

LCDU steps up water projects this year

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LAKE COUNTY - The Lake County Board of Commissioners approved five engineering agreements as well as plans and specifications for three other projects proposed by the Lake County Department of Utilities at the June 26 commissioners meeting.

Agreements approved were for waterline replacement projects at Fairport Nursery in Painesville Township (estimated costs of engineering at \$95,000 and project at \$972,000); Hardy Road and Oakwood Boulevard in Painesville Township (estimated costs of engineering at \$66,000 and project at \$680,000); Eaglewood Drive in Willoughby (estimated costs of engineering at \$42,000 and project at \$420,000); Parkway Boulevard, Poplar Road and Ash Road in Willoughby (estimated costs of engineering at \$104,000 and project at \$1.07 million); Maplegrove Road and Rockefeller Road in Willoughby Hills (estimated costs of engineering at \$89,000 and

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project at \$910,000).

Plans, specifications and costs approved were: \$20,649.90 for Munson Road Sanitary Sewer Extension in Mentor; \$3,206 million for GLYCO II Pump Station Replacement Project; and \$949,000 for Sandgate, Stirling and Falkirk Sewer Rehabilitation Project 320-S and Waterline Replacement Project in Madison Township.

"I notice a lot of water line projects are ... pretty much county capital improvement projects, rather than assessment projects," said Board President Dan Troy.

Randy Rothlisberger, director of water for LCDU, said the projects were part of LCDU's long-term infrastructure replacement plan. Although the department was doubling to \$4 million (and 19,000 feet of line) the amount of capital expenditures to update infrastruc-

ture this year, it was still only about 25 percent of what it needed to spend each year due to the aging of the pipes.

"Ultimately, in order to keep up with the aging pipe that's going to last 50 to 100 years, our estimate is that we need to replace about 40,000 feet of line every year," Rothlisberger said. "That's our goal for five or six years from now."

Troy confirmed the LCDU was paying for the projects from water revenues although the county had what he called "relatively low water rates."

He noted LCDU was also working on an agreement for a joint water project with the City of Mentor, which will include a contract with URS Corporation.

Rothlisberger said there will be an agreement presented for approval to the Board of Commissioners in a couple weeks.