

LCDU crews commended for work

BY MARIAN MCMAHON
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LAKE COUNTY - Public services coordinator Matt Armand said Mother Nature had been "unrelenting" and the Lake County Department of Utilities crews had been responding in kind to take care of problems with water lines. He called the crew members "unsung heroes" for responding at all hours to calls in this freezing weather.

"From Sunday to Tuesday of this past week we had roughly 80 emergency callouts," he said at the Feb. 19 morning meeting of the Lake County Board of Commissioners. "Of those 80, 30 percent had been Lake County related; 70 percent have been on the customers' end."

Board President Dan Troy agreed the crews had a difficult task working in this weather and having to dig down through the frozen ground to find the valves they need to shut off to make repairs.

Armand said even the meter readers had a challenge in this weather because they also had to dig out the meters from snow sometimes in order to read them.

LCDU began using insulators in three-quarter-inch meter vaults last year which

have prevented the meters from freezing. The program is being expanded to one-inch vaults as well.

The County has been able to purchase the insulators locally, from American Foam Products which is in Painesville, at a greatly reduced cost of \$7 as compared to \$30.

Residents can be proactive as well, he said.

"We've posted on our website many tips that customers can use to prevent their pipes from freezing," Armand said. "We've done a lot of outreach on social media as well, so we're trying to educate the public, and make them aware of things they can do to help themselves."

RESOLUTIONS PASSED:

ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT

- Awarding a bid contract to the Ruhlin Company in the amount of \$26,969,318.08 for the LAK-Vrooman Road Bridge and Roadway Improvements PID 5669 and PID 85131 in Leroy and Perry Townships.

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

- Authorizing execution of an agreement with Environmental Engineering and Technology, Inc. for the Bacon Road Water Treatment Plant Asset Management

County Board of County Commissioners, Lake County Workforce Investment Board, and OMJ-Lake System Partners for participation in the Lake County One-Stop Service Delivery System under the Workforce Investment Act and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act for the period July 1 through June 30, 2016 and authorizing the president of the board to execute said memorandum of understanding.

Lake County Job and Family Services Director Matt Battiato explained these annual MOUs specified the contributions of each of the One-Stop partners.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

- Authorizing execution of agreements between the Lake County Board of Commissioners and various entities and organizations for the FY-2014 HOME Investment Partnership Program Funds.

Marian Norman, HOME program manager, said this year funding was a little less than last year at \$370,657.

"Most of these agreements offered to Extend-Housing, Lifeline, Fair Housing Resource Center are for tenant-based rental assistance through providing either a subsidy, assistance in people retaining their homes or apartments

extension between the Lake County Board of County Commissioners, Lake County Workforce Investment Board, and OMJ-Lake System Partners for participation in the Lake County One-Stop Service Delivery System under the Workforce Investment Act and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act for the period July 1 through June 30, 2016 and authorizing the president of the board to execute said memorandum of understanding.

and placing people in new apartments," she said. The allocated amounts are:

- Extended Housing (TBRA Subsidy) - \$36,000
- Lifeline, Inc. (TBRA Subsidy) - \$42,000

- Fair Housing Resource Center (TBRA Retention) - \$66,000

- Lifeline, Inc. (TBRA Placement) - \$133,000
- Western Reserve Community Development Corp. (CHDO Operations) - \$11,591.30

- Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG) funds were also decreased some this year to \$1.25 million.

David Radachy, director of the Office Planning and Community Development, noted there would be a mandatory CDBG pre-application meeting for interested applicants at a new location this year—the Lake County Department of Utilities Learning and Business Center (ULAB) at 1981 Blasé Nemeth Rd., Painesville Township at 10 a.m. Friday, March 27.

"It's the first step of our process of gathering applications," he said.

Troy noted any organization which did not have a representative attend could not apply for CDBG funds.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

- Approving payment of bills in the amount of \$697,925.89.
- Approving purchase orders in the amount of \$379,581.27.

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

- Congratulating Andrew Nomis Higgins on attaining the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout awarded by the National Boy Scouts of America.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORT UTILITIES

- Sanitary Engineer Al Saari reported incoming bids for asphalt were about 10 percent higher than last year. Limestone, gravel and sand were about 1.5 to 4 percent higher.

NEW BUSINESS

- Troy said the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) had still been trying to get the state to pay 50 percent of the cost of indigent defense, but the budget only allowed for 40 percent.

- Troy announced the main entrance to the Lake County Courthouse would be reopened Feb. 23.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The commissioners adjourned to executive session to discuss real estate - potential acquisition.