

Commissioners in Action Jan. 15

BY MARIAN MCMAHON
Gazette Newspapers

LAKE COUNTY – The Lake County Board of Commissioners meets at 10 a.m. most Thursdays, with some meetings at 2 p.m. on Tuesdays, 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 Jan. 22. The next regular meeting will be Thursday, Jan. 29 at 10 a.m.

At the Jan. 15 meeting, the following resolutions were adopted:

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

- Awarding a bid contract in the amount of \$632,700 to D.B. Bentley, Inc. for Chestnut Hill Waterline Replacement Project 353.

The project is to replace about 2,950 linear feet of 8-inch waterline.

The bids ranged from \$632,700 to \$878,861. The estimate was \$726,170.

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

- Awarding a bid contract in the amount of \$260,720 to Nerone and Sons, Inc. for Heatherstone WWTP Improvements Project 349.

This is for replacement of the influent bar screen and restoration of the tertiary sand filters.

The bids ranged from \$260,720 to \$340,000. The project estimate was \$310,000.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

- Accepting a grant and authorizing execution of a 2014 Training Grant Agreement in the amount of \$9,650.40, between the Lake County Board of Commissioners on behalf of the Lake County Crime Laboratory and the Office of Criminal Justice Services, effective through Sept. 30.

- Accepting a grant and authorizing execution of a FY14 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program Grant Agreement in the amount of \$60,000 with the National Institute of Justice-Office of Justice Programs, effective through Sept. 30, 2016.

- Re-appointing Mayor David Anderson as a member of the Lake County Narcotics Executive Board for a three-year term expiring Dec. 31, 2017.

"Mayor Anderson has graciously agreed to remain as head of the Lake County Executive Board for a three-year term," Commissioner Judy Moran said. "We have a lot of plans in place for this coming year and, because of his knowledge and the fact that we'd like a little continuity, he's going to stay and see those plans to fruition at the end of the year."

Board President Dan Troy said the Narcotics Board consists of four police chiefs, a mayor, a member of the Lake County Prosecutor's Office and a county commissioner.

- Authorizing the execution of an agreement between the Lake County Board of Commissioners and the Madison Township Trustees for the use of the Lake County 800/700 Mhz Radio System effective Feb. 1, 2015.

Administrator Jason Boyd said Madison Township had asked to have its road/service department become part of the county's radio system.

"Commissioner, as you know, when we upgraded our radio system, we added 42 percent capacity to it," said Paul Stefanko, director of the Lake County Telecommunications Department. "One of the reasons for that is so that we could add road departments to our radio system."

He said the safety departments had good radio coverage with the new system, but they wanted public works departments to have the same access.

With Madison Township's new agreement, its service department will now be able to be in contact with law enforcement agencies and the Lake County Engineer's Office should there be an emergency.

At the present time, the only other two communities whose service departments are on the system are Concord and Perry.

"We know, from emergencies and disasters in Lake County ... it is a challenge for public safety to talk to public works, and communicate and organize recovery," Stefanko said, after the meeting. "Having them on the same radio system eliminates the problems that we've had in the past."

Sometimes people have to drive back and forth to provide communication between safety and public works, he said, because they had different radio systems. It is a problem around the state.

The communities are

Stefanko said.

There is a cost for using the system.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

- Approving payment of bills in the amount of \$2,548,559.91.

- Approving purchase orders in the amount of \$2,012,886.22.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORT UTILITIES

- Director Rick Martin reported that, while the new year started well, the department had, in the past week, received reports of 11 water line breaks, mainly in the western end of the county.

NEW BUSINESS

- Moran reported she attended her first LEEDCo meeting (replacing former Commissioner Bob Aufuldish) and the organization had received a grant for \$2.8 million for Project Icebreaker, which is to construct wind turbines out in Lake Erie.

- Troy said budget meetings with department heads are being scheduled.

- Troy suggested they review the mileage reimbursement since fuel prices had dropped so much.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- John Muzic of Painesville Township asked what the current occupancy rate was at the Lake County Jail. He noted some counties are having to release prisoners due to overcrowding.

Boyd said the jail had a capacity of about 350 beds. Currently, the number of prisoners being housed is less than that. However, capacity has been exceeded in the past, at times.

Moran said the judges are being more creative about sentencing and using the drug and mental health courts.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The commissioners adjourned to executive session to discuss personnel and