

Lake County Commissioners in Action

BY MARIAN MCMAHON

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LAKE COUNTY - Lake County Commissioners Bob Afuldish, 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.

The next meeting will be Thursday, May 30 at 10 a.m.

At the May 14 meeting, the following resolutions were adopted:

ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT

- Awarding a bid contract to Becdir Construction Company in the amount of \$142,045.25 for St. Clair Street Bridge Removal Project in Willoughby.

- Authorizing accepting temporary, channel and standard highway easements for the Vrooman Road Roundabout Project in Leroy Township.

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

- Hiring Kara Linsenmeier to the position of account clerk in the Lake County Department of Utili-

ties, effective June 3.

- Hiring Peter Ruple to the position of part-time inspector.

- Accepting the resignation of Kristen Fink from her position of superintendent.

- Approving final estimate No. 2 in the amount of \$3,144.40 with Infinity Paving Company and accepting a one-year maintenance bond in the amount of \$39,303.40 for Stirling Road Pavement Restoration Project No. 337-S.

- Certifying unpaid sewer and water sums to the Lake County Auditor.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

- Approving vouchers date of warrant May 20 in the amount of \$289,989.96.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

- Awarding a bid contract to LDV Inc. the amount of \$208,244 for a bomb truck for the Lake County Regional Bomb Squad.

"The award was a grant from Port Securities," said John Church of LCRBS.

"The Lake County Bomb Squad covers Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula counties. We have two ports - Fairport and Ashtabula - that we cover. The bomb truck was awarded to LDV and will give us a larger truck that we can have the members dress out inside, rather than outside and give us some more room. We've outgrown the truck that we have now."

The remainder of the grant will pay for additional equipment like self-contained breathing apparatus which LCRBS will share with the Lake County SWAT team.

The current bomb squad truck is 15 years old and will be used by a Mentor City department.

- Enacting, adopting, and providing for maintaining a 3 percent county-wide excise tax on all transactions by which lodging by a hotel is or is to be furnished to transient guests for the purposes of contributing funds to the Convention and Visitors' Bureau.

The tax, commonly known as a bed tax, supports tourism, but in Lake County there were two other parts for the county:

"One was to promote arts and culture grants within the county," Board President Bob Afuldish said. "The second part was to help pay off \$2 million the city of Eastlake took out to help fund the ballpark."

The ballpark is nearly paid off.

Commissioner Dan Troy noted the bed tax is paid mostly by people who live outside the county and, by state law, they can only be used to promote tourism and cannot be included in the general fund.

He said without this resolution it would revert to 2 percent, but the commissioners wished to keep up the

income to support arts and culture and local festivals.

The county was also seeking to enter into some joint promotional ventures with neighboring counties to promote the whole region.

Troy also pointed out that the income from the bed tax fluctuates due to changes in the economy so some years it is below \$500,000 and others it is about \$850,000. Also, if hotels/motels offer discounted rooms, then that also reduces the amount of tax collected.

- Amending the rules and regulations governing the imposition, collection, and distribution of the Lake County excise tax on hotel lodging fees.

- Reappointing Donna P. McNamee to the Laketrans Board of Trustees for a three-year term expiring May 15, 2016.

- Reappointing Jean Argo to the Laketrans Board of Trustees for a three-year term expiring May 15, 2016.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

- Approving payment of bills in the amount of \$1,367,749.18.

- Approving purchase orders in the amount of \$520,032.99.

- Increasing appropriations for various non-general fund accounts.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The commissioners adjourned to executive session to discuss personnel.