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Lake County Commissioners in Action

BY MARIAN MCMAHON

Gazette Newspapers

LAKE COUNTY - Lake County Commissioners Bob Aufuldish, Dan Troy and Judy Moran 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 Elaszcz at (440) 350-2753.

There was a meeting Feb. 21. The next meeting will be Thursday, Feb. 28 at 10 a.m.

At the Feb. 13 meeting, the following resolutions were adopted:

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

- Declaring the official intent and reasonable expectation of the Lake County Board of Commissioners on behalf of the State of Ohio (the borrower) to reimburse its Water Fund for the Lakeshore Boulevard Waterline Replacement Project 332w, OPWC CG36P/CG37P with the proceeds of tax exempt debt of the State of Ohio.

Commissioner Bob Aufuldish stated the project cost was \$1.6 million with a grant for \$380,000 and a \$235,000 loan.

- Authorizing execution of an agreement with Arcadis US, Inc. for a sewer comprehensive financial plan.

- Establishing a fund to be known as Heatherstone WWTP Study 349S with various revenue and appropriation lines and transferring cash.

- Hiring Carol Bowen to

the position of account clerk/billing in the Lake County Department of Utilities, effective Feb. 25.

- Reclassifying Kerry Troy to the position of operator I at an hourly salary of \$18.77.

- Accepting the resignation of Karen Peterson from her position of operations supervisor.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

- Authorizing execution of Amendment I to the service agreement with Catholic Charities Community Services for the In-School Youth Program.

- Appointing Miguel Nieves to the position of clerk 1 In The Shared Division.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

- Authorizing execution of a professional services agreement with TEC Inc. Engineering and Design in an amount not to exceed \$4,500.

- Authorizing execution of an agreement with CYA Plumbing in an amount not to exceed \$17,850.

- Declaring a real and present emergency under Ohio Revised Code 307.86 (A)(2) and determining the necessity to proceed with repairs at the Lake County Clerk of Courts and Lake County Probate Court due to a water line break in the city of Painesville and, in cooperation with Corsa and Custard Insurance Adjusters Inc., authorizing execution of contracts for hazard mitigation and repairs to alleviate the threat to public safety.

"This has to do with the waterline break (which occurred last November)," said Chuck Klco, superintendent of Buildings and Grounds.

The insurance company is overseeing and paying the costs of the project.

Commissioner Dan Troy said the break occurred due to the too rapid buildup of water pressure following a break the city repaired in the street. As a result, there was flooding in the Courthouse Annex.

The county is covered by CORSA insurance as part of a risk-sharing pool formed with numerous other Ohio counties.

- Authorizing execution of an agreement with Hach Excavating for the installation of drainage pipes in an amount not to exceed \$22,000.

- Authorizing execution of a 3-year maintenance agreement with Roberts Mechanical Equipment Company for testing of boilers in county buildings.

- Authorizing execution of a professional consulting services agreement with Maximus, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$18,000.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

- Approving payment of bills in the amount of \$1,315,031.54.

- Approving purchase orders in the amount of \$791,067.17.

- Increasing appropriations for various general fund accounts.

- Resolution transferring cash within various non-general fund accounts.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

• JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

"In terms of the expansion of Medicaid, which still has to get through the General Assembly as the governor's proposed, any first reaction as to what this will mean in terms of this being administered?" Troy asked Matt Battiato, director of Lake County Job and Family services.

Battiato said there may be other option for applying

for Medicaid other than going into LCJFS offices. Applications might be taken online.

Troy wondered how online applications would work out.

There was further discussion and Troy said there were still questions being asked about how the expansion would work out.

• COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

There was discussion concerning the finalization of the county budget.

"We all know this budget that's been proposed by the state; that proposes to adjust our sales tax rate in September and we don't know how that's going to work. That's based on expansion of the sales tax base and who knows how much of that will go through the General Assembly," Troy said. "The way it's proposed, is the rate will change everyone will be guaranteed at least a 10 percent increase, but we'll see what happens."

The Local Government Fund is supposed to increase by about 4 percent.

"We're the county government in Ohio that's least dependent on the Local Government Fund because of a formula we inherited," Troy said.

- The commissioners passed a resolution declaring a real and present emergency and determining the necessity to proceed with repairs at the Lake County Jail and authorizing execution of contracts for hazard mitigation and repairs to alleviate the threat to public safety.

There is roof damage and roof failure which requires immediate repairs.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The commissioners adjourned to executive session to discuss threatened litigation and personnel.