

## Lake County Commissioners in Action

BY MARIAN MCMAHON

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**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.

The next regular meeting will be Thursday, Jan. 9 at 10 a.m. with the organizational meeting Monday, Jan. 13 at 11 a.m.

At the Dec. 30 meeting, the following resolutions were adopted:

### RESOLUTIONS: UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

- Decreasing appropriations for LCDU Regional Water District various accounts.
- Decreasing appropriations for LCDU capital project funds various accounts.
- Decreasing appropriations for LCDU Regional Sewer District various accounts.
- Decreasing appropriations for LCDU Solid Waste and Recycling District various accounts.

Referring to the previous resolutions, Commissioner Dan Troy said LCDU Director Rick Martin generally budgets for a bit extra in his funds in case they are needed.

"Every year we do not utilize all that appropriation

authority so we decrease these appropriations again," he said. "These are all enterprise funds because they come from solid waste accounts; they come from water and they come from sewer, so they have to stay within their parameters."

Board President Bob Aufuldish noted the budget for LCDU salaries had been reduced by \$225,000.

### COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

- Authorizing the Lake County Board of Commissioners to collaborate with the Lake Erie Energy Development Corporation (LEEDCo) in the Clean Energy Initiative.

Aufuldish stated he had been appointed to LEEDCo (which is working to create a wind farm in Lake Erie) three years ago as Lake County's representative.

"It's an interesting organization. It's a private/public board that's put together," he said.

The other current board members are: Chairman Ronald B. Richard, president & CEO, The Cleveland Foundation; Karen L. Allport, vice president of Strategic Outreach, NorTech; Steven Dever, executive director, Great Lakes Energy Development Task Force, Cuyahoga County;

Ted Kalo, Lorain County commissioner; Jenita McGowan, chief of Sustainability, City of Cleveland; and Daniel R. Claypool, Ashtabula County commissioner.

Aufuldish said LEEDCo was one of seven organizations that received a \$4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy earlier in the year.

"Right now they are working on putting together

their final grant to try to win the \$46.7 million grant," he said. "Three of these seven organizations will actually be successful."

LEEDCo will give a 50-minute presentation on the grant April 7 to the Department of Energy.

"If they are not successful, we will probably disband the organization because of no more money (being) available," Aufuldish said.

Troy said the resolution, which supports the grant application, states Lake County would purchase 10 percent of the electricity used by the county from Project Icebreaker for 16 years. He noted, however, since it was not a legal binding agreement, if commissioners in the future determined it was not financially feasible they would not be bound by it.

Lorain, Cuyahoga and Ashtabula counties had all signed commitments.

Aufuldish said LEEDCo had received similar commitments from Ethical Electric, Cleveland Public Power and the Cleveland Sewer District.

He said the first 5-megawatt wind turbine would not be operational for five years - if the grant is received.

The project could generate many jobs if it goes through.

### FINANCE DEPARTMENT

- Approving payment of bills in the amount of \$1,772,421.28.

- Approving purchase orders in the amount of \$189,019.20.

• Increasing and decreasing appropriations for various general and non-general fund accounts.

• Transferring cash and appropriations within vari-

ous general and non-general fund accounts.

### DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

#### • UTILITIES

The rebids for the Kirtland Road/King Edward Court Waterline Improvement Project were opened. The estimated cost was \$565,000. The high bid was 552,887 and the low bid was from Monte Construction of Kirtland at \$503,878.

Troy asked what kind of problems there were when the county had all the rain recently.

"Basically, we had our Prouty Road Lift Station go down, electrical-wise, and start to fill up the wet well and the dry well which pretty much fried all the transfer switches and what-not," said Al Saari, county sanitary engineer. "Instead of backing up basements, we went out there and discharged into the local creek and notified EPA..."

There were nine complaints from customers, mainly from Painesville Township and some from Mentor.

### • COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Jason Boyd asked for reports from various departments for 2013. He would report on them when they were received.

### • FINANCE

The county's general fund carryover will be about \$5 million.

### NEW BUSINESS

Troy reported the state legislature has had legislation introduced to extend the Ohio Public Works Program another 10 years. He does not anticipate a problem with passage.

Since it will be a constitutional amendment, it will need to go on the May ballot.