Program to help break cycle of dependence on public assistance

4/1/16 - Gazette

BY MARIAN MCMAHON

Gazette Newspapers

LAKE COUNTY – The first step was taken toward implementing the new Comprehensive Case Management Employment Program when the commissioners designated a lead agency March 24.

"The Comprehensive Case Management Employment Program was initiated by the state budget that passed this year, and by rule, the county commissioners choose a lead agency for that program," said Job and Family Services Director Matt Battiato.

The choices were either the County Workforce Board or Job and Family Services, but both agencies agreed Job and Family Services should be the commissioners' designee.

The new program is for persons aged 16 to 24 in any groups receiving cash assistance.

"We will be working with that targeted population to help them with employment and training, and to try to break the cycle of being reliant on public assistance programs," Battiato said.

The first step was having JFS designated as the lead agency so it could proceed with its plan to implement the program.

Battiato said the funding was coming from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs.

Commissioner Dan Troy said this resolution was to put the county in compliance with state law.

"In this county, we can gear them up for any type of manufacturing skills," Troy said.

Battiato said they also needed to track the progress of the program which is to begin July 1.

Resolutions passed March 24:

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

• Awarding bid contracts to Osborne Concrete & Stone Company and Arms Trucking Company for limestone/sand.

• Approving plans, specifications and estimates of cost in the amount of $2,114,365 for Richmond Road and River Street Pump Station Improvements Project 358-S and advertising for bids for same with a bid opening date of April 27.

This project is to replace facilities in Grand River and Painesville Township with two new sewage pumping stations, plus the demolition of the old facilities.

• Approving plans, specifications and estimates of cost in the amount of $492,211 for SR 528 River Road Waterline Improvement, Job No. 15-58, in Madison Village and authorizing construction in accordance with R.C. 307.73.

This project is a water main extension of 3,750 feet of 12-inch waterline from River Road to state Route 307 along Route 528.

"Madison Village is actually paying for the entire project, and this will give them a feed from the south side to help improve the operation of their system," County Administrator Jason Boyd said.

Madison Village has applied for tap-in reimbursement.

• Approving plans, specifications and estimates of cost in the amount of $701,860 for Forest Road Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project 375-S and advertising for bids for same with a bid opening date of April 20.

The project includes about 1,815 feet of 18-inch sanitary sewer on Forest Road in the Mentor Headlands area getting cured-in-place pipe lining.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

• Adopting the revised Lake County Erosion and Sediment Control Rules, effective March 24.

Two public hearings were held previously on the new rules.

• Authorizing execution of a memorandum of understanding by and between the Lake County Board of Commissioners and the city of Painesville for stormwater Services.

"They are expanding the detention basin on Cedarbrook Drive," said Stormwater Management Director Tim Miller. "The total construction cost is about $1.6 million, so this memorandum of understanding allows them to finance that project through the use of bonds, and then use the stormwater funds that we collect, through our department, to repay that debt."

It is a 20-year repayment plan at 3.5 percent interest.

• Authorizing execution of an agreement between the Lake County Board of Commissioners on behalf of the Lake County Sheriff's Office and the Fraternal Order of Police, Ohio Labor Council, Inc. and court deputized deputy sheriffs, court officers and court officer corporals, expiring March 31, 2017.

Troy said the contract actually expired April 1, 2014. Negotiations were delayed until the determination of the official representative of the police personnel was made.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

• Approving payment of bills in the amount of $706,157.67.

• Approving purchase orders in the amount of $666,641.43.

• Increasing appropriations for various non-general fund accounts.

• Transferring cash and appropriations within various general and non-general fund Accounts.

NEW BUSINESS

• Troy reported the County Commissioners Association Taxation and Finance Committee had recently met and discussed the effort to make changes to the Current Agricultural Use Value (CAUV) program.

"Apparently they had one formula for 26 years and then they changed it in 2006 and 2007," he said. "The Farm Bureau says that as a result, their tax burden's gone up about 400 percent under that formula."

Troy said his response was, "Could someone say that for 26 years you got a really good deal?"

They said, "Probably."

Another topic of discussion was the fact that counties can charge a tax on utilities, although no county has ever done so. Legislation has been proposed which would state counties could institute a tax on utilities, but only subject to approval by the voters. Another thought is to abolish the law allowing a utility tax.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

• The commissioners adjourned to executive session to discuss employment-collective bargaining and 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 March 29. The next regular meeting will be Thursday, April 7 at 10 a.m.