

LCDU adds methane wells at Solid Waste Facility

BY MARIAN MCMAHON

Gazette Newspapers

PAINESVILLE - Public Services Coordinator Matt Armand reported on the methane gas collection system at the Lake County Solid Waste Facility off Blase Nemeth Road in Painesville Township at the March 9 Board of Commissioners meeting.

"This past January, we decided to expand our collection system from 180 to 200 wells," Armand said.

Some older wells were replaced and some new ones added in newer cells.

The work was to be completed that week and inspected.

The replacement and installation of the wells was done at this time so the disturbance of 20-year-old waste would not be a problem for residents in the area, Armand said.

He noted methane was a colorless and odorless greenhouse gas.

The County had two options: one is to sell it to industrial customers and the other is to let it just go into the atmosphere.

"Currently we have most of our gas being used by industrial users," Armand said. "We produce roughly 10,000 tons of methane a year, which is significant."

In the past 11 days, Lake County Department of Utilities has had 60 emergency callouts. The majority of the calls were actually customer-related.

Board President Dan Troy said he believed line breaks would continue since the ground was still frozen.

Randy Rothlisberger, county director of water, said the frost line was down to four feet this winter. Unfortunately, the county had lines four feet deep because the frost line was not ever expected to go that deep.

He said they expected to have an increase in the number of breaks as the ground begins to thaw.

"When the pressure of the ground above it starts to relieve, the ground tends to shift and we end up with another group of breaks," Rothlisberger said.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED: UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

- Approving plans, specifications and estimates of cost in the amount of \$940,000 for State Route 91 and State Route 84 Water Booster Station and Reservoir Upgrade Project No. 350-W and advertising for bids for same with a bid opening date of April 15.

This project provides needed upgrades and repairs to the booster station built in 1983 and includes replacement of pump motors, a new heating and ventilation unit, roof, motor control centers, power distribution, interior lighting; installation of variable frequency drives and more.

- Providing for \$2.4 million in notes for the Lake County Department of Utilities Project 271.

ties Project 271.

This is a renewal of the notes funding the East End Service Center Project.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

- Appointing Lake County Commissioner Daniel P. Troy to serve on the Chagrin River Watershed Partners Inc. Board of Trustees and designating alternates to serve on his behalf.

The alternates are County Administrator Jason Boyd and Director Lake County Office of Planning and Community Development David Radachy.

- Authorizing execution of an agreement between the Lake County Board of Commissioners on behalf of the Lake County Sheriff's - Central Communications Division and the City of Painesville for central dispatch and communications services for the city and its police and fire departments.

"This is an extension of an existing agreement that we've had for some time now with the City of Painesville and they're happy with the terms," Troy said.

The contract is for three years.

- Accepting and approving the recommendation of Vanessa Pesec to remove Peter Ferrante as her alternate on the Planning Commission.

- Re-appointing Kathleen T. Malec and Kenneth J. Quiggle to the Lakeland Community College Board of Trustees for five-year terms expiring March 6, 2020.

"The Lakeland Community College Board of Trustees consists of nine members; the Board of County Commissioners appoints six and the governor of the state of Ohio appoints three," Troy said.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

- Approving payment of bills in the amount of \$2,514,418.54.

- Approving purchase orders in the amount of \$798,539.26.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORT

CLERK

- Amy Elasz reported Lake County had just had its 175th birthday.

Lake County was established March 6, 1840.

Troy said Lake County did not have enough land to form a county apart from Geauga County, so officials included land under Lake Erie.

NEW BUSINESS

- "The governor has proposed a fairly good Lake Erie cleanup bill and the Senate approved those measures but it's been significantly weakened in the House," Troy said.

The governor proposed banning the dumping of any dredged materials into the lake, but the House limited the ban to the Maumee Bay area.

With that change, dredged materials could be dumped in the waters off Lake County, which could be cause for concern.

Another requirement would be to have water treatment plants test for phosphorus.

Rothlisberger said the wastewater treatment plants already test for phosphorus but now they want raw water coming in from the lake to be tested as well.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The commissioners adjourned to executive session to discuss personnel employment and dismissal; and real estate acquisition.

MEETINGS

- 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 March 12. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, March 17 at 2 p.m.