

LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES

JERRY C. CIRINO, COMMISSIONER	JASON W. BOYD, ADMINISTRATOR
JOHN R HAMERCHECK, COMMISSIONER	LEGAL COUNSEL
DANIEL P. TROY, COMMISSIONER	MIKE MATAS, BUDGET DIRECTOR
JENNIFER BELL, CLERK	NEWS MEDIA

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(Tape 2017-1012)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Cirino called the Meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Thursday, October 12, 2017.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Upon a motion by Commissioner Hamercheck, seconded by Commissioner Troy, the minutes of the regular meeting of September 28, 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.

Mr. Brian Massie of 8196 Rainbow Drive, Concord, stated that he wrote a letter to the editor of the News Herald and when his letter was published it, had been edited from original format. He explained that he had used the term "illegal aliens" in his letter and it was changed to "undocumented immigrants". Upon calling the News-Herald, he was told that the Associated Press determined that the phrase undocumented immigrants would now be used.

Mr. Massie thanked Mr. Seymour and Ms. Clair of the Board of Elections, Mr. Yamamoto of the Auditor's Office, Senior Services Coordinator, Mrs. Barajas, Budget Director, Mr. Matas, Mr. Hackman from the Prosecutor's Office and also Ms. Hogle of the Auditor's office for their kind and courteous assistance and their patience when assisting him with his requests for information regarding real estate taxes and tax levies. He expressed his concern on escalating real estate taxes and how difficult it has become for senior citizens and others on fixed incomes in addition to how difficult it is to read and decipher ones tax bill. He stated that soon these increases will price people out of their homes. He asked that each of the Commissioners share their thoughts on this subject. Commissioner Cirino stated that no one is for raising taxes but the County is faced with the growing costs of maintaining infrastructures including schools. It is the responsibility of County officials to spend taxpayer dollars very carefully.

Commissioner Troy stated that he understands the concerns with real estate tax increases and explained that Lake County only collects 1.0 of the allowable 2.1 inside mills. According to the Ohio Constitution, the first 10 mills are not subject to a vote of the people; Lake County taxing entities only collect 8.9 mills of that authorization. Commissioner Troy explained millage going to school districts, (which is primarily voted millage) is much larger than what the County governments collects. We shifted the reliance of underwriting the services required by County government more to the sales tax side. Commissioner Troy explained that the Senior Services Levy is on the ballot this year due to the rapidly aging population in Lake County and that services must be provided to ensure their quality of life. He stated that there has been a senior study and advisory committee created to assess what the needs are and the best way to address them for this age group. He explained one of the reasons for the JFS Children's Services Levy is due to Ohio being ranked 50<sup>th</sup> out of 50 states in terms of support for children's services funding.

Mr. Massie expressed the confusion of the residents in attempting to understand the complex wording of millage. Commissioner Troy agreed with Mr. Massie that it is complex and confusing. Commissioner Cirino stated that the local newspapers have done a good job explaining millage and cost of home valuation. Commissioner Troy explained in detail the manner in which it is totaled. Job and Family Services Director, Mr. Matthew Battiatto, stated that this year's levy would total \$14.00 per year. Mr. Massie and the Board discussed which agencies may place levy's on the ballot in 2018.

Mr. Massie stated that he recently attended a LandBank meeting and asked Commissioner Troy about a property in Willowick. Commissioner Troy responded that it is the former St. Mary Magdalene convent and rectory which has been vacant for approximately 20 years.

Mr. Massie asked if the LandBank was bearing the cost to raze the buildings, whether the land was going to be donated to the LandBank, and why the taxpayers were responsible for these costs. Commissioner Cirino stated those questions could best be answered by John Rogers, Executive Director of the LandBank.

Commissioner Hamercheck stated that he agrees with Commissioners Cirino and Troy and Mr. Massie. He explained that many problems begin at the state level and local governments are responsible for the sustainability of the programs offered to protect and enhance the lives of the residents of Lake County. He encouraged residents to speak with their representatives and senators regarding these burdensome issues that fall onto local governments.

Commissioner Cirino voiced his concern regarding an email he received on March 28, 2017 from Mr. Massie that was also sent out to other individuals. He explained that the email stated: "Currently Commissioner Cirino is not supporting rescinding the matricular card. His concern is that it may impact his chances of being reelected in four years and he believes that there are only a few people that are interested in this issue." Commissioner Cirino stated this was incorrect and asked Mr. Massie to correct this statement. Commissioner Cirino and Mr. Massie continued to discuss the issue.

Mr. John Muzic of 45 Coventry Drive, Painesville Township, stated it is his opinion that the donors and the lobbyists control this country, not the people.

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Ms. Marian McMahon from the Tribune asked for clarification on the LandBank funding and that it is her understanding that the money for demolition is not taxpayer dollars but fees.

Commissioner Troy explained that there have been some external revenue streams for several programs. He stated that the local source of revenue is an additional 5% placed on delinquent property taxes. The LandBank was created to protect residents from blighted properties and named several commercial and institutional structures that either have been or could be torn down.

Arzella Melnyk of 10506 Hobart Road in Kirtland, asked if the LandBank has received any CDBG funding and have they applied for grants.

