

July 11, 2013

**LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES**

ROBERT E. AUFULDISH, PRESIDENT  
JUDY MORAN, COMMISSIONER  
DANIEL P. TROY, COMMISSIONER  
AMY ELSZASZ, CLERK

JASON W. BOYD, ADMINISTRATOR  
LEGAL COUNSEL  
JOEL DIMARE, BUDGET DIRECTOR  
NEWS MEDIA

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(Tape 2013-0711)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Aufuldish called the meeting to order at 10:05 am, July 11, 2013. He requested a moment of silence for former Commissioner Mike Coffey who recently passed away.

ROLL CALL: Upon the roll being called all were present.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Commissioner Aufuldish asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board.

Job & Family Services Director Matt Battiatto explained what happened during the State Biennial budget in the Conference Committee. A compromise bill was adopted that eliminated the property tax rollback for new and replacement levies. The Governor signed that budget effective July 1, 2013. Previously, in May, he requested placing a replacement levy on the ballot and it was approved. The State budget threw a curve ball. With this new development he does not want to put the 12 ½% cost onto property owners of Lake County. It amounts to about \$250,000 that the State puts towards the Children’s Services Levy. Today, Job & Family Services request the Board rescind the resolution that was adopted in May for a replacement levy and to approve a separate resolution for the County Auditor to certify a renewal levy so that the State will continue with property rollback reimbursement. The reason he requested the replacement levy in the first place is because the current levy generates approximately \$3.5 million and the replacement levy would have generated \$4 million. The \$3.5 million levy was approved five years ago but the amount it generates has decreased due to tangible personal property tax phase out, utility deregulation and property value decreases. The levy is collecting \$500,000 or less from five years ago and he still needs the \$500,000 in order to sustain the Children’s Services. Mr. Battiatto asked for a renewal and then they will begin to educate the community about the importance of renewing this levy. The next few years they will be looking at their operations to determine if they need to come back in a few years and ask for a small levy or not.

Commissioner Troy stated that the rules of the game quickly changed at the State level in the middle of the game. A renewal levy will continue to have the State pay the 12 ½% rollback for residential property but only for existing levies or renewals of existing levies. As soon as there is a new levy or a replacement levy it wipes out the 12 ½% rollback from the State for the entire levy amount, even if it is a small amount. It makes more sense to rescind the replacement levy and put on a renewal because it would not cost the tax payers any more. The County wants to make sure the needs of the Jobs & Family Services Children’s Service Division are met and they are looking at the least expense to the property tax payers of Lake County in order to provide that service. He asked voters to please renew the Children’s Services levy at this time because it is extremely important to the quality of life in Lake County.

Commissioner Aufuldish stated that it is too bad that the State legislators did not go through the proper process in making these important changes. This is the best route to take at this time. We want to make sure this levy passes because the present levy expires at the end of the year. This is an extremely important levy.

Matt Battiatto stated if this resolution is adopted a renewal would mean no increase in taxes. A property owner of a \$100,000 home would pay \$17.66 per year. It is a good value to protect children and keep them safe.

Becky Lynch from Mentor commented that what she is hearing is that the replacement levy request of \$4 million is being rescinded and the new request for a renewal levy is \$3.5 million. Instead of asking for an increase it was determined not to ask for an increase. If he went forward with the replacement levy it would have increased taxes and there would not be a rollback.

Commissioner Moran stated that the Commissioners would not just let it go through because they had to react to the State’s decision.

Ms. Lynch stated that a replacement levy would have been an increase.

Commissioner Troy stated that we were asking for a replacement because the .70 mill was generating approximately \$4 million when it was last renewed by the voters in 2008, since that time there has been substantial changes to the tax base to which the levy applies. Now it would only generate \$3.5 million so that was the rationale behind the change. We want to keep the amount close to the same that they have been receiving. We want to make sure that the children receive the services that they need. This will be further reviewed in the next few years.

Ms. Lynch stated that the Commissioners represent all of Lake County. She stated that it seems to her, instead of asking for more money an adjustment is being made to make do with what we have for now by changing a replacement to a renewal levy.

Commissioner Moran stated that this levy is over a long period of time and costs go up over time.

Ms. Lynch replied that the State cannot be blamed for this because everyone has to tighten up their bootstraps.

Commissioner Troy stated that the levy campaigns are transparent and Job and Family Services will try to make do right now but he is not sure that it will be able to make do in years to come, so it will be addressed later.

