

Elder abuse bill brings updated protections

BY MARIAN MCMAHON
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PAINESVILLE — A World Elder Abuse Awareness Day event was held at Veterans Park in Painesville June 15.

Referring to Ohio House Bill 24, which would update the state's laws on elder abuse, Lake County Board of Commissioners President Dan Troy noted, at the June 16 commissioners meeting, it had passed the Ohio House and had the support of state Senator John Eklund.

"What it does, from my understanding, is it increases the number of persons that are mandated to report if they suspect that a person 60 years old or older is being abused, neglected or exploited," said Lake County Job and Family Services Director Matt Battiato. "There are certain professionals who are required right now to make that report and this expands that list."

For example, it would require bank employees to make a notification if an older person withdrew a large sum of money for a possible financial scam.

Ohio Job and Family Services would be required to provide training to the

persons who are required to report suspicious financial transactions by the elderly.

The legislation would also require consistent reporting from Job and Family Services offices around the state on elder abuse.

A factsheet from Ohio Job and Family Services states the following concerning elder abuse:

What types of things are considered abuse?

The most common types of elder abuse reported in Ohio are neglect, self-neglect, exploitation, and emotional, physical and sexual abuse.

Neglect is the failure of an adult to provide the goods or services necessary for his or her own safety and/or well-being? such as avoiding physical harm, mental anguish or mental illness? or the failure of a caretaker to provide such goods or services.

Exploitation is the unlawful or improper act of a caretaker using an adult or his/her resources for monetary or personal benefit, profit or gain.

Physical abuse is the intentional use of physical force that results in injury, pain or impairment. It includes pushing, hitting,

slapping, pinching and other ways of physically harming a person. It can also mean placing an individual in incorrect positions, force feeding, restraining or giving medication without the person's knowledge.

Emotional abuse occurs when a person is threatened, humiliated, intimidated, or otherwise psychologically hurt. It includes the violation of an adult's right to make decisions and the loss of his or her privacy.

Sexual abuse includes rape or other unwanted, nonconsensual sexual contact. It also can mean forced or coerced nudity, exhibitionism and other non-fouling sexual situations, regardless of the age of the perpetrator.

Resolutions Passed June 16:

ENGINEERS DEPARTMENT

- Amending the local public agent (LPA) agreement No. 27036 between the Lake County Board of Commissioners and the director of Transportation of the State of Ohio for the LAK-Morley Culvert Project (PID 98631) to increase the total amount of the agreement to \$533,336.
- Awarding a bid contract

to Turn-Key Tunneling, Inc. in the amount of \$519,002 for the LAK-Morley Culvert Project in Concord Township.

- Authorizing change order No. 1 and progress payment No. 5 - final for the Hubbard Road Resurfacing Project, PID #93295 with Karvo Paving Company in the amount of \$44,815.76.

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

- Establishing accounts within Water Project Fund 595 to be known as Bacon to Lane Road Water Transmission Main 371-W and Oakwood Blvd. Waterline Replacement 374-W, increasing appropriations and transferring cash.
- Establishing accounts within Sewer Project Fund 596 to be known as Forest Road Sanitary Sewer 375-S and Henry & River Streets Sanitary Sewer Rehab 376-S, increasing appropriations and transferring cash.
- Increasing appropriations for LCDU Water District and Sewer District Professional Services-Consultants.
- Awarding a bid contract in the amount of \$833,577 to North Bay Construction, Inc. for S.R. 91 and S.R. 84 Water Booster Station and

Reservoir Upgrade Project 360-W.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

- Approving Lake County Department of Job and Family Services vouchers date of warrant June 22 in the amount of \$445,840.46.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

- Re-appointing Roberta S. Kalb and Frank J. Sarosy to the Lake County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board for four-year terms commencing July 1, 2015 and expiring June 30, 2019.
- Authorizing payment to various Lake County police prosecutors for the first half of 2015.
- Appointing Dale A. Schiavoni to the Lakethran Board of Trustees for a three year term expiring May 15, 2018.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

- Approving payment of bills in the amount of \$2,627,430.
- Approving purchase orders in the amount of \$1,004,952.
- Increasing and decreasing appropriations for various general and non-general fund accounts.
- Transferring appropriate

tions within various general and non-general fund accounts.

NEW BUSINESS

- Pursuant to the requirements of the grant, notice is hereby issued that the Lake County Sheriff's Office intends to apply for an Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (FY 2015 Local Solicitation) in the amount of \$19,728 to purchase a 2016 Ford Interceptor Utility Police Vehicle. This vehicle will be fully marked and equipped for emergency service and will replace an older vehicle that is currently in use."

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- The commissioners adjourned to executive session to discuss personnel - employment.
- 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 Amy Elaszcz at (440) 350-2753.
- The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 30 at 2 p.m.