

JANUARY 7, 2021

LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES

JOHN R HAMERCHECK, COMMISSIONER	JASON W. BOYD, ADMINISTRATOR
RON YOUNG, COMMISSIONER	LEGAL COUNSEL
JENNIFER BELL, CLERK	MIKE MATAS, BUDGET DIRECTOR
	NEWS MEDIA

.....
(Tape 2021-0107)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Hamercheck called the Meeting to order at 2:38 p.m. Thursday, January 7, 2021.

ROLL CALL: Upon roll being called, Commissioners Young and Hamercheck were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 24, 2020, December 10, 2020, AND December 22, 2020 were approved as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Commissioner Hamercheck asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board. County Administrator, Mr. Jason Boyd read the following public comment from Ms. Patricia Denny:

"Subject: Phase 1 B Covid". Because the Commissioners won't fund the Health District adequately, it seems they continue to stall good progress on things like testing and contact tracing. I hear that now they do NOT want to register people for phase 1B. It's another stain on our collective ability to respond to this virus. It reflects the mentality of not caring about the health and welfare of people who live in Lake County. -Patricia Denny, 7465 Mountain Quail, Concord, 44077"

Mr. Boyd read the following public comment from Mr. David Lima:

"I visited the Lake County General Health District website today for information about the District's vaccine plan. As expected, I discovered individuals in Phase 1A are currently being scheduled for vaccination. Another notice reads "At this time, LCGHD is not pre-registering for Phase 1B". I can see no reason not to register individuals in Group 1B. This unacceptable procedure needs to be changed immediately allowing individuals to at least register for vaccination scheduling. When vaccinations for Group 1A have been completed then the scheduling for individuals in Group 1B can commence. This will prevent a rush to register and potential crashing of the website. Geauga County Public Health is currently accepting registrations allowing them to schedule vaccinations when individuals are eligible and the vaccine is available. I am requesting the Board of County Commissioners instruct the Health Commissioner to make this change." Thanks. - Dave Lima, Mentor

Mr. Boyd read the following public comment from Ms. Ellen Chamberlin:

"Would the Commissioners please respond to the letter from Joel Lucia, former Health Commissioner, printed in the January 2 News Herald. What is the plan for reducing the number of people getting sick with Covid 19 in Lake County? Thank you, respectfully." - Ellen Chamberlin, Willoughby

Commissioner Hamercheck responded to the public comments beginning with Ms. Chamberlin. He thanked Ms. Chamberlin for pointing out that Mr. Lucia is the former Health Commissioner who retired in 2009. Commissioner Hamercheck began by stating that he had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Lucia to discuss his letter to the editor. Several of Mr. Lucia statements that were printed in the News-Herald editorial section were false. He pointed out that his statement regarding the Emergency Management Agency was completely incorrect and explained that what he (Mr. Lucia) was recalling was the operational activities associated with the Perry Nuclear Power Plant Drill and the participants in the drill are not part of any governing body of the EMA . He further explained that they are professionals that are tasked with specific jobs and activities relative to situations involving the Perry Nuclear Power Plant or a similarly situated event. Commissioner Hamercheck pointed out that these rules are the same rules that governed him (Mr. Lucia) when he served as Health Commissioner. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that there has been much confusion regarding the editorial and he was very disappointed that the media did not vet this misinformation before going to print.

Commissioner Hamercheck next addressed Ms. Patricia Denny stating that the Board of Commissioners does not fund the Health District as they are a separate political subdivision. The Board of Commissioners does not govern the Health District because there is a Governing Board. Assistant Prosecutor, Mr. Michael DeLeone, stated that the Health Commissioner is appointed by the Health Board and reports directly to the Board of Health. He stated that these questions and concerns should be directed to them or Health Commissioner Graham.

Commissioner Hamercheck addressed the following statement of Ms. Denny: "It reflects the mentality of not caring about the health and welfare of people who live in Lake County."

He strongly disagrees with this statement and explained that there are concerted efforts to address the pandemic in Lake County and we continue to be one of the model counties in the State.

