

Gazette May 1, 2015

May is foster parent month

BY MARIAN MCMAHON

Gazette Newspapers

LAKE COUNTY – The Lake County Board of Commissioners proclaimed May 2015 Foster Parent Recognition Month in Lake County.

The resolution stated that all children had a right to “grow up in a safe, permanent, loving family...,” foster parenting helped provide the “nurturing and support to children and families who need time to heal and put their lives back together...,” and citizens should be grateful for the efforts of foster parents.

“As I’ve said often through the years, our foster parents are—I consider them angels throughout our community, because they do open their hearts and open their homes to abused and neglected children, and offer them stability and love and care,” said Lake County Job and Family Services Director Matt Battiatto.

There are currently about 45 foster families in the county, and more are always needed.

The county currently has about 86 children in custody. Some are in foster homes, some are with relatives and the rest are in residential homes.

Each year Lake County Job and Family Services hosts a reception for foster parents at Lake Farmpark to show its appreciation. This year it will be Wednesday, May 20.

Resolutions passed April 23:

ENGINEER’S DEPARTMENT

- Authorizing execution of a professional services agreement with Barr Engineering, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$139,550.

This is for testing services for the Vrooman Road Bridge Project. The services can be reimbursed up to 80 percent from the Federal Highway Administration (FWHA).

- Awarding a bid contract

to Karvo Paving Company in the amount of \$732,130.75 for the McMackin Road Resurfacing Project, Madison Township, a Federal Aid Project.

UTILITIES

DEPARTMENT

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

- Authorizing execution of agreements with Concept XXI, Inc. for the Lake County Solid Waste Division.

This is to update the computer system at the Solid Waste Facility at an estimated cost of \$105,000.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

DEPARTMENT

- Approving vouchers date of warrant April 27, in the amount of \$557,780.52.

The breakdown of charges is: Public Assistance, \$197,821.15; Child Support Enforcement, \$579; Workforce Investment, \$30,164.10; and Child Welfare, \$329,216.27.

COMMISSIONERS’ OFFICE

- Authorizing execution of an agreement with the city of Painesville for the Home Repair and Paint Program utilizing Community Development Block Grant funds.

Rhea Benton, the county CDBG manager, said the city would be using the funds on homes in much need of paint and repair for low- to moderate-income homeowners, in partnership with volunteers from World Changers during the week of June 22, she said.

“They hope to assist 15 to 20 people,” Benton said.

Board President Dan Troy said the money was awarded from unused CDBG funds and was not part of the regular awards.

CDBG is providing \$10,000 and the matching funds and volunteer labor amount to \$44,600 for a total project cost of \$54,600.

- Renewing a three-year participation agreement for property, casualty, public

officials liability, and law enforcement liability insurance programs for Lake County government with the County Risk Sharing Authority (COSA) for the period May 1 through April 30, 2018.

This year the cost will be reduced by 10 percent.

- Authorizing execution of an agreement with Thomas Reuters/West on behalf of the Lake County Law Library for print resources, effective June 1 through May 31, 2016.

Sandra Murphy, director of the Law Library, told the commissioners the library did not have a Library Maintenance Agreement with Thomas Reuters/West prior to her being hired.

The new LMA cost is \$65,916 compared to \$84,000 without an LMA.

Troy noted the County General Fund no longer funds the Law Library, which is currently funded only by fees.

- Appointing Albert DiIorio to the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Library District to complete the remainder of a term expiring June 3, 2019.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

- Approving payment of bills in the amount of \$1,816,942.08.

- Approving purchase orders in the amount of \$2,737,224.10.

- Increasing appropriations for various non-general fund accounts.

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

SPECIAL

RESOLUTIONS

- Congratulating Adam M. Spiesman on attaining the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout awarded by the National Boy Scouts of America.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORT

UTILITIES

- Public Services Coordinator Matt Armand reported

a mechanical isolation valve was installed at a lift station which would allow LCDU to shut down the lift station if repairs were needed.

Three pumps are being updated in a dry well, and would be submersible.

NEW BUSINESS

- Troy said the state budget did bring up the state contribution for indigent defense to 50 percent. The increases in sales tax were removed.

“There’s still an income tax cut that totals about \$1.3 billion,” Troy said.

He asked Brad Cole how much of the tax cut would be offset by other increases and the response was about \$200 to \$300 million from closing loopholes and other means.

Lake Erie issues were addressed and there was increased funding for the Ohio Sea Grant program.

- Commissioner Judy Moran reported Erie County, Pa. agreed to join the Lake Erie Energy Development Corporation (LEEDCO) increasing the acreage of the lake being covered by the offshore wind project to 2.2 million acres.

- Troy said the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) Board of Trustees is supporting online voter registration. Online registration would reduce the cost of maintain voter records from \$2 to \$3 per voter to just pennies.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The commissioners adjourned to executive session for a personnel interview.

MEETINGS

- The Lake County Board of Commissioners meets 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 Amy Elasz at (440) 350-2753.

There was a meeting April 28.