RESOLUTIONS:

**1. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTING TEMPORARY HIGHWAY EASEMENTS FOR THE VROOMAN RO ROAD ROUNDABOUT PROJECT IN LEROY TOWNSHIP (20130711\E01) (E-11)**

**On a motion** of Commissioner Moran, seconded by Commissioner Troy, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: “AYES”: Commissioners: Aufuldish, Moran and Troy “NAYS”: None

**2. RESOLUTION CERTIFYING UNPAID SEWER AND WATER SUMS TO THE LAKE COUNTY AUDITOR (20130711\U01) (UT-7)**

**On a motion** of Commissioner Moran, seconded by Commissioner Troy, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: “AYES”: Commissioners: Aufuldish, Moran and Troy “NAYS”: None

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**3. RESOLUTION RESCINDING THE MAY 9, 2013 RESOLUTION PLACING A SEVEN-TENTHS OF ONE MILL (.70) REPLACEMENT LEVY ON REAL ESTATE WITHIN LAKE COUNTY FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND THE CARE AND PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN, ON THE BALLOT AT THE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 5, 2013 AS PROVIDED BY SECTION 5705.24 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE (20130711\JFS01) (C-5)**

**On a motion** of Commissioner Moran, seconded by Commissioner Troy.

Commissioner Troy explained this resolution formally asks the Board of Education to remove the .07 mill replacement levy on the November 5, 2013 ballot for Children's Services and the care and placement of children. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Aufuldish, Moran and Troy "NAYS": None

**4. RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT THE AMOUNT OF TAXES WHICH MAY BE RAISED WITHIN THE TEN-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 RENEWAL OF AN EXISTING TAX OF .70 (Seven-Tenths) OF ONE MILL FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE (5) 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 RENEWAL OF SAID .70 (Seven-Tenths) OF ONE MILL TAX (20130711\JFS02) (JFS-11)**

**On a motion** of Commissioner Moran, seconded by Commissioner Troy.

Commissioner Troy explained that this is the first of two resolutions that have to be passed. The next step is to ask the Auditor to certify the amount of dollars that would be generated by the levy, around \$3.5 million and as soon as the certification is received the renewal levy can be placed on the November ballot.

The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Aufuldish, Moran and Troy "NAYS": None

**5. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A VENDOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB & FAMILY SERVICES (LCJFS) AND LIFELINE, INC. FOR SUPPORT OF THE 211 LAKE COUNTY INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$25,000.00, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2013 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2013 (20130711\JFS03) (JFS-2)**

**On a motion** of Commissioner Moran, seconded by Commissioner Troy, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Aufuldish, Moran and Troy "NAYS": None

**6. RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE CLERK AND ASSISTANT CLERK OF THE BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AS DESIGNEES OF THE BOARD TO ATTEND THE CERTIFIED PUBLIC RECORDS TRAINING AS REQUIRED BY OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 109.43 (20130711\C01) (C-107)**

**On a motion** of Commissioner Moran, seconded by Commissioner Troy.

Commissioner Troy stated that the Commissioners appreciate the service of the two individuals who represent the Commissioners.

The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Aufuldish, Moran and Troy "NAYS": None

**7. RESOLUTION TO RENAME THE LAKE COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY THE LAKE COUNTY OHIO PORT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY(20130711\C02) (C-24)**

**On a motion** of Commissioner Moran, seconded by Commissioner Troy.

Mr. Mark Rantala, Executive Director of the Lake County Port Authority, thanked the Commissioners for their support and stated that by inserting "Ohio" into their name it will help to be found geographically by site selectors using a Google search. There are 11 counties in the United States with the name "Lake" in them. The charter in the State legislation gives authorization of what port authorities can do to help businesses expand and economic development. This is the first step to re-brand and make the Port Authority well known to help business expansion.

Commissioner Aufuldish stated it is the Commissioner's goal that the Port Authority would be the economic development department for the County and this makes it clear that it is the main objective. He showed a draft of the new logo.

Commissioner Troy stated when the Port Authority was created the idea was that there are certain tools that are bestowed on port authorities by the State that the County was not eligible to utilize. The Lake County Port Authority is the Department of Economic Development for the County. It is about putting people to work in Lake County in good paying jobs.

Commissioner Moran commended Mr. Rantala for taking charge of the Lake County Port Authority and making changes that have made a large impact.

Mr. Martin Gareau, Small Business Development Center Director, commented that he is pleased with the movement and focus of job creation and placing "economic development" in the Port Authority's name, which makes his job easier because it more self explanatory and not as confusing.

Commissioner Troy stated that maybe it should be better defined of what a port authority is in the State of Ohio because there is confusion with the name.

