LCDU testing ensures water supply is safe

BY MARIAN MCMAHON
Gazette Newspapers

LAKE COUNTY – Commissioner Dan Troy asked about the issue of lead in drinking water at the Jan. 26 commissioners meeting due to the problems being highlighted in national news recently.

He noted most of the lead comes from the old lead solder which was used to seal pipe connections.

"The lead and copper rule, which is a national rule, was part of the safe drinking water act which started in 1986; the lead and copper rule came in 1991," said LCDU Director Rick Martin. "Prior to 1986 there was lead in the solder in people's home construction."

He noted any lead problems would not be from county lines, but rather from the water lines in the homes. However, some lines from the water mains to the homes are lead in older areas. Wherever they have been found in older parts of the system, the homeowners were advised.

Martin noted, in the case of Flint, Mich., the city switched to using river water which usually contains more organics. That is caused when rain or snow washes organics into the river, reduces the pH level and makes it more corrosive.

Lake County, however, uses water from the lake which is more stable, he said.

"We go above and beyond in that we do core acidity testing. Actually we take some little tabs that we put in the system and we monitor those tabs and see how corrosive our water is," Martin said, adding, "which is 'not very.' That's a thing that we do that's not required by law."

He said there are more concerns about lead in the warm months because the solder tends to get into the water more at those times. Having water sit in the pipes more than six hours can also increase lead concentrations.

See COMMISSIONERS on Page 3

COMMISSIONERS

From Page 1

The county needs to take number of home samples o check the water each year.

In order to test for higher ead concentrations, water amples need to be taken irst thing in the morning. Since it is difficult for LCDU vorkers to gain access to omes so early, they instruct omeowners on how to take amples.

The LCDU website has he Consumer Confidence Report with results from opper and lead testing each ear. Martin noted improved echnology allows them to neasure parts per billion now, rather than just parts per million.

Martin added the Lake County General Health District checks the water in the schools every year.

Resolutions passed Jan. 26:

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

• Approving final estimates and accepting three-year maintenance bonds for Madison Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Project 289-S.

• Approving final estimate No. 6 in the amount of $10,428.80 with Nerone & Sons Inc. and accepting a three-year maintenance bond in the amount of $25,839 for Heatherstone Wastewater Improvements Project No. 349-S.

• Increasing appropriations for various LCDU water and sewer capital project funds and transferring cash.

• Authorizing advertising for bids for limestone with a bid opening date of Feb. 24.

Estimates of cost are: water, $100,000; sewer, $8,500; and solid waste, $20,500 for a total of $129,000.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

• Authorizing the execution of the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA) local multi-function governance agreement and a memorandum of understanding with the Lake County Board of Commissioners.

JFSD Director Matt Battiato said, with the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act, some changes were made. One was to change the name to the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The state has adopted the changes.

"The statutes prohibit the fiscal agent, the Workforce Investment Board, for the One Stop being housed under one entity," Commissioner Dan Troy said. "So in order to do that, this memorandum of understanding is going to allow for the Workforce Development director to be an employee of the commissioners, but the funding is still all passed through the U.S. Department of Labor."

Since there is federal funding, the change does not impact the county's budget, he added.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

• To vacate a portion of Freedom Road in Painesville Township.

A letter from the Engineer's Office summarizing its report notes the vacation involves four parcels, totaling 1,200 acres about 871.22 feet by 60 feet.

"I would just add, this is part of the (Ohio) Revised Code process," County Administrator Jason Boyd said. "This was a petition passed by the trustees in Painesville Township."

He noted they had met with the trustees and the Lake County Engineer's Office had issued a report on the road vacation.

"This proposed right of way vacation will land lock two parcels owned by the Lubrizol Corporation," the letter stated, noting a permanent easement was needed for utilities. "As indicated on the proposed vacation plat, this office recommends a permanent cul-de-sac be provided for the safe traveling public. If the Township pursues this, the details of the location, size, construction specifications, and dedication plat will need to be provided."

The Engineer's Office recommended the road be vacated if land locking the parcels is not a problem.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

• Approving payment of bills in the amount of $751,564.20.

• Approving purchase orders in the amount of $776,972.01.

• Increasing appropriations for various general and non-general fund accounts.

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

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 Feb. 4. The next regular meeting will be Thursday, Feb. 11 at 10 a.m.

Send press releases to Tribune@GazetteNews.com at least 2 weeks prior to event date. Send photos as JPEGs.

Feb. 6

HEALTH FAIR – The Lake County YMCA Central branch, 933 Mentor Ave in Painesville, is hosting a community Health Fair Saturday, Feb. 6 from 9 a.m. to noon, to provide everyone with resources that promote healthy living. Free and open to the public, individuals and families can get blood sugar screenings, blood pressure screenings, meet with health consultants, gather nutritional information and enjoy chair massages. Several local health and wellness providers will be available to speak with attendees. For more information about the screenings call (440) 352-3303.