Rick Martin retires as executive director of LCDU

BY MARIAN MCMAHON
Gazette Newspapers

LAKE COUNTY – The Lake County Board of Commissioners recognized Rick Martin, executive director of the Lake County Department of Utilities, on his retirement after 36 years of service to the county at the March 29 meeting.

Martin began as a summer intern at the Madison Wastewater Treatment Plant, became a full-time water plant operator in 1983 and became plant supervisor within three years, overseeing two plants. In 1989 he earned his Ohio EPA Class IV Operator and worked his way up through the positions of plant superintendent, water plant coordinator and director of water operations.

"Under his tenure, LCDU became the first facility in Ohio to receive the prestigious 'Ohio EPA Outstanding Public Water Systems Award' for two consecutive years ..." Commissioner Dan Troy read from the resolution.

Martin became executive director of LCDU overseeing the three divisions of water, wastewater treatment and solid waste with about 190 employees in May 2002.

During his career he received national and nationwide recognition of his work as well as the American Water Works Association Fuller, Operator Meritorious and LaDue awards.

"Whereas, Mr. Martin ... development in the Lake County Department of Utilities by promoting education and continuous learning. He conceived and implemented in-house training and coaching programs at every level within the organization," the resolution further stated.

"I really just want to say thank you to my family and friends for their support, the commissioners for their guidance all these years and our employees at the Lake County Department of Utilities for their dedication," Martin said.

The commissioners held LCDU to high standards and were the reason for the high quality and great rates the county had, he said, calling them exemplary.

Martin also lauded the employees who often solved problems "with brilliance."

Sanitary Engineer Randy Rothlisberger commended Martin on his dedication, fine example and work ethic. Director of Wastewater Operations Gary Fedak and Public Service Coordinator Matt Armand also credited Martin with having done an outstanding job as executive director.

Rothlisberger, with 18 years' experience, will become head of the department. Armand will be head of business operations and Fedak will oversee the operations of water, sewer and solid waste facilities.

Resolutions passed March 29:

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

• Increasing appropriations and transferring appropriations for Hardy Road and Oakwood Boulevard Waterline Replacement 360-W and Oakwood to Lake Waterline Replacement Project 374-W, and transferring cash from LCDU Water District Transfers out.

• Authorizing advertising for bids for chemicals for the Lake County Department of Utilities with a bid opening date of April 20.

• Approving plans, specifications and estimates of cost in the amount of $1,120,986.88 for Victor Drive and Sylvia Drive Waterline Replacement Project 354-W and advertising for bids for same with a bid opening date of April 27.

This is for a new 8-inch waterline and an interconnect to eliminate the two dead ends on the streets. The current waterline is 75-year-old cast iron. LCDU is funding the project.

COMMISSIONER' OFFICE

• Revising the Lake County Board of Commissioners' regular meeting schedule.

The Thursday, April 14 10 a.m. meeting has been cancelled and replaced with a 9:30 a.m. meeting Tuesday, April 12.

• Awarding bid contract to Kucera International, Inc. for the LiDAR and 2' Elevation Contours Project for the Lake County GIS Department.

The initial estimate of cost was $142,153. Kucera's bid is $150,000.

• To join with the Lake County Prosecuting Attorney to apply to the Lake County Court of Common Pleas, pursuant to R.C. 305.14(A), to employ and compensate legal counsel to assist the Lake County Auditor in any proceeding before the Board of Revision, Ohio Board of Tax Appeals, Ohio Supreme Court and/or any other court or tribunal involving the real property valuation of the Perry Nuclear Power Plant and the Eastlake Power Plant.

"It's pretty much an annual undertaking, an annual occurrence that the electric company will appeal the valuation of the Perry Nuclear Power Plant and the Eastlake Power Plant ..." Commissioner Dan Troy said.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

• Approving payment of bills in the amount of $651,528.97.

• Approving purchase orders in the amount of $326,698.76.

• Increasing an appropriation for a non-general fund account.

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

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

• Proclaiming April 2016 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Lake County.

Ali Tomaselli, assistant administrator of Children and Adult Services, stated they would again plant pinwheels in Veterans Park in Painesville the morning of April 6, with a short ceremony at noon.

In 2015, they responded to 2,338 calls about children and their families.

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 will Thursday, April 7.

The Thursday, April 14 meeting at 10 a.m. has been cancelled and replaced with a 9:30 a.m. meeting Tuesday, April 12.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OFFICE

Rick Martin, second from left, accepts a resolution on his retirement as executive director of the Lake County Department of Utilities after 36 years from Lake County commissioners Kevin Malecek, Dan Troy and Judy Moran at the March 29 commissioners meeting.