The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Aufuldish, Moran and Troy "NAYS": None

**8. RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000,000 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOTES, IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS, TO PAY COSTS OF ACQUIRING A BUILDING AND ITS SITE AND CONSTRUCTING IMPROVEMENTS THERETO, INCLUDING RENOVATING, EQUIPPING, FURNISHING AND OTHERWISE IMPROVING THE BUILDING FOR USE AS A COUNTY SERVICE GARAGE, AND INCLUDING ALL NECESSARY APPURTENANCES THERETO (20130711\C03) (C-21)**

**On a motion** of Commissioner Moran, seconded by Commissioner Troy.

Commissioner Troy explained this is not new debt. It is rolling over existing notes that have been paid down significantly. The interest rates are less than bonds rates so this makes sense at this time. We will continue to make payments on this debt.

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The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Aufuldish, Moran and Troy "NAYS": None

**9. RESOLUTION CANCELLING THE REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS FOR AN ELECTRONIC FILING SYSTEM FOR THE LAKE COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS AND THE CLERK OF COURTS (20130711\C04) (CT-1)**

**On a motion** of Commissioner Moran, seconded by Commissioner Troy.

Mr. Jim Walsh, Information Technology Director for the Lake County Court of Common Pleas, explained the bids came in higher than anticipated and there is a slight change in direction. There should not be any new legislation because the bids will fall below the amount threshold.

The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Aufuldish, Moran and Troy "NAYS": None

**10. RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,684,457.59 (20130711\BC01) (C-4)**

**On a motion** of Commissioner Moran, seconded by Commissioner Troy, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Aufuldish, Moran and Troy "NAYS": None

**11. RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$561,687.72 (20130711\BC02) (C-17)**

**On a motion** of Commissioner Moran, seconded by Commissioner Troy, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Aufuldish, Moran and Troy "NAYS": None

**12. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CASH AND APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20130711\BC03) (C-111)**

**On a motion** of Commissioner Moran, seconded by Commissioner Troy, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Aufuldish, Moran and Troy "NAYS": None

**13. RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE ANNUAL TAX BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2014 (20130711\BTAX) (C-8)**

**On a motion** of Commissioner Moran, seconded by Commissioner Troy.

Commissioner Troy explained this resolution is a necessary requirement of the State to certify the amount of property taxes that will be levied in 2014 and it must be adopted by July 15, 2013.

The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Aufuldish, Moran and Troy "NAYS": None

**14. RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING JOSEPH SNYDERWINE ON ATTAINING THE PRESTIGIOUS RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT AWARDED BY THE NATIONAL BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA (20130711\F01) (C-126)**

**On a motion** of Commissioner Moran, seconded by Commissioner Troy, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Troy, Aufuldish and Moran "NAYS": None

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

UTILITIES: no report

STORMWATER: no report

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES: no report

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR: no report

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES: no report

FINANCE: no report

CLERK: no report

LEGAL: no report

OLD BUSINESS: Commissioner Troy commented that he is saddened by the loss of Commissioner Coffey. He served for 20 years as a County Commissioner during a changing time in the County from 1968-1988 and his name is on many plaques in the County's real estate that was purchased during that time. He was a long-time prominent figure in the County and not shy about expressing his opinions on the issues of the day, and he deserves the respect and gratitude of the citizens. He put in place responsible management of the County, and he thanked Mike for his service.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Clerk of Courts Maureen Kelly reported that the lower level of the courthouse annex is dry and has been dry during all the recent rain and she gave her thanks to Mr. Chuck Klco, his staff and the Commissioners for all of their support. They are delighted with the renovated space.

Becky Lynch of Mentor asked a question about the Local Government Fund (LGF). She recently read an article about the LGF granting \$100,000 to the Lake Educational Services to work on shared services with Geauga County.

Commissioner Troy advised that it was a cooperative venture between Lake and Geauga and the funds were awarded through the Ohio Department of Development. He explained that funding was given to the Lake County Educational Service Center to look at how the school districts and other government entities can share services like payroll or worker's compensation administration. There is no discussion about consolidation.

Ms. Lynch asked if there was a match for the grant?

Commissioner Troy explained if there is a match it would be coming from the school districts. The Commissioners sent a letter of support for the grant application. There is no monetary commitment by the County.

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ADJOURN: On a motion of Commissioner Moran, seconded by Commissioner Troy, the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:46 a.m., with the vote as follows:

"AYES": Commissioners: Afuldish, Moran and Troy

"NAYS": None

Minutes approved this thirtieth day of July, 2013.

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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ROBERT E. AUFULDISH, PRESIDENT

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JUDY MORAN, COMMISSIONER

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DANIEL P. TROY, COMMISSIONER

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AMY ELSZASZ, CLERK