Troy reports CCAO opposition to sales tax exemption

BY MARIAN MCMAHON
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LAKE COUNTY – County Administrator Jason Boyd and Board of Commissioners President Dan Troy both gave brief reports from the most recent meeting of the County Commissioners Association of Ohio at the Dec. 10 commissioners meeting.

Troy said the state has been dropping the income tax rate more in favor of collecting sales taxes, but about 12 bills have been introduced to the legislature to exempt certain services and products from having to charge sales taxes.

"The biggest one, unfortunately, is coming from one of our representatives—Mr. (Ron) Young—which has about a $131 million price tag to exempt temporary help services from paying sales taxes on their contracts," Troy said. "The CCAO has already gone on record opposing that."

He said the broader the base being taxed, the lower the rate could be.

Boyd said there were about 20 county administrators at the meeting. He said Lake County was doing very well when compared to other counties in different areas such as finance, relationships between employees and department heads, quality of employees and more.

Resolutions Passed Dec. 10:

ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT

• Authorizing execution of a professional services agreement with Chagrin Valley Engineering in an amount not to exceed $73,600.

"What this basically is, is a special project that's allocated to them (Willoughby and Willoughby Hills) by NOACA," Engineer Jim Gills said. Since two communities are involved the County was asked to be the LPA and handle the funds. The engineering must be completed and advertised for bid by May 1, 2016. It should be completed by fall.

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

• To exercise a one-year option for two household hazardous waste collections in 2016 with Environmental Enterprises, Inc.

The May 2014 agreement called for an extension of the contract to cover waste collections set for June 4, 2016 and Sept. 24, 2016 at the Lake County Fairgrounds.

Public Services Coordinator Matt Armand said the company had been doing a very good job.

• Certifying sanitary sewer costs to the Lake County Auditor for parcel 08A-031-A-00-003.

The charges are due to the sanitary sewer improvements requested by the property owner.

• Increasing and transferring appropriations for various capital project funds and transferring cash.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

• Approving vouchers date of warrant Dec. 14, in the amount of $185,312.89.

The breakdown of charges is: Public Assistance, $85,839.05; Workforce Investment, $78,089.15; Child Support Enforcement, $20.80; and Child Welfare, $21,363.89.

• Authorizing a IV-D service contract with the Lake County Domestic Relations Court for child support services, effective Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2016.

The federal funds provided are $260,456.46 (66 percent) and local matching funds are $134,174.54 for a total of $394,631.

• Authorizing a IV-D service contract with the Lake County Prosecutor for child support services, effective Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2016.

Federal funding is $568,886.89 and local matching funding is $293,062.94 for a total of $861,949.88.

• Authorizing a IV-D service contract with the Lake County Juvenile Court for child support services, effective Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2016.

Federal funding is $138,551.32 and local funding is $268,952.57 for a total of $407,503.89.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

• Certifying to the Lake County Auditor the 2016 drainage charges for the Lake County Regional Sewer, Water, and Drainage District (per Lake County Stormwater Management Department).

The rates will be as they were in 2015 with the annual user fee of $3.50 per month per equivalent residential unit (ERU).

Anticipated fees for 2016 will be:

Direct Billed:

• Lakeland Community College - $4,914.16

• Village of Kirtland Hills - $11,564.28

• Village of Lakeline - $4,579.39

Total Direct Billed - $21,057.83

Billed on Tax Duplicates - $5,109,402.71

Total to be Billed – $5,130,460.54

• Re-appointing Dennis Lager to the Northeast Ohio Community Alternative Program Facility Governing Board for a three-year term expiring Nov. 9, 2018.

• Establishing holidays for which the county offices close during the year

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

• Approving payment of bills in the amount of $3,730,903.38.

• Approving purchase orders in the amount of $772,071.75.

• Increasing appropriations for various non-general fund accounts.

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

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

• Commending Tony Debevc for his dedication to the Lake County Ohio Port and Economic Development Authority.

Debevc is retiring from the Port Authority Board at the end of the year.

• Declaring December "Be a Santa to a Senior Month."

The "Be a Santa to a Senior" program, sponsored by Home Instead Senior Care, brightens the lives of thousands of older adults, who otherwise might not be remembered this holiday season, by bringing gifts and companionship.

Area residents are asked to pick an ornament to purchase a gift for a particular senior from a tree at a participating merchant in the county.

"The Be a Santa to a Senior program offers participants the rewards of granting the humble wishes of these valued members of our community and making an indelible impact on their lives," the proclamation stated.

Home Instead Senior Care Lake, Geauga Counties is located at 7334 Center St. in Mentor and can be reached at (440) 490-4166 for more information.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

• Director Matt Battiato stated the state has recognized Lake County as having the highest percentage for collection of child support in a large county, and the highest percentage for collection of child support payments in arears.

NEW BUSINESS:

• Troy noted the commissioners had received a request for a road vacation on Freedom Road from Painesville Township on behalf of Lubrizol Corporation where the road dead ends. The request will need to go through the Engineer's Office, the Prosecutor's Office and a public hearing.

• Commissioner Judy Moran reported that, in the wake of the recent (terrorist shootings) in California, Job and Family Services employees will be the first county department to receive Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate (ALICE) training from Sgt. Larry Harpster of the Lake County Sheriff's Office.

"I'm going to urge all the other departments in the county to start scheduling with him as well so that we are all a little bit more prepared for the events that, who knows, could be coming down at some point in time," Moran said.

PUBLIC PORTION:

• The Commissioners recognized Steve Dancer with the Lake County Building and Grounds Department for 25 years of service.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

• The commissioners adjourned to executive session to discuss real estate - property acquisition 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 Dec. 17. The next regular meeting of the commissioners will be Tuesday, Dec. 22 at 2 p.m.