

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 2017-0223)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Cirino called the Meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. Thursday, February 23, 2017.
ROLL CALL: Upon the roll being called, all were present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Upon a motion by Commissioner Troy, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the minutes of the regular meeting of February 2, 2017 were approved as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Hamercheck, and Troy "NAYS": None

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 ROADWAY MATERIALS FOR THE LAKE COUNTY ENGINEER'S ROAD DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR 2017 PROJECT NO. 17-004 (BID OPENING: March 15, 2017)(20170223\E01)(E-2)

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 TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE RAVENNA ROAD RESURFACING PROJECT, CONCORD TOWNSHIP, OHIO - LPA PID #95475 FEDERAL AID PROJECT #FAN E(130)748(Bid Opening March 22, 2017)(20170223\E02)(E-2)

On a motion by Commissioner Troy, seconded by Commissioner Cirino. County Engineer, Mr. James Gills, stated this is a federal project with 80/20 cost sharing and will allow for 24' widening and additional footage to the berms for Ravenna Road in Concord Township. Commissioner Troy asked Mr. Gills if this were the entire length of Ravenna Road. Mr. Gills responded that the project is 2 miles in length, running between Auburn Road and Concord-Hambden Road. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Hamercheck, and Troy "NAYS": None

3. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR FITTINGS, REPAIR PARTS, SERVICE EQUIPMENT AND TOOLS FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES (BID OPENING: March 15, 2017)(20170223\U01)(UT-8)

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

4. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CASH FROM LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES WATER OPERATING FUND TO 271-W EAST END SERVICE CENTER (20170223\U02)(UT-2)

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

5. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VICTOR & SYLVIA WATERLINE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT 354-W (20170223\U03)(UT-2)

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

6. RESOLUTION APPROVING LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES VOUCHERS DATE OF WARRANT FEBRUARY 27, 2017, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$657,578.43 (20170223\JFS01)(JFS-14)

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

7. RESOLUTION FIXING THE AMOUNT OF THE BOND AND AUTHORIZING A BLANKET BOND FOR THE DOG WARDEN AND DEPUTY DOG WARDENS FOR THE DISCHARGE OF THEIR DUTIES COMMENCING IN 2017 (20170223\C01)(C-107)

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

8. RESOLUTION APPOINTING VARIOUS INDIVIDUALS TO THE LAKE COUNTY HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR TERMS EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2017 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2019 (20170223\C02)(695-a)

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

9. RESOLUTION DECLARING THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE BEGINNING MARCH 7, 2017 (20170223\C03)(C-107)

On a motion by Commissioner Troy, seconded by Commissioner Cirino. Commissioner Troy stated that this resolution tentatively sets the meeting schedule dates for March through the first week of July. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Hamercheck, and Troy "NAYS": None

10. RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,158,396.48(20170223\BC01)(C-4)

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

11. RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$410,771.36 (20170223\BC02)(C-17)

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

12. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS(20170223\BC03)(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 – none.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – none.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – none.

FINANCE – none.

CLERK – none.

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: - none.

NEW BUSINESS: - On behalf of the Lake County Board of Commissioners and citizens of Lake County, Commissioner Troy offered his condolences on the passing of former Lake County Treasurer, Mr. John Crocker. Commissioner Troy stated he had the opportunity to work with Mr. Crocker in various capacities and that he was a great public servant who worked very hard for the citizens of Lake County.

Commissioner Troy reported that CCAO continues to monitor the state budget and that the Operating budget and the Transportation budget, with the inclusion of proposed amendments, must be passed by March 31, 2017. Commissioner Troy explained that the proposed amendment includes the option of a permissive motor vehicle license fee for Counties of an additional five dollars and this amendment would permit any county to adopt the fee for the purposes of repairing, replacing and widening the roads and bridges within the County.

County Engineer, Mr. James Gills, provided the Commissioners with several handouts and explained that in the last seven years, Ohio's 88 counties have experienced a steady decline in gas tax revenue. Mr. Gills stated that although revenue continues to decline, the costs of road materials have increased. He explained that the County has not seen a state tax increase in more than ten years and that the only way to correct the decline in revenue is to support the increase to the permissive motor vehicle license fee. Mr. Gills asked the Board of Commissioners to contact our legislators in support of the permissive motor vehicle license fee.

Commissioner Hamercheck stated that at the CCAO Metropolitan County Committee meeting he attended, one of the topics discussed was the permissive motor vehicle license fee and that any funds received would remain in Lake County and will offset the local government fund losses.

Commissioner Troy explained that previously, the state had authorized up to three additional five dollar user fees and the last increase in fees was approximately twenty years ago. He stated that basically CCAO is asking that the Counties suggest to the legislature to approve this flexible option for Counties to utilize this. Commissioner Troy stated that there had been a Court ruling that requires the Transportation budget be passed by March 31, 2017 as it must be passed 90 days before its effective date. Commissioner Troy added that over the years, the user fee dollars have been instrumental in providing some of the funding for the I-90/615 interchange and the State Route 2 upgrade matching funds.

