

Commissioners approve loan for new business

BY MARIAN MCMAHON

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LAKE COUNTY – Approval of an economic development loan agreement by the Lake County Board of Commissioners will allow Harbor Inn Partnership LLC to move forward with plans for a new restaurant and microbrewery in Willoughby.

The resolution approving the loan of \$125,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds was passed Sept. 22 by the commissioners. The loan is for 10 years at 5.25 percent.

“CDBG funds are used in part to stimulate economic development within the county,” said Rhea Benton, county CDBG manager. “In return for the use of public funds the businesses provide private investment and also job opportunities.”

Timothy Cahill, director of public finance and con-

troller for the Lake County Ohio Port and Economic Development Authority, said the loan will be used to purchase equipment for the microbrewery.

The business will be located at 3941 Erie St. across from the Willoughby Municipal Courthouse. A 7,616-square-foot, 180-seat restaurant and brew pub will be constructed with an outdoor dining area.

“The loan would be secured by a second position on the equipment, behind the first lender (Huntington Bank),” Cahill said.

He noted the four Lake County owners had years of experience founding and operating restaurants and breweries such as The Willoughby Brewing Co. (sold to the Cleveland Restaurant Group in 2011) and Pub Frato in Concord Township.

“So this project is very exciting to us, and certainly

to the county,” said T.J. Reagan, one of the Harbor Hill partners, in thanking the commissioners for the loan. “The threshold on this particular loan is six—establishing six full-time jobs. We intend to establish probably in the 40 to 50 range.”

“We intend to start construction in the next 30 to 60 days.”

The entire project is estimated at \$2.4 million consisting of \$250,000 for real estate; \$50,000 for demolition and site preparation; \$1.085 million for construction costs; \$750,000 for equipment; and \$265,000 for working capital and other costs.

The loan will be backed by a second lien on the equipment being purchased, personal guarantees from the owners and a guarantee from Reagan/Frato Restaurant Group LLC.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED

SEPT. 22: UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

- Transferring appropriations from LCDU East Distribution Maintenance Building 271-W contract projects to professional services-consultants.
- Authorizing execution of an engineering agreement with DLZ Ohio, Inc. for the Hawthorne Woods Waterline Improvement Project 380-W in Concord Township.

- The project, with an approximate cost of \$250,000 would benefit 18 properties whose owners approved the project. The estimated cost per foot is \$171.12.
- The engineering costs are about \$35,000.
- Awarding a bid contract in the amount of \$757,802.39 to A.W. Farrell & Sons, Inc. for Bacon Road Water Treatment Plant & Raw Water Pump Station Roof Replace-

ment Project 368-W. The buildings were constructed about 35 years ago and had undergone previous repairs but now needed total replacement.

“I do see that the bid came in at 9 percent under the engineer’s estimate. That’s always good news,” Board President Dan Troy said.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

- Approving Lake County Department of Job and Family Services vouchers date of warrant Sept. 28 in the amount of \$486,845.79.

The breakdown of charges is: Public Assistance, \$95,289.18; Workforce Investment, \$56,802.94; Child Support Enforcement, \$165.17, and Child Welfare, \$334,588.50.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

- Approving payment

of bills in the amount of \$2,803,071.69.

- Approving purchase orders in the amount of \$756,652.71.

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

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 Oct. 1. The next regular meeting will be Thursday, Oct. 8 at 10 a.m.