Commissioner Troy stated anyone is permitted to apply for CDBG dollars. He explained that the LandBank will be saving CDBG funds by assisting Crossroads with the tear down of their building.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**1. RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT TO SADDLE CREEK FARMS BEDDING, INC. FOR 20,000 CUBIC YARDS OF SAWDUST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$174,800.00 FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES (20171012\U01)(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

**2. RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT TO PRO TREE AND LANDSCAPE COMPANY, INC. FOR 15,000 CUBIC YARDS OF WOOD CHIPS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,050.00 FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES (20171012\U02)(UT-4)**

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

**3. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES WATER & SEWER OPERATING FUND(20171012\U03)(UT-2)**

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

**4. RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING ACCOUNTS WITHIN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES SEWER PROJECT FUND 596 TO BE KNOWN AS MARIGOLD ROAD SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT 409-S (20171012\U04)(UT-2)**

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

**5. RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES OF COST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$543,478.00 FOR MARIGOLD ROAD SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION 409-S IN THE CITY OF MENTOR (20171012\U05) (UT-9)**

On a motion by Commissioner Hamercheck, seconded by Commissioner Troy. Commissioner Troy asked if this was a part of the Headlands project where street sinking occurred due to the laterals collapsing. Sanitary Engineer, Mr. Randy Rothlisberger, stated that 7-8 years ago the main collapsed requiring an entire main replacement. This is a street reconstruction project and the Utilities Department will be rehabilitating a portion of the sanitary sewers. He stated that the project will be funded by the City of Mentor and a 20% OPWC grant. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Hamercheck, and Troy "NAYS": None

**6. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES SEWER PROJECT FUND 596, HAZEL AVENUE SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT 402-S(20171012\U06)(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

**7. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN ENGINEERING AGREEMENT WITH ARCADIS, U.S., INC. FOR THE MANTLE ROAD WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT 407-W FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES(20171012\U07)(UT-4)**

On a motion by Commissioner Hamercheck, seconded by Commissioner Cirino. Mr. Rothlisberger stated that this will be funded through an OPWC grant and that it is part of the infrastructure replacement plan. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Hamercheck, and Troy "NAYS": None

**8. RESOLUTION CERTIFYING UNPAID SEWER AND WATER SUMS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES TO THE LAKE COUNTY AUDITOR (20171012\U08)(UT-7)**

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

**9. RESOLUTION TO DELETE WATER SUMS CERTIFIED TO THE LAKE COUNTY AUDITOR(20171012\U09)(UT-7)**

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

**10. RESOLUTION REVISING THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE (20171012\C01)(C-107)**

On a motion by Commissioner Troy, seconded by Commissioner Cirino. Commissioner Troy stated that this resolution changes the Commissioners meeting date from Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. to Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Hamercheck, and Troy "NAYS": None

**11. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND METAL SEAL PRECISION, LTD. (20171012\C02)(504)**

On a motion by Commissioner Hamercheck, seconded by Commissioner Cirino, 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 (20171012\BC01)(C-111)**

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

**13. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CASH AND APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS(20171012\BC02)(C-111)**

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

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

UTILITIES – Mr. Rothlisberger reported that they received 12 bids at the bid opening on October 11<sup>th</sup>. He stated they were happy to have received so many very good bids. He announced that the Utilities Department will be hosting the Northeast Fall Meeting for AWWA (American Water Works Association) on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Tours will be offered at the Bacon Road facility beginning at 8:30 a.m. and the Technical Sessions will be at La Malfa beginning at 11:00 am. Commissioner Troy congratulated Mr. Rothlisberger on the great job they have done working on negotiations with Madison Village regarding them joining the Lake County water and wastewater systems. Mr. Rothlisberger stated they are hopeful to come to an agreement in the next several weeks.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – Mr. Matthew Battiato, Director of Job and Family Services stated that as of September 2017, the total number of children in the department's custody has reached the total number for the entire year 2016.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – none.

FINANCE – none.

CLERK –none.

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: -none.

NEW BUSINESS: - Commissioner Troy stated that he attended the retirement reception of Ms. Peggy Grant, Director of Lake County Victim's Assistance. He expressed his gratitude to Ms. Grant and explained that she has been involved with assisting victims of crime heal since the Lake County Sexual Assault Center was established in 1979 as a division of the Lake County Prosecutor's Office.

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

Mr. John Muzic of 45 Coventry Drive, Painesville Township, asked if the LandBank's Neighborhood Improvement Program funds were federal or state. Commissioner Troy stated that it is partially federally funded and that state funds are part of a settlement through the State Attorney General's Office. He suggested Mr. Muzic speak with Mr. John Rogers, Director of the LandBank, for a more detailed explanation of where the money comes from. Mr. Muzic asked where the additional money from delinquent taxes would have been applied if it hadn't gone to the LandBank. Commissioner Troy explained that there was already a 10% delinquent tax fee and that was an additional delinquent tax fee specifically for the LandBank.

Mr. Massie asked for clarification on the distribution of funds from the senior tax levy and why Concord Township was not on the list of those to receive funds.

Budget Director, Mr. Michael Matas, referred back to the delinquent tax fees and explained that Prosecutors/DTAC receive 2 ½%, 2 ½ goes to the Treasurer, and the LandBank receives 5% for a total of 10% in delinquent tax fees.

Commissioner Troy explained that prior to the Board making the senior levy distribution decisions, it was the responsibility of the Senior Coalition. He further explained the reasons for the change and that the dollars are going to those programs that need it the most. Commissioner Troy stated that Lake County has a rapidly aging population, yet the overall population is rather flat. According to the last census, the population in Lake County has dropped slightly from approximately 233,000 to 230,000. However, the population of those aged 60 years to 80 years continues to rise.

Commissioner Cirino stated that on average 30% of seniors frequent their Senior Centers.

Mr. Joey Tomsic, of Lake County Council on Aging, agreed with Commissioner Cirino's statement and added that Lake County has a rapidly aging population. Council on Aging delivers Meals on Wheels to seniors in need in Concord and all communities throughout Lake County. He further explained the importance of the senior levy assisting seniors and the fear of food insecurities, isolation, and safety.

Commissioner Cirino stated the next Regular Commissioners' Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at 1:30 P.M.

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ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m., with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Hamercheck, and Troy "NAYS": None

Minutes approved this second day of November, 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