Commissioner Troy stated that State Budget Director, Tim Keen, attended the CCAO meeting and one of the topics discussed was the Medicaid Managed Care Sales Tax and that it would appear that the administration will not change their position. He explained that the Federal center for Medicaid/Medicare services cannot state that Ohio use sales tax on Medicaid Managed Care Tax to draw down more federal Medicaid money. Commissioner Troy also stated they discussed the Local Government Fund formula changes and it appears there is an attempt to shift money away from those that have the ability to raise taxes and have the capacity to do so. He stated there are several legislators that have offered amendments to the budget bill regarding Indigent defense bill reimbursement. These amendments would bring funding up to 50% rather than the 41% that is being proposed in the budget.

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

Mr. Chris Madison of the Lake County Port and Economic Development Authority, spoke to the Board about the 2016 amendment to the Ohio Revised Code that allows eligible Counties an increase in local bed taxes and that the Lake County bed tax remains one of, if not the lowest in Ohio. He explained that this amendment would allow the County Commissioners to approve an increase of 2% to the bed tax and that the funds collected must be used exclusively for lakefront development. Mr. Madison asked that the Board consider the 2% increase and stated that any proposed lakefront developments must be approved by the Board of Commissioners prior to acceptance. Commissioner Troy asked Mr. Madison for an example of a project that might be considered. Mr. Madison stated there is a piece of property in Fairport Harbor that may be available and if purchased, would expand the footprint of the lakefront for a potential hotel development. He also mentioned infrastructure repairs as a possibility.

Commissioner Cirino stated that by the time the County would implement the tax and see the revenue, the list of proposed projects should be prioritized. Port Authority Director, Mr. Mark Rantala, stated that they have three to four projects on the list and that they have not yet solicited lakefront property owners. Mr. Rantala explained what requirements must be met in order to be considered for assistance and that only those property owners with public access to the lake could be considered. Commissioner Cirino asked what the twelve month estimated revenue from the increase would mean to the County. Mr. Rantala responded it would be approximately \$500,000. Commissioner Troy stated the focus should remain on those projects that would make the largest difference to the lakefront.

Mr. Madison explained that, aside from emergency repairs, in order for a project to be considered, the interested party would submit the proper paperwork and then the Port Authority would utilize a scoring system for those projects. Commissioner Hamercheck clarified that no project would begin without first being brought to the Board of Commissioners for review and approval. Mr. Rantala stated that is correct. Any projects being considered would be brought before the Board for review and approval.

Mr. John Muzik of 45 Coventry Drive in Painesville Township, asked if there was any new information on the former Diamond Shamrock property. Mr. Rantala explained that clean up continues on the site and quarterly reports must be sent to the Ohio EPA. He stated that once the clean-up is complete and inspected, it can be developed.

Mr. Jim Weber of Painesville, stated that the Fairport Harbor Senior Center is interested in placing an addition on the Senior Center and is aware that the Board of Commissioners, through the Land Bank, have agreed to pay \$80,000 for a new roof on the HOLA project. Commissioner Troy responded that the issue with HOLA has not yet been approved and the Land Bank Board members do not think any additional money should be invested in the building unless it is a direct authorization from the Land Bank Board.

Commissioner Troy explained that with regard to the Fairport Harbor Senior Center, the Commissioners initially contributed a significant amount of money to the Center through CDBG funds to Fairport Harbor, as well as to other Senior Centers in Lake County. They receive an annual outlay of funds for operational costs and capital needs through the Senior Citizens Levy. He stated that Senior Services Coordinator, Alyea Barajas, is currently working with the Centers throughout the County regarding levy funding.

Commissioner Troy referred to an article in the newspaper yesterday regarding First Energy and stated he recently attended a two day Ohio Energy Conference. He explained that there was discussion that nuclear power has a zero percent carbon footprint and they also discussed the benefits of nuclear power. He stated he understands the situation that First Energy is experiencing and that the legislature is considering reregulation. Lake County has two First Energy plants and they are substantial tax payers.

Commissioner Cirino stated that the zero emission credits, as reported, amount to \$300 million a year in perpetuity basically to subsidize First Energy’s operation of the power plant and the zero emission credit is adding value to the company because it is clean energy. He stated there are quite a few complicating factors involved including consumer rates, job loss, and tax base.

Commissioner Cirino stated the next Regular Commissioners’ Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 2:00 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Legal-Potential Litigation

EXECUTIVE SESSION: On a motion Commissioner Troy, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the Board convened an Executive Session at 10:38 a.m. to discuss Legal – potential litigation

With the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Hamercheck, and Troy "NAYS":

None

The Lake County Board of Commissioners adjourned Executive Session at 11:25 a.m.

On a motion by Commissioner Troy, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the Board returned to open session at 11:25 a.m., with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Hamercheck, and Troy "NAYS": None

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Hamercheck, seconded by Commissioner Troy, the Board adjourned the meeting at 11:27 a.m., with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Hamercheck, and Troy "NAYS": None

Minutes approved this seventh day of March, 2017.

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JERRY C. CIRINO, PRESIDENT

JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, COMMISSIONER

DANIEL P. TROY, COMMISSIONER

JENNIFER BELL, CLERK