defense costs and currently it was

30-some percent. CCAO was asking for an additional \$12 million per year to be added to the budget to bring the state's share to 50 percent instead of the 40 percent which was in the proposed budget.

## RESOLUTIONS PASSED:

### ENGINEERS' DEPARTMENT

- Declaring certain equipment used by the Lake County Engineer's Office as surplus or obsolete and not needed for use and authorizing the private sale of said equipment.

### UTILITIES

### DEPARTMENT

- Approving plans, specifications and estimates of cost in the amount of \$1,916,825 for Lakeshore Boulevard Waterline Replacement Project No. 332-W same with a bid opening date of April 22.

The project will replace about two miles of 8-inch pipe in Eastlake from SOM Center Road west to about East 330th Street.

"It's part of our infrastructure replacement plan that we've talked about over the last several years," said Randy Rothlisberger.

Al Saari reported the county had received about \$615,000 in Issue 1 funds from the state for the project.

- Transferring cash from Aquarius Water Treatment Plant Lab Upgrade Project 338-W to LCDU Water District.

- Reclassifying Randy Rothlisberger to the position of sanitary engineer in the Lake County Department of Utilities, effective April 6.

Rothlisberger has been with LCDU for 17 years.

He was instrumental in developing the New Product Review Committee and the Water Infrastructure Replacement Plan. He is on the Madison Township Zoning Commission, Lake County GIS Board, AWWA Distribution Committee and serves on the OFCO Board of Trustees.

He replaces Al Saari who is retiring.

"Thanks for the opportunity,"

nity, I appreciate it," Rothlisberger said. "Obviously I have some very large shoes to fill."

- Declaring an emergency and determining the necessity to proceed with the replacement of the influent pump at the Gary L. Kron Water Reclamation Facility. This replaces a broken reserve pump.

"We have what we call five influent pumps that come into the plant," Saari said. "One is always dedicated as a backup. One of those pumps has been repaired numerous times, and it's more cost effective to buy a new one to have that emergency backup when we have large rain events if we need to move that flow into the plant."

### FINANCE

### DEPARTMENT

- Approving payment of bills in the amount of \$1,436,623.27.

- Approving purchase orders in the amount of \$1,154,161.73.

- Increasing appropriations for a various non-general fund account.

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

## SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

- Proclaiming April 2015 Child Abuse Prevention Month in Lake County.

## DEPARTMENTAL REPORT

### UTILITIES

- Saari reported bids were opened for the Madison Township Waterline Replacement Project by Lakeshore Boulevard and Maple Avenue. The estimate for the project was \$525,000 and bids ranged from 9 percent over to 9 percent under with CIR of Geneva having the lowest bid.

### NEW BUSINESS

- Commissioner Judy Moran noted the Lake County Sheriff's Heroin Task Force, created by the Board of Commissioners in 2014, was part of the combined efforts of a number of law enforcement agencies which resulted in raids at a number of local businesses. The businesses allegedly were buying stolen merchandise from people who were then using the funds to support their drug habits.

"They are working really hard and they are tying together a lot of cases that were previously just isolated in their own little cities,"

Moran said.

The Task Force worked with the Lake County Narcotics' Agency, Painesville City Police Department, Wickliffe Police Department, Willoughby Police Department and the State of Ohio Investigative Unit.

Troy said the task force was created in response to the serious problems in the county due to heroin abuse and the negative impact all the thefts and burglaries to support the habits of drug users had on the county residents and businesses.

Moran said the arrests send a message that such operations won't be tolerated in the county.

## 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 Elszasz at (440) 350-2763.

The next regular meeting will be Thursday, April 9 at 10 a.m.