

LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES

JERRY C. CIRINO, COMMISSIONER  
JOHN R HAMERCHECK, COMMISSIONER  
DANIEL P. TROY, COMMISSIONER  
JENNIFER BELL, CLERK

JASON W. BOYD, ADMINISTRATOR  
LEGAL COUNSEL  
MIKE MATAS, BUDGET DIRECTOR  
NEWS MEDIA

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(Tape 2017-0202)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Cirino called the Meeting to order at 10:05 am, Thursday, February 2, 2017.

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Commissioner Cirino asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board. No one present wished to address the Board at this time.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR LIMESTONE/SAND FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES (Bid Opening: February 22, 2017)(20170202\U01)(UT-8)

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

2. RESOLUTION APPROVING FINAL ESTIMATE NO. 3 (RELEASE OF RETAINER) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$33,870.82 WITH MONTE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. AND ACCEPTING A THREE YEAR MAINTENANCE BOND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$69,382.00 FOR VICTOR DRIVE AND SYLVIA DRIVE WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT 354-W FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES (20170202\U02)(UT-4)

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

3. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ADOPTION OF THE ROTH 457 OPTION AS AN EXPANDED PORTFOLIO CHOICE WITHIN THE CCAO DEFERRED COMPENSATION PROGRAM, AS WAS AUTHORIZED INTO LAW BY THE PASSAGE OF SENATE BILL 220, WHICH BECAME OHIO LAW ON MARCH 19, 2017(20170202\C01)(C-71A)

On a motion by Commissioner Troy, seconded by Commissioner Cirino. Commissioner Troy stated this is a new option that will be available to County employees through the passage of SB 220 and will take effect March 19, 2017. The State law allows for a designation of up to 3 deferred compensation entities for County employees and that there is no contribution by the employer. Commissioner Cirino stated these options are very typical for private sector employees. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Hamercheck, and Troy "NAYS": None

4. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AND APPROVING THE RECOMMENDATION OF COMMISSIONER JERRY C. CIRINO TO DESIGNATE SEAN P. BLAKE TO SERVE AS HIS ALTERNATE ON THE LAKE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION (20170202\C02)(B-34)

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

5. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO ENTER INTO A FEDERAL EQUITABLE SHARING AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY ON BEHALF OF THE LAKE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO RECEIVE FEDERALLY FORFEITED PROPERTY AND/OR FUNDS (20170202\C03)(CT-8con)

On a motion by Commissioner Troy, seconded by Commissioner Cirino, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Hamercheck, and Troy

6. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20170202\BC01)(C-111)

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

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

UTILITIES – Director of Business Operations, Mr. Matthew Armand, updated the Board on the results of a recent survey sent out to Lake County residents pertaining to customer service quality. Mr. Armand stated that of the returned surveys they have received, 75% would rate the department as offering excellent customer service, 21% gave a good rating and 4% rated the department as average or poor. Mr. Armand explained that the department has a committee that meets on a quarterly basis to discuss customer service and what improvements can be made. Commissioner Cirino stated he appreciates Mr. Armand's and the Utilities Department commitment to customer service and that customer service is best determined by the customer and to keep up the great work they are doing.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES –Job and Family Services Director, Mr. Matthew Battiato, reported that with the Governor's proposed budget, there are several items that will impact Job and Family Services; specifically for Medicaid and several other services. Mr. Battiato stated that he is very disappointed in the children's services funding proposal. He explained the proposal will leave children's funding flat and Ohio would remain 50<sup>th</sup> out of 50 states in terms of support for children's services funding. Mr. Battiato stated he plans to meet with Representatives Eklund, Young, and Rogers to discuss his concerns. He explained that without the support of the State, Lake County Jobs and Family Services must rely on levy dollars to provide many services. Commissioner Troy stated that CCAO will be working very closely with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services regarding the lack of funding and many other issues. He reported that they will be meeting every two years for regular briefings with representatives from Lake, Geauga, Ashtabula, Mahoning and Trumbull Counties. Mr. Battiato stated that he feels abused and neglected children should be one of the top priorities for funding. Commissioner Cirino asked Mr. Battiato if it

were possible to project out two years what the demand for services might be. Mr. Battiato stated they are facing a critical funding issue and he would like to speak with the Commissioners regarding placing the Children's Services Levy on the ballot this year. Commissioner Cirino asked if he could gauge the needs over the next two years. Commissioner Troy stated that with the current opiate epidemic, the number of children in protective custody has increased dramatically. Mr. Battiato stated that currently there are 84 children in protective services in Lake County at a cost of \$12,000/per day for the care of those 84 children, and that 23 of those 84 children are 1 year or younger and primarily due to the opiate epidemic. Commissioner Hamercheck stated he attended a session of CCAO and that they were discussing the increased numbers of children being placed into protective custody.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – none.

