

Aufuldish, Rogers address Lake County mayors, city managers

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Fresh off victories in the Nov. 6 election, Lake County Commissioner Robert E. Aufuldish and state Rep.-elect John Rogers are optimistic about the county's future.

The two men were asked to speak Monday during the monthly meeting of the Lake County Mayors and City Managers Association meeting in Willoughby.

Aufuldish, who was elected to his fifth term, said the Board of Commissioners are excited about the county's economic plans.

"In our budget we've created an economic development line item, we're going to be putting (Lake County's share of) casino money in there for economic development and that hopefully will impact the entire county," Aufuldish said.

The commissioner also cited recent work by the Lake County Port Authority, which now owns the former Coe Manufacturing site in Painesville where three potential tenants are interested to lease space on the property.

"We try to be, as a board of commissioners, very proactive," Aufuldish said. "Obviously,

the 23 political subdivisions are Lake County and you are the ones who represent Lake County. When anything in our city village or township happens it reflects on the entire county. We want this to be a very strong county."

Rogers will soon end about 18 years service as Mentor-on-the-Lake mayor to become a state representative in Columbus for Ohio's 60th House District.

He attended an orientation last week for new legislators and attended a dinner at the state Capitol with Gov. John Kasich and other current state representatives and state senators.

Rogers hopes that there will be a broader spirit of bipartisanship in Columbus.

"I think the whole bottom line is, regardless of what political party or your philosophy is, people are just tired of people just constantly at each others' throats and they're not working together," he said. "Hopefully, this legislative session can be a good legislative session and regardless of who we are and what our beliefs are, we'll address Ohio's issues in a positive manner."

"I'm going to go down there looking or anticipating that type of interaction and we shall see what happens."