

LEEDCo hopes to begin construction of wind turbines in Lake Erie in 2018

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LAKE COUNTY - Commissioner Judy Moran reported good news from a recent Lake Erie Energy Development Corporation (LEEDCo) Board meeting during the Lake County Board of Commissioners Nov. 19 meeting.

LEEDCo, it states on its website, "is a regional nonprofit and economic development organization building an offshore wind energy industry in Ohio."

The LEEDCo project, named Icebreaker, is the construction and installation of wind turbines in Lake Erie.

"I just wanted to announce that LEEDCo was awarded another \$3.7 million from the Department of Energy, which will go into effect after the current \$3 million is expended," she said. "That will go for engineering and design on the project that's currently under evaluation."

She added Ohio had 89,000 clean energy jobs in 2014.

Moran said LEEDCo hopes to begin construction of wind turbines in Lake Erie in 2018.

LEEDCo's members are Ashtabula County, City of Cleveland, Cleveland Foundation, Cuyahoga County, Erie County in Pennsylvania, Lake County, Lorain County and NorTech (a regional nonprofit technology-based economic development organization).

RESOLUTIONS PASSED NOV. 19: UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

- Approving plans, specifications and estimates of cost in the amount of \$519,980 for Grand Boulevard Waterline Replacement Phase 2 Project 381 W.

The plans, prepared by CT Consultants, are to replace an old water main from Tallmadge Road along Grand Boulevard.

Funding is being provided by the LCDU Water Fund and an OPWC grant of \$95,000 for the joint project with the city of Wickliffe. Fifty homes are served by the water line.

- Authorizing execution of a real estate sales agreement with Dennis Crews, Trustee of the Dennis Crews Revocable Trust, for the Lake County Solid Waste Facility.

"This is authorizing exe-

cutation of the agreement that will create a 16-acre buffer zone between the landfill and Bacon Road," Troy said.

- Transferring cash from LCDU Sewer District transfer out to various general obligation bond retirement funds transfer in.

- Transferring appropriations from LCDU Solid Waste District vehicles to LCDU Solid Waste District generation/export fees.

- Transferring appropriations from LCDU Water District and Sewer District workers compensation to LCDU Water District and Sewer District utilities telephone.

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

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

- Approving vouchers date of warrant Nov. 23, in the amount of \$464,524.39.

The breakdown of charges is: Public Assistance, \$124,342.77; Workforce Investment, \$27,745.22; Child Support Enforcement, \$2,513.59; and Child Welfare, \$309,924.81.

- Approving the amended Lake County Prevention, Retention, and Contingency Plan through Sept. 30, 2017, certifying compliance with Chapter 5108 of the Ohio Revised Code in adopting the plan and authorizing execution of the plan.

"The Board has to do this every two years. This is part of the Welfare Reform Act that basically provides state and federal money to the county to deal with any particular roadblocks that would inhibit people from moving off of public assistance and on to self-sustaining employment," Troy said.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

- Accepting a State Homeland Security Program Grant in the amount of \$98,960.58, effective through March 31, 2018.

"It is for the sustainment of Regional Bomb Squad operations," said Larry Green, Lake County Emergency Management director. "It will basically permit upgrade of the operating system for the Bomb Squad's Andros 6 robot that we purchased in 2005."

The robot is housed with the City of Mentor.

- Accepting an Emergency Management Performance Grant in the amount of \$142,734, effective through June 30, 2016.

"This is a grant that we've been awarded many years ago," Green said. "It basically allows a 50 percent cost share formula to help support local emergency management activities and offset local operating costs."

- Authorizing execution of a 12-month self-funded health care agreement with Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, effective Jan. 1, 2016.

"This is the second year of a three-year contract, and this agreement sets into place our administrative fee, which will remain the same from 2015 to 2016 and also allow for our \$55,000 a year welfare reimbursement that predominantly pays for our employees' healthcare costs," said Joel DiMare, Jr., director of Administrative Services.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

- Approving payment of bills in the amount of \$1,010,173.21.

- Approving purchase orders in the amount of \$218,935.72.

- Increasing appropriations for various non-general fund accounts.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Arzella Melnyk of Kirtland and John Muzic of Painesville Township asked the commissioners about passing a resolution requiring businesses seeking county contracts to show verification that their employees are here legally to protect jobs.

Troy said the county could not pass legislation since it was governed by state statutes so the state legislature would need to pass a law making that requirement for bidding.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- The commissioners adjourned to discuss personnel discipline.

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 Nov. 24. The next regular meeting of the commissioners will be Thursday, Dec. 10 at 10 a.m.