

Commissioners in Action

by MARIAN MCMAHON

LAKE COUNTY - *Lake County Commissioners Bob Aulfeldt, Dan Troy and Ray Sines meet at 10 a.m. most Thursdays, with some meetings at 2 p.m. on Tuesdays, in the Commissioners' Chambers on the fourth floor 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.

There were meetings March 20 and March 22. The next meeting will be Thursday, March 29 at 10 a.m. At the March 14 meeting was the following legislation was adopted:

RESOLUTIONS: ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT

- Resolution authorizing advertising for bids for a 2013 truck cab and chassis for the Lake County Engineer's Road Department with a bid opening date of April 4.
- Resolution awarding a bid contract in the amount of \$612,714.00 to Chagrin Valley Paving, Inc. for various county roads - Bacon Road and Blackbrook Road, Lake County Project.

The other bids received were: Karvo Paving Company, \$641,160; Ronyak Paving, Inc., \$643,086; Burton Scot Contractors, \$652,602; and Barbicas Construction Co., \$706,875.

- Resolution authorizing advertising for bids for the Newell Street Culvert Replacement Project in Painesville Township with a bid opening date of April 11.

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

- Resolution approving change order No. 1 extending the contract completion date with Cold Harbor Building Co. for State Routes 174 & 84 Booster Station Upgrade (General And Electrical) Project No. 326W for the Lake County Department of Utilities (contract completion date July 1, 2012).

- Resolution awarding a bid contract to Winters & Lewis Excavating, Inc. for management and operation of the Lake County Solid Waste Facility.

The company has been managing the Solid Waste Facility for the past five years and now has the contract for the next five years.

- Resolution to accept a utilities easement for maintaining water lines and their appurtenances from Tamarac Apartments II, LLC after installation and testing by owner and approved by the Lake County Department of Utilities at the

Arbor Ridge Subdivision 1A, also known as re-subdivision of parcel 4 of the Tam-A-Rac Subdivision No. 4 recorded in Volume 14, Page 13 OF Lake County Plat Records, situated in Willoughby.

- Resolution certifying unpaid sewer and water sums to the lake county auditor.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

- Resolution accepting the retirement resignation of Russell Baer from the Lake County Buildings and Grounds Department, effective March 30.

- Resolution authorizing execution of a drug law enforcement fund sub-grant award agreement in the amount of \$24,215.06 with the office of criminal justice services, effective Feb. 1 through Jan. 31, 2013.

This sub-grant is for the Lake County Narcotics Agency.

- Resolution authorizing execution of a lease agreement with the Lake County Bar Association for office space in the Lake County Courthouse West Annex, with the lease period beginning June 1 and ending May 31, 2017.

The lease payments will run with a first-year payment of \$7,944.89 increasing annual payments to a total of \$9,656.96 in the fifth year.

- Resolution authorizing execution of a revolving loan fund agreement between the Lake County Board of Commissioners and Core Systems, LLC for \$150,000 of Community Development Block Grant Funds.

Core Systems is helping to create jobs in the county with the help of the funds.

"This is a decision the commissioners made some years ago to try and utilize these Community Development Block Grant Funds," Commissioner Dan Troy said. "In most cases they had been given out to not-for-profits, etc. for their program activities but, finding out that this was certainly a permissible use, and I don't think there's anything that does more for community development than creating additional jobs for our residents."

Sines said they all appreciated Core Systems' efforts to help provide more jobs.

Howard Siegel of Core Systems said General Electric had made a commitment to help bring manufacturing jobs back to the states. Core Systems is one of GE's major suppliers of injection molded products.

- Resolution authorizing execution of a revolving loan fund agreement between the Lake County Board of Commissioners and Tasyd Industries, LLC for \$125,000 utilizing \$54,804 of FY-2008 Community Development Block Grant Funds and \$70,196 of FY-2009 Community Development Block Grant Funds.