FINANCE – none.

CLERK – none.

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: - none.

NEW BUSINESS: - Commissioner Troy reported that last Friday he attended the organizational meeting of NOACA to elect officers and standing committee assignments. He also participated in a conference call with the Executive Board of CCAO and reported that more information is becoming available regarding the replacement of revenue for the Medicaid Managed sales tax. The State is creating a partial replacement mechanism by imposing an excise tax or assessment on a broader array of health care entities. CCAO is concerned about the disparate treatment provided to counties. The State is totally replacing their loss and the State budget will be held harmless throughout these changes. He added that Counties and Transit Authorities would be held harmless in the last three months of 2017 but there will be a significant loss beginning in 2018. Commissioner Troy explained in detail the formulas that the State will be implementing.

Commissioner Hamercheck stated that he personally sees the trends with the State and the County's capacity to tax. Commissioner Cirino stated that the Commissioner's office sent a letter to the ABB Group pertaining to their decision to move from the current location in Wickliffe to a new location in Highland Hills. He explained that there will be a loss of 400 jobs and an additional 200 new jobs due to this move.

Commissioner Cirino stated the Commissioners are respectfully requesting that ABB consider a tax deductible 'Economic Transition Grant' through the Lake County Port and Economic Development Authority in the amount of \$1 million that would be specifically earmarked for new economic development activities to support the City of Wickliffe. Commissioner Cirino emphasized not only the significant loss of jobs and financial impact of the local businesses in and around Wickliffe, but the very large facility and property that will be left vacant due to the ABB move.

Commissioner Hamercheck stated he had the pleasure of attending the "Great Leap Science Fair" at the Broadmoor School. Commissioner Hamercheck presented several pieces of artwork that were made by the students of Broadmoor and explained what an exceptional job each and every one of them did with their science presentations and the vast array of artwork.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Commissioner Cirino asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the

Board.

Mr. John Muzik of 45 Coventry in Painesville Township, asked how many other states are dependent on levies for children's services and with the State funding becoming less and less each year, what can be done differently in Lake County. Commissioner Cirino stated that is a very good question, and when budgets need to be balanced it is usually done on the back of others. Commissioner Cirino explained that the County will meet with our local legislators for some kind of assistance. He stated that with the aging population in Lake County on fixed incomes, it is making it more challenging to pass levies. Commissioner Hamercheck stated he has researched the subject and it seems to vary from state to state regarding how they fund their children's services.

Commissioner Troy agreed with Commissioners Cirino and Hamercheck pertaining to the difficulty in funding for children's services and explained that 85% of the state budget leaves Columbus and goes to school districts, colleges and universities, matching funding for Federal money income maintenance and Medicaid at the county level, developmentally disabled and mental health services, ta rollback replacement and Local Government Fund revenue. He stated Ohio ranks 50<sup>th</sup> for children's services funding due to the formula calculated on the amount spent per capita. Commissioner Troy stated the state needs to figure out how to fund the costs of underwriting services and children's services. The current governor did not like the State income tax as it was and over the past few years the state has given back \$3 billion in revenue in state income tax reductions. The tax cuts have taken most of the money that would have funded services and given it back to the taxpayers. Commissioner Troy stated that while no one likes to raise taxes, it may be necessary not to cut existing rates so as to fund services or develop another method to fund them.

Commissioner Cirino stated we can work with our legislators to try and improve things and the trend seems to be shifting funding back to local governments. He stated that Lake County needs to focus on growing the economy in Lake County. He would like to work on keeping companies local and expanding, and attracting new companies to make Lake County their home.

Commissioner Cirino stated the next Regular Commissioners' Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 9, 2017 at 10:00 A.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Personnel – employment

EXECUTIVE SESSION: On a motion Commissioner Troy, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the Board convened an Executive Session at 10:55 a.m. to discuss Personnel – employment with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Hamercheck, and Troy "NAYS": None

The Lake County Board of Commissioners adjourned Executive Session at 11:04 a.m.

On a motion by Commissioner Troy, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the Board returned to open session at 11:05 a.m. with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Hamercheck, and Troy "NAYS": None

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner, seconded by Commissioner, the Board adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m., with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Hamercheck, and Troy "NAYS": None

Minutes approved this sixteenth day of February, 2017.

**BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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JERRY C. CIRINO, PRESIDENT

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JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, COMMISSIONER

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DANIEL P. TROY, COMMISSIONER

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JENNIFER BELL, CLERK