

Lake County Commissioners in Action

BY MARIAN MCMAHON

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LAKE COUNTY - Lake County Commissioners Bob Aufd'lish, Dan Troy and Ray Sines meet 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 Aug. 2. The next meeting is Thursday, Aug. 9 at 10 a.m. At the July 19 meeting, the following resolutions were adopted:

- Awarding a bid contract for \$253,440 to Ronyak Paving, Inc. for the Hoose Road Resurfacing Project in Concord Township OPWC Project CGX05.

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

- Awarding a bid contract to Atlantic Coast Polymer Company and Polydyne, Inc. for organic polyelectrolytes (polymer).
- Approving revised plans, specifications, and estimate of \$23.2 million and re-advertising for bids for Madison Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

and Expansion Project No. 289-S with a bid opening date of Aug. 27.

The project is to increase plant capacity from 3 million gallons per day to 5 mgd. Of the total cost, 60 percent is for upgrades and 40 percent for expansion.

- Authorizing execution of a memorandum of understanding among the Village of Madison, Sarah and James C. Powell, and the Commissioners.

This agreement permits the Powells to have their new home hooked up to Madison Village sewer and water, although the property is actually in an area designated for service by the county.

- Resolution rejecting all bids received July 11 for Stirling Road Pavement Repair Project 337s.

All bids exceeded 10 percent of the engineer's estimate.

- Increasing appropriations, transferring portions, transferring appropriations and transferring cash from Orton Road Tank Painting 325W and Forest Road and Garden Drive Sanitary 294S to LCDU Water District and LCDU Sewer District.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

- Accepting the retirement resignation of David A. Loomis from the Telecommunications Department.

- Establishing alternate schedule for holiday for employees of the Commissioners.

Since the union workers have the Friday after Thanksgiving as a holiday in their contract, the commissioners decided to grant the holiday to non-union workers under their hiring authority.

- Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 1724.10(A)(2) approving and authorizing the execution and delivery of an agreement and plan with the Lake County Land Reutilization Corporation as the county's agency for exercising the powers and performing the duties of the county under Chapter 5722 of the ORC for the reclamation, rehabilitation, and reutilization of vacant, abandoned, tax-forfeited and other real property in the county.

(See story: County land bank closer to becoming operational)

- Authorizing and designating an additional five percent of all collections of delinquent real property, personal property, and manufactured and mobile home taxes and assessments to be deposited in the delinquent tax and assessment collection fund for the use of and appropriating such amount to the use of the Lake County Land Reutilization Corporation and providing for related matters.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

- Approving payment of bills as listed on the commissioners' approved journal in the amount of \$847,250.22.
- Approving purchase orders as listed on the commissioners' purchase order approval journal in the amount of \$512,941.14.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom deHaas of Perry Township asked the Commissioners what their rationale was for not continuing to fund the Sheriff's Road Patrol at the former level; if the casino money might be used for the Road Patrol and why the townships in Lake County had to pay for dispatch service, but the ones in Geauga County did not.

"We are not required to provide road patrol to the townships; we're required to answer calls, meaning to assist in anything (emergencies)," Board President Ray Sines said. "The townships had a pretty good deal in that the county provided those road patrol services for many years; we couldn't do it anymore (because of budget constraints)."

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For that reason the townships need to contribute to their policing costs now.

Commissioner Dan Troy said the county has not received any casino money as yet. It is estimated the county would receive \$200,000 and the commissioners intend to use that for economic development through the Lake County Port Authority to help improve the local economy.

He said residents in all 23 political subdivisions pay taxes to the county, but for many years the townships (excluding Madison Township which has a police department) had policing at no additional cost. All the other subdivisions are taxed separately for their police departments. Troy said Geauga County only has three incorporated areas and the rest of it is townships and only Chester Township, he thought, had a police department of its own. He said many townships in other counties pay for policing by their sheriffs' offices. Likewise, locally, it was only fair the townships should share in the cost of their policing.

"It really is still a good deal," Troy said. If the townships had to pay for all their own department, they would have to build and maintain stations, purchase equipment, pay for personnel and dispatching services, but now the county provides all of that.

Troy also explained the townships receiving service from the Sheriff's Office do not pay for dispatching services, the LCO pays for it. He also pointed out some of the townships had become much more urban like cities. deHaas thanked the commissioners for their responses and added he was concerned about timely police response in Perry Township and there was no guarantee the levy would pass.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The commissioners adjourned to executive session to discuss real estate.

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