"This is a combination of a couple of loan programs that we administer," said Lake County Port Authority Executive Director John Loftus. "Where this proved absolutely critical was, as Marty (Gareau) was putting together the 504 loan program, it allowed Mike Miller to buy a new building to expand his operation."

Loftus said the sale was able to go through because of the revolving loan Miller received.

"We couldn't have done this without the county commissioners and this fund," Miller said, "and I can't say enough good things about the Lake County Port Authority. Basically, right from the get-go they have walked me through and helped."

Already, Tasyd has added four new employees - all Lake County residents, and is expecting to add another four or five jobs in a few months.

- Resolution authorizing execution of a microloan fund agreement between the Lake County Board of Commissioners and Seven Brothers Distilling Company in the amount of \$5,000.

The company is located on Brakeman Road in LeRoy Twp. and its main product is vodka. Kevin Suttman said his company purchases its grain from Fowler's Mill in Chardon and water from Sunrise Springs in Newbury, trying to keep all purchases local. It is currently working on some expansion and increasing the number of products. Moving to a larger facility is also in its plans so it can expand even more.

Troy noted the microloan program assisted companies when they had trouble getting bank financing.

Sines mentioned earlier how difficult bank financing had become recently.

- Resolution re-appointing Angela T. Baldree as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Library District, for a seven-year term commencing March 24, 2012 and ending March 23, 2019.

- Resolution approving change order 2 for Ohio Paving & Construction Co., Inc. for the Lake County Crime Laboratory Ada Compliance and Renovation Project for the Lake County Prosecutor's Office, increasing the net amount by \$29,924.65.

- Resolution authorizing advertising for proposals for auction services for the sale of various parcels of Lake County real property with proposals to be opened April 4.

- Resolution authorizing execution of an agreement between the Lake County Board of Commissioners on behalf of the Lake County Sheriff's Department and the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association deputized deputy sheriffs, court officers, and court officer corporals, expiring March 31, 2014.

- Resolution appointing Chief Mark Kish of Fairport Harbor Village to the Lake County Narcotics Executive Board to fill an unexpired term, ending Dec. 31, 2013.

- Resolution appointing various individuals to the Lake County Port Authority Tax Incentive Review Committee for two-year terms ending Feb. 28, 2014.

The persons appointed are Beverly Vitaz, Ray McGuinness and Ted Andrzejewski.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

- Resolution approving payment of bills as listed on the commissioners' approval journal in the amount of \$2,333,412.50.

- Resolution approving purchase orders as listed on the commissioners' purchase order approval journal in the amount of \$620,504.57.

- Resolution increasing appropriations for various non general fund accounts.
- Resolution transferring cash and appropriations within various general and non general fund accounts.
- Resolution approving the 2012 final appropriation measure for the general fund.

NEW BUSINESS

"There is legislation proposed in Washington; it's called the Marketplace Fairness Act. It's a rare bird in Washington because it's a bipartisan bill ...," Troy said. "It addresses the issue of remote sales ... The feeling is it's not fair to our brick and mortar businesses that we have in our local communities who hire people, who sponsor Little League teams, who give to the United Way and they have to collect sales tax on goods and services that are provided and a substantial amount of these taxes are not being paid by remote sales on the Internet."

He said he understood Amazon was supporting the legislation because it longer wished to fight the issue and had the technology to handle collection of sale taxes. Other supporters include the state legislatures and the County Commissioners Association of Ohio.

Troy said, since so many more sales are being made through the Internet, the collection of sales taxes on those sales has become a major issue.

He said there might be a concern about the federal government eliminating the tax-free status of municipal bonds. One argument is that it is the wealthy who purchase and benefit from them. However, they help build needed infrastructure and create jobs, so Troy said he did not care who purchased bonds.

Troy testified in Columbus in support of allowing two or more counties to contract with each other for corridor services. He believes it has bipartisan support.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brad Shawhan of Mentor, park manager for Cleveland Metroparks North Chagrin Reservation, was sworn in as a supervisor for Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District by Board President Ray Sines.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The commissioners adjourned to executive session to discuss collective bargaining.