

Lake County Commissioners in Action

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LAKE COUNTY - Lake County Commissioners Bob Aufdick, Dan Troy and Judy Moran met at 10 a.m. most Thursdays, with some meetings at 2 p.m. on Tuesdays, in the Commissioners' Chambers on the fourth floor 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 Oct. 16 (which was initially scheduled for Oct. 14). The next regular meeting will be Thursday, Oct. 23 at 10 a.m.

At the Oct. 9 meeting, the following resolutions were adopted:

RESOLUTIONS: UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

- Increasing appropriations, transferring appropriations and transferring cash within various LCDU accounts.
- Accepting a three-year maintenance surety in the amount of \$5,500 for Chagrin River Walk Offsite Waterline Extension in Willoughby.
- To delete a sewer sum certified to the Lake County Auditor.
- Certifying unpaid sewer and water sums to the Lake County Auditor.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

- Approving vouchers date of warrant Oct. 14, in the amount of \$282,116.21.

The breakdown of charges is: Public Assistance, \$109,397.32; Child Support Enforcement, \$176,501,111,857.54; and Child Welfare, \$60,684.85.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

- Changing the regular commissioners' meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 14 to Thursday, Oct. 16 at 10 a.m.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

- Approving payment of bills in the amount of \$1,871,948.98.
- Approving purchase orders as listed on the commissioners' purchase order approval journal in the amount of \$948,961.16.
- Increasing appropriations for various non-general fund accounts.
- Transferring cash and appropriations within various general and non-general fund accounts.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORT UTILITIES

- Matt Armand, public services coordinator, spoke about the surveys LCDU representatives ask utility customers to fill out and mail in (or complete on the website).

"To date we've handed out hundreds of surveys, and we've actually received a good number of them back," he said. "The results have been very positive."

"Overall, 85 percent of our customers say we perform our job in a level of excellence."

Armand said 14 percent said service was good and 1 percent poor. He said even the negative comments helped because they indicated where some improvement to customer service might be made.

"Commissioners, it's my privilege and my duty to report these results to you," Armand said. "I'm very proud of what we've done, and I hope all of you are too."

Board President Dan Troy said they did appreciate his efforts as the "link between the public and the Utilities Department."

He noted there were many counties which do not have utility departments and along with that service comes the risk of criticism from customers.

Bob Commissioner Armand thanked Armand for his service because he was willing "to go out of his way" to respond to and meet with customers who have called the commissioner with complaints.

"I just wanted to say that I think you've made it your personal mission to bring up the customer service standards of the Utilities Department, and it shows," Commissioner Judy Moran said.

Troy questioned the spike of 5,000 tons of solid waste which was received at the Lake County Solid Waste Facility.

It was noted there were homes demolished as part of the Land Bank program, so that debris might have contributed to the increase.

"We still have that 50- to 75-year life expectancy at that particular landfill," Troy said.

NEW BUSINESS

- Troy noted the state is making an additional \$4.4 million available for adult protective services to the 88 counties.

Troy said the department was important because seniors were not only being taken advantage of by strangers, but even by their own family members.

"That's where we have a responsibility in terms of Protective Services," said Matt Battisto, director of Job and Family Services. "As we move forward, adult-type services will take on more and more focus as we get older in this county..."

The county had been receiving just \$5,000 a year for adult protective services, which is inadequate and must be supplemented with social service funds.

Link also had 25 years of service but was not present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The commissioners adjourned to executive session to discuss personnel - discipline.



PHOTO SUBMITTED
Mary Guilford and Erica Seibert accept certificates of recognition and watches for 25 years of service to the county of the Oct. 9 Lake County Board of Commissioners meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- The Lake County Board of Commissioners presented certificates of recognition to Mary Guilford and Erica Seibert for 25 years of service to the county. Wardell