New pump station being tested for operation

BY MARIAN MCMAHON
Gazette Newspapers

PAINESVILLE – The Lake County Board of Commissioners was updated on Lake County Department of Utilities projects and more at the March 10 meeting.

"In terms of the sewer and infrastructure, we recently started up the Glyco II Pump Station that's located in Fairport," said Gary Fedak, director of Wastewater Operations. "We're testing that right now, before we decommission and completely demolish the existing pump station."

The station pumps the water to the Mentor wastewater treatment plant.

It was a $2.5 million project to construct a brand new facility including a new control building and backup generator.

They recently moved into the new east end facility on Blase Nemeth Road in Painesville Township and vacated the one on Lane Road.

"Basically this allows us to centralize our east end operations for servicing the east end of the county on the water side and provide some indoor storage for all of our heavy equipment that we use," Fedak said.

In presenting his report, Public Services Coordinator Matt Armand stated that all too often there are reports, in the industry, that good customer service is lacking.

"Two years ago in March, our department decided to take a comprehensive approach to track and monitor the level of customer service we provide," he said.

Since then, LCDU has received hundreds of surveys returned by customers who have had contact with the department which show 77 percent rate customer service as excellent. About 20 percent rate service as good with just 3 percent rating it as average or poor.

Armand said LCDU is proactive about providing the best customer service possible. He believes they have great employees and expressed his pride in the work they do.

"We are dedicated to a mission of continuous improvement," Armand said. "We always say our motto is very simple, 'To be better today than we were yesterday, and better tomorrow than we are today.'"

Board President Judy Moran stated she was proud of the department and noted most of the people surveyed had contact at a time of crisis, so that made the high ratings more impressive.

Randy Rothlisberger, sanitary engineer, reported there were only 58 waterline breaks this year as compared to 95 in 2015.

Resolutions passed March 10:

ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT

• Authorizing advertising for bids for the Hermitage Road Reconstruction and Safety Upgrade Project in Concord Township - OPWC Project No. CG05 with a bid opening date of April 6.

The estimated cost for the project is $620,000 to $700,000.

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

• Increasing appropriations for LCDU Solid Waste District professional services consultants.

• Approving plans, specifications and estimates of cost in the amount of $586,786 for Lakeshore Boulevard Waterline Replacement Project 372-W and advertising for bids for same with a bid opening date of March 30.

This project, in the city of Eastlake, includes 662 feet of 12-inch and 226 feet of 8-inch new ductile iron waterline which will be funded by LCDU. The estimated cost is $586,786.

• Approving final estimate No. 7 in the amount of $51,616.24 with Bay Mechanical & Electrical Corporation and accepting a three-year maintenance bond in the amount of $64,520.30 for GLK Water Reclamation Facility Indoor Main Electric Switch Gear Replacement Project No. 347-S.

• Awarding bid contracts to HD Waterworks & Supply, Lake Erie Winnelson Company and Ferguson Waterworks, for fittings, repair parts, service equipment and tools.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

• Accepting a grant and authorizing execution of a 2015 Training Grant Agreement in the amount of $9,555.21, on behalf of the Lake County Crime Laboratory and the Office of Criminal Justice Services, effective through Sept. 30.

"I notice this is a 100 percent grant and does not require any cash match from the County," Commissioner Dan Troy said.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

• Approving payment of bills in the amount of $651,635.22.

• Approving purchase orders in the amount of $338,053.62.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

• The commissioners adjourned to executive session to discuss real estate.

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 March 17. The next regular meeting will be Thursday, March 24 at 10 a.m.