

JANUARY 14, 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 2021-0114)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Hamercheck called the Meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Thursday, January 14, 2021.

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

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

Commissioner Hamercheck administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Thomas Rowan and Mr. Charles Dugan as board members of the Soil and Water Conservation District. Soil and Water Director, Mr. Dan Donaldson explained that these gentlemen were publicly elected to serve this 3-year volunteer term which is recognized by the State of Ohio.

RESOLUTIONS:

**1. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ENGINEER TO USE THE "FORCE ACCOUNT" AND MAKE MATERIAL PURCHASES FOR MAINTENANCE, REPAIRS, CONSTRUCTION OF LAKE COUNTY ROADS, BRIDGES, AND CULVERTS PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 5543.19 AND TO ISSUE RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMITS PURSUANT TO THE OHIO REVISED CODE (20210114\E01)(E-7)**

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. Engineer, Mr. Jim Gills, explained that this resolution is an annual requirement of the Ohio Revised Code for the Commissioners to permit the Engineer's office to spend money on force account work. "Force Account" means that the Engineers Office can utilize their own forces for repairs on roads, bridges, and storm drains. Mr. Gills gave a brief update on the Madison Avenue Bridge project stating that they are ready to go out to bid for resurfacing of the road. He stated that they will begin work on the wall in March and then move on to the roads. Thereafter they will work on the catch basins. They have received permission and federal dollars to move forward. He reviewed the remainder of the work and he estimates that the project will be completed and opened by this fall. 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 22, 2021, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ \$607,773.43 (20210114\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 APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,923,899.25 (20210114\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.

**4. RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,543,500.58 (20210114\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.

**5. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS(20210114\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.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

UTILITIES – none.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – none.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – none.

FINANCE – none.

CLERK – Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the next Commissioners Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. She stated that there are three terms expiring on the Visitor's Bureau February 21, 2021. County Offices will be closed Monday, January 18, 2021 in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: - none.

NEW BUSINESS: - none.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Commissioner Hamercheck asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board. County Administrator, Mr. Jason Boyd apologized to Ms. Chamberlin for the miscommunication with her public comment. He stated that her comment was read at the 2:00 PM meeting and she had indicated that she thought it would have been addressed at the 10:00 AM Organizational Meeting.

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

"I submitted a question last meeting, but there was no public comment section during the organizational meeting although public decisions were made. I asked that the Commissioners respond to former Director of the Health Department (Joel Lucia's) News Herald letter of January 2. He asked about public testing locations and public sharing of the plans for reducing the spread and immunizations. It is no longer satisfactory to continue to say "we are doing everything we can". Respectfully submitted, Ellen Chamberlin

Mr. Boyd reentered the following public comment from Ms. Ellen Chamberlin and added that he had read the comment into the record at the 2:00 regular Board meeting of January 7<sup>th</sup> where public comments were accepted: "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

Mr. Boyd deferred to Commissioner Hamercheck and the guests present that would be addressing her comment. Commissioner Hamercheck addressed Ms. Chamberlin's comment stating that former Health District Commissioner, Mr. Lucia, made several false statements such as the composition and organizational structure of the Emergency Management Agency. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that he and