County News 3-3-13 GA

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 Elszasz at (440) 350-2753.

The next meetings will be Tuesday, March 12 at 10 a.m. (Note: different time than usual) and Tuesday, March 12 at 2 p.m.

At the Feb. 26 meeting, the following resolutions were adopted:

ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT

• Authorizing advertising for bids for a 2014 single-axle truck cab and chassis for the Lake County Engineer's Road Department with a bid opening date of March 20.

• Authorizing advertising for bids for a 2014 tandem truck cab and chassis for the Lake County Engineer's Road Department with a bid opening date of March 20.

• Finding and determining that the territory to be used by Arthur R. and Carol S. Shamakian, co-trustees of Phynancial Physicians Trust to construct armor stone revetments and stairs and a detached breakwater per ODNR specifications along the shoreline of the property at 1664 North Shore Dr., Painesville Township, for erosion protection in Lake Erie is not required for use by Lake County and complies with regulation of permissible land use.

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

• Transferring cash from LCDU Sewer District transfer out to Glyco II Lift Station Rehab.

• Authorizing execution of an agreement with CT Consultants, Inc. for the Heatherstone Wastewater Treatment Facility Study.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

• Appointing Lake County Commissioner Daniel P. Troy to serve on the Chagrin River Watershed Partners Inc. Board of Trustees and designating alternates to serve on his behalf.

• Resolution authorizing purchase of a dryer unit at the Lake County Jail in an amount not to exceed $4,652.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

• Transferring cash within various general and non-general fund accounts.

• Approving the 2013 permanent appropriation measure for funds outside the general fund.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

At the Feb. 28 meeting, the following resolutions were adopted:

RESOLUTIONS:

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

• Establishing a fund to be known as State Routes 91 and 84 Water Booster Station & Reservoir Upgrade 350W with various revenue and appropriation lines and transferring cash.

CT Consultants is to provide the design engineering for the project, which includes exterior pressure washing and sealing and repairs to the hatch and roof. The pump house will receive a new roof and HVAC system, painting and other repairs.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

• Approving Lake County Department of Job and Family Services vouchers date of warrant March 11 in the amount of $245,724.89.

The breakdown of charges is: Public Assistance, $78,198.05; Workforce Investment, $41,975.04; Child Support Enforcement, $100,211.25; and Child Welfare, $25,340.55.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

• Authorizing the Board of Lake County Commis sioners to enter into a Fed eral Equitable Sharin Agreement with the Unite States Department of Jus tice and the United State Department of the Treasur on behalf of the Lake Count Sheriff's Department to r ceive federally forfeite property and/or funds.

• Authorizing executio of an agreement for exces workers' compensation an employer's liability insu ance with Wells Fargo Insu ance Services of USA, Inc agent for Midwest Emplo ers Casualty Company, effe tive March 1 through Fe 28, 2014.

"Actually today conclud our ninth year being self-i sured for Workers Comp said Bill Margalis, direct of Administrative Services

He said the three parts the program are the claim third-party administrat and the insurance for exce loss, which the county h never had to use.

The WC self-insured pr gram has saved fro $800,000 to $1.2 million p year as compared to wh the county would have pa the state, he said.

• Setting the date a time for viewing and t date, time, and place for public hearing on the pr posed dedication of Rober Way Court, Loreto Landin Drive, Christina's W Court, and Florence's W

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Court in Perry Township, identified in Loreto Landings Subdivision Plat Vol. 44, Page 26 of the Lake County Records (Viewing: Tuesday, March 26 at 2 p.m.; Hearing: Thursday, March 28 at 10 a.m., Commissioners' Chambers, Lake County Administration Building).

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

• Approving payment of bills in the amount of $813,446.71.

• Approving purchase orders in the amount of $366,671.48.

• Approving the 2013 permanent appropriation measure for the general fund special resolutions.

The estimated revenues for 2013 are $49.8 million and the expenses are $49.8 million.

Commissioner Bob Aufuldish commended Budget Director Joel DiMare and his staff for all the work they did on the budget.

"It's a balanced budget, but it's still fragile and it requires maintenance and upkeep by all the department heads and elected officials between now and Dec. 31," Commissioner Dan Troy said. "What this budget does, I believe, is set aside $2 million for capital improvements to try to address (certain issues) like we have parking lots falling apart and we have some wear and tear in some buildings."

He noted the casinos were only generating about 555 to 60 percent of the funds expected and those funds were being set aside for economic development through the Lake County Port Authority.

Troy reminded everyone the county had decreased its inside millage on property taxes from 2.1 mills to just 1 mill. That change, along with the reduction in property valuations reduced collections from about $13 million to less than $6 million.

However, the sales tax increase approved in 2012 is expected to generate about $28.4 million compared to just $21 million in 2012, when the increase was only in effect for six months.

"We have become much less dependent upon property tax revenue and obviously more dependent on consumption revenue," Troy said, "but the end result is that this budget is probably similar to budgets of maybe five or six years ago."

Health Care is no longer being paid out of the General Fund, which has reduced the GF total by $10.3 million.

Troy said the county still has concerns about the final state budget since the legislators' budget changes in the past years have had negative effects on the local budgets.

Commissioner Judy Moran, who is new to the Board, said the county budget process was a learning experience for her and thanked all the department heads for their cooperation during the process. She added her support for dedicating funds for capital improvements.

• Congratulating Bryan Patrick Daly on attaining the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout awarded by the National Boy Scouts of America.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

• Director Matt Battiato said LCJFS was responding to the unexpected layoff of about 300 Core Systems LLC employees in Painesville when the company closed its doors two weeks ago.

LCJFS was to have about 12 companies at a job fair March 5.

"We're on top of that situation in terms of providing Workforce Investment dollars that are available to put on these kinds of (events)," Battiato said.

It was noted there were positions available at other manufacturers around the county.