Lastly, he addressed the statements of Mr. Lima. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that people are still getting vaccinated in Phase 1A and are the most urgent at this time. There are physical limitations on the number of vaccines the County receives for distribution. He addressed Phase 1B explaining that the Health District will not have the sole responsibility for this round. It will be distributed to healthcare providers and local physicians and practices can request and receive vaccinations. He stressed that the Lake County Board of Commissioners has no authority over

the Health Commissioner or the Lake County General Health District. Any concerns need to be addressed directly to the Lake County General Health District.

Mr. Boyd added that the Lake County General Health District (LCGHD) has a team dedicated to planning the mass population vaccination process. Currently, LCGHD is using the doses they have received from the State to vaccinate individuals in Phase 1A. The Health District, along with other partners including the County and local communities, have had a series of meetings on the subsequent stages of vaccination, including Phase 1B. LCGHD is in the process of developing a tool for Lake County residents to be able to receive notification about vaccine availability the week of Jan 11th with the goal of going live Monday.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. RESOLUTION AWARDING A BID CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$485,880.50 TO AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP, LTD FOR GAS COLLECTION CONTROL SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE LAKE COUNTY SOLID WASTE FACILITY PROJECT 429-L (20210107\U01)(UT-4)

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. Sanitary Engineer, Mr. Randy Rothlisberger, stated that this is an expansion of the 9 methane wells and 1,500 feet of pipe. Commissioner Hamercheck added that this is also part of the odor mitigation process. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

2. RESOLUTION APPROVING LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES VOUCHERS DATE OF WARRANT JANUARY 8, 2021, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$72,809.01 (20210107\JFS01)(JFS-14)

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

3. RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN LAKE COUNTY PROPERTY SURPLUS OR OBSOLETE AND NOT NEEDED FOR THE USE FOR WHICH IT WAS ACQUIRED AND AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SURPLUS LAKE COUNTY PERSONAL PROPERTY ACCORDING TO SECTION 307.12(B)(1) OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE (20210107\C01)(C-107)

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

4. RESOLUTION FOR THE EMERGENCY PURCHASE OF RADIO COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES AND SAFETY FORCES (20210107\C02)(504-A)

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. Commissioner Young asked about the cost of the equipment. Commissioner Hamercheck responded that it would be between \$300,000 and \$600,000 and stressed that this is an emergency purchase. Mr. Boyd added that this is in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code and we are participating in the state procurement program which offers significant savings through pre-vetted vendors. He also explained the sensitivity of this project. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

5. RESOLUTION APPOINTING GARY L. SWANSON TO THE LAKETRAN BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO COMPLETE AN UNEXPIRED TERM ENDING MAY 15, 2022 (20210107\C03)

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

6. RESOLUTION APPOINTING KEVIN D. FREESE TO THE LAKE COUNTY OHIO PORT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2024 (20210107\C04)(B-192)

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

7. RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$808,961.57(20210107\BC01)(C-4)

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

8. RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,495,633.81 (20210107\BC02)(C-17)

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

9. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20210107\BC03)(C-111)

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

10. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CASH WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20210107\BC04)(C-111)

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

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

UTILITIES – none.

JANUARY 7, 2021

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – none.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR –Mr. Boyd stated that there will be a 2nd round of CDBG CARES Act funding. Grants and loans will be again available to the small businesses community.

FINANCE – Commissioner Hamercheck addressed Assistant Prosecutor, Mr. Michael DeLeone stating that Budget Hearings are being set up and these are public hearings. He asked how the public would be permitted to attend with County buildings being closed to the public. Mr. DeLeone stated that he would speak with Mr. Coulson and report back.

CLERK – Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the next Commissioners Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: - none.

NEW BUSINESS: - Commissioner Hamercheck welcomed newly elected Clerk of Courts, Ms. Faith Andrews and County Recorder Ms. Becky Lynch. Ms. Andrews stated that beginning Monday, January 11th, the Title Bureau will be open to the public by appointment only.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Commissioner Hamercheck asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board. No one present wished to address the Board at this time.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the Board adjourned the meeting at 3:12 p.m. with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

Minutes approved this eleventh day of February, 2021.

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, PRESIDENT

RON YOUNG, VICE PRESIDENT

JENNIFER BELL, CLERK