

Old resolution still called into question

BY MARIAN MCMAHON

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LAKE COUNTY - Some residents have asked the Lake County Board of Commissioners, on a number of occasions in the past, to rescind the resolution it passed Oct. 13, 2005 regarding the matricula consular, an identification card issued by Mexican consulates to its citizens. The request to rescind the resolution was raised again at the Aug. 10 and 27 commissioners meetings.

The resolution has been called into question since various sources have stated concerns that the cards are too easy to obtain fraudulently, there is no database U.S. officials can access for verification of authenticity, and the card could be used by terrorists to establish an identity in the country.

At a 2008 meeting, Board of Commissioners President Dan Troy said the commissioners simply passed a resolution of opinion and had not power to state it was a valid form of identification.

John Muzic of Painesville Township read a portion from Mexico's rules on consular ID cards which stated, "That contained in the Consular Registry is confidential, and only those authorized by the consular office and the (SRE) will be able to access this (information)."

He asked the commissioners to read the memorandum from former Lake County Sheriff's Chief Deputy William E. Crosier expressing concern about passage of the resolution back in 2013.

(Note: The memorandum included information on Congressional testimony which stated that "the Department of Justice and the FBI have concluded that the Matricula Consular is not a reliable form of identification...")

"In my opinion, it is wrong when the commissioners are dealing with a foreign country to pass a resolution," Muzic said. "Immigration is a federal thing, and this should have been a federal thing."

Arzella Melnyk of Kirtland also asked the resolution be rescinded. She

reviewed online information from the Mexican government that the card could be used for identification: to law enforcement, in case of injuries or fatalities, to receive public utilities and to schools and public libraries. Benefits included: cashing paychecks, depositing money in a financial institution, paying bills and taxes and sending money to relatives for a reasonable fee.

"We have been told that it was a ceremonial resolution, that this card will only verify that someone is a Mexican national—that it has no other uses," Melnyk said, noting the information she just provided was online prior to the commissioners passing the resolution. "So, either the Mexican consulate and the immigrant advocate that met with the commissioners did not give them all the information or, at that time, the commissioners did not ask enough questions to find out all the information."

The commissioners did not respond to the comments.

However, at the Aug. 10 commissioners meeting, Troy did make statements. He said those opposed to the resolution were making it seem like the commissioners were inviting illegals to come to the county.

"We haven't said anything about it since 2005," Troy said at the Aug. 10 meeting. "We've never mentioned it in a publication or a news release. You know, the information that that exists continues to come from the folks that don't agree with it."

He noted Lake County Prosecutor Charles Coulson stated at a previous meeting that the card was not being accepted by any Lake County government entity.

Troy insisted that the resolution had not changed anything in the county and it was time to put the issue to rest.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AUG. 27: ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT

- Authorizing modification No. 3 of the professional services agreement for the Hunting Lake Drive and Waterfowl Way Storm Sewer

Improvements in Concord Township.

The initial agreement was for \$64,000. The three modifications were in the amounts of \$49,800; \$37,000 and \$8,000 for a final total of \$159,300.

- Authorizing modification No. 1 of the professional services agreement for the Center Park Estates Storm Water Management Area Improvements in Painesville Township.

The initial cost was \$177,865. The modification is \$64,800 for a new total of \$242,665.

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

- Increasing appropriations for LCDU Sewer District uniforms.

- Increasing appropriations for LCDU Water District professional services/consultants.

- Increasing appropriations for Forest Drive Waterline Replacement 331-W and transferring cash from LCDU Water District.

- Approving plans, specifications and estimates of cost in the amount of \$69,352.80 for sanitary sewers for Newell Creek Subdivision-Phase 12b, Job No. 14-40, in the City of Mentor.

The project is for installation of 460 linear feet of sanitary sewers for 13 sublots in a new subdivision funded by Newell Creek Development Company.

- Authorizing execution of a water supply agreement with the Village of Madison.

"The five-year agreement that's currently in place with them expires next week, Sept. 1st," said Randy Rothlisberger, county sanitary engineer. "The difference with this agreement is it's going to create a permanent supply to Madison Village."

The agreement provides for an increase of 10 cents per year beginning from \$3.10 per 100 cf to the current retail rate of \$3.49 per 100 cf over a period of five years.

The agreement also includes an interconnect at River Road and state Route 528, and an extra meter at state Routes 307 and 528, with an additional 49 cents per 100 cf charged for the higher pressure provided.

Madison Village agrees

to allow LCDU to construct a transmission main to the Middle Ridge water tank.

"I'd like to thank Rick (Martin, director of LCDU) and Randy for trudging through this agreement; it's been, at some level, in discussions since 2005," said Madison Village Administrator Dwayne Bailey. "It's really important for our village customers to secure that supply for the future at an affordable rate."

- Certifying unpaid sewer service, water, and administrative charges to the Lake County Auditor.

- Authorizing execution of an agreement with AE-COM Technical Services, Inc. for Forest Road Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project 375-S.

The project in Mentor Headlands will restore water tightness to the sewer.

The estimated project cost is \$300,000. The estimated cost of the engineering fees is \$90,000.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

- Declaring the Lake County Board of Commissioners' regular meeting schedule beginning Sept. 10.

"Judge (Mark) Bartolotta and the (Clerk of Courts) Maureen Kelly and Lake County Recorder Ann Radcliffe will be doing the 'Good Deeds' program in the assembly room downstairs and so, I figured this building would be open anyway. I discussed it with my colleagues to see if we could have a meeting on that (evening)," Commissioner Judy Moran said.

The time worked out, so the evening meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 22 at 6:30 p.m.

(Note: On occasion people have asked the commissioners to have evening meetings to allow more people to attend.)

- Thursday, Sept. 10, 10 a.m.
- Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2 p.m.
- Tuesday, Sept. 22, 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Oct. 1, 10 a.m.
- Thursday, Oct. 8, 10 a.m.
- Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2 p.m.
- Thursday, Oct. 22, 10 a.m.
- Thursday, Oct. 29, 10 a.m.
- Thursday, Nov. 5, 10 a.m.
- Thursday, Nov. 12, 10 a.m.
- Thursday, Nov. 19, 10 a.m.
- Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 10, 10 a.m.

- Thursday, Dec. 17, 10 a.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2 p.m.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

- Approving payment of bills in the amount of \$1,323,840.45.

- Approving purchase orders in the amount of \$216,797.93.

- Increasing appropriations for various non-general fund accounts.

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

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS UTILITIES

- Public Services Coordinator Matt Armand updated the commissioners on the further efforts of LCDU to improve customer service.

"We've developed a customer service review. Our Customer Service Depart-

ment receives a few telephone calls on a daily basis and some of them are recorded," he said. "We've created a model of assessment that is similar to those utilized by several private companies."

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- The commissioners adjourned to executive session to discuss personnel – employment.

MEETINGS

Meetings are held 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 (440) 350-2753.

There was a meeting Sept. 3. The next regular meeting will be Thursday, Sept. 10 at 10 a.m.

Commissioners announce upcoming meeting schedule

LAKE COUNTY — All meetings of the Lake County Board of County Commissioners 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 Clerk Jennifer Bell at (440) 350 at 2753.

Usually the meetings are held in the Commissioners' Chambers located on the fourth floor of the Nolan Administration Building, 105 Main St., Painesville.

The schedule is subject to change.

There is one evening meeting scheduled.

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- Tuesday, Dec. 22 at 2 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 29 at 2 p.m.

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at least two weeks prior to event.
Submit photos as JPEGs or TIFFs.
A contact person's name and email
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