

Lake County Commissioners in Action

BY MARIAN MCMAHON
Gazette Newspapers

LAKE COUNTY - Lake County Commissioners Bob Aufdish, 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.

There was a meeting May 2. The next meeting will be Thursday, May 9 at 10 a.m.

At the April 25 meeting, the following resolutions were adopted:

ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT

- Authorizing an agreement with the director of Transportation of the State of Ohio for the installation and maintenance of highway lighting for the Vrooman Road Roundabout located at state Route 86 and Vrooman Road in Leroy Township.

Engineer Jim Gills explained that, with five roads entering the roundabout to be constructed in Leroy Township, it would be necessary to provide adequate lighting for the safety of motorists driving through the area.

There are three county roads and two state roads involved.

"The state will do maintenance on their portion of the roadway surface; we'll do the maintenance on ours," Gills said. "The intent, when we get done, is to give all the right-of-way we acquired to the state."

Gills said the roundabout should be well-taken care of in the winter since both county and state plows will be going through the roundabout.

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

- Reclassifying James Lubinsky to the position of meter reader/investigator at an hourly salary of \$18.42.

- Reclassifying Robert Yurchick to the position of operator I at an hourly salary of \$18.77 in the Lake County Department of Utilities, effective May 6.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

- Declaring that the amount of taxes which may be raised within the 10-mill limitation will be insufficient to provide an adequate amount for the support of children's services and the care and placement of children in Lake County, determining that it is necessary to levy a replacement of an existing tax of 0.70-mill for a period of five years for children's services and the care and placement of children and requesting that the Lake County Auditor certify

the total current tax valuation of Lake County and the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated by the replacement of said 0.70-mill tax.

"I would point out that anytime anything is placed on the ballot it requires two resolutions, so this is the first resolution we have to pass and this basically asks the auditor to certify the amount that would be generated," said Commissioner Dan Troy.

In the future, the commissioners would then need to agree to allow placement of the actual replacement levy on the ballot.

- Appointing Stacy L. De Leone to the position of youth leader in the Children Services Division, effective April 22.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

- Authorizing execution of an agreement on behalf of the Lake County Stormwater Management Division and Madison Township for regional waterways maintenance, effective May 1 through Dec. 31.

The contract calls for reimbursement up to \$100,000 to the township for actual man hours worked for waterways maintenance in the township.

- Authorizing execution of a lease agreement between the Board of Commissioners and the Lake County Land Reutilization Corporation for office space effective May 1.

"This county, in conjunction with the statute, and the (Lake County)

Treasurer and the Board of Commissioners has created a Land Reutilization Corporation in Lake County, more commonly called a land bank," Troy said.

"That entity is up and running with a temporary director, but they need space. They are not a county agency but they need space in order to operate."

The lease is for office space on the fifth floor of the Lake County Administration Building at \$392.71.

The offices were previously used by staff who managed federal grants. That staff now works from the Office of Community Planning and Development.

- Authorizing the Lake County Sheriff to enter into an agreement with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources-Division of Watercraft to obtain matching funds in the amount of \$32,000 for marine patrol for the year.

The Sheriff's Office will use \$10,665.80 from its reserve fund for the program.

- Expressing opposition to the Ohio Recorders' Association proposed provisions within HB 59 which removes traditional budgeting and appropriation authority of the Board of Commissioners.

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Scout.

From the April 11 council meeting:

- Addressing the topic of Internet sweepstakes cafes, Lobe noted there had never been a pronouncement from state authorities or legislators that the cafes were illegal. For that reason, the city permitted them within certain regulations and had benefitted financially in the process.

Previous charges against cafes in other Ohio communities were only heard in municipal courts. However, more recently, in Cuyahoga County, there have been raids and prosecutions before juries and received convictions.

This time the plaintiffs appealed to the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals, which upheld the convictions. The plaintiffs were seeking a hearing before the Ohio Supreme Court.

Lobe stated there was disappointment in the state for not providing definitive guidelines regarding the legality of the cafes.

"However, the window of their legality is closing, and it's closing quickly," Lobe said.

If the three cafes in the city were closed, it would cut revenues by \$140,000 annually.

Since the gambling charges would be misde-

meanors, any prosecution would be done by the city prosecutor and heard in municipal court. Lobe said he and the prosecutor agreed they should not decide on any action until after the Supreme Court hearing.

- Council had third reading an ordinance amending Part One - Administrative, Title Five - Administrative, Chapter 157 - General Employment Provisions by the Establishment of Section 157.24 - Compulsory Retirement Age Police and Fire Departments of the codified ordinances.

- Council suspended readings and adopted an ordinance accepting the quote

of Paragrid of Independence for the upgrade of computer hardware to accommodate upgrades to the CMI software and the addition of some newer technology.

- Council held first reading on a resolution to approve a memorandum of understanding with the Willoughby Hills Boys League in order to provide sports programs for the youth residents of Willoughby Hills and declaring an emergency.

- Council adjourned to executive session to discuss potential litigation.

The next regular meeting of council will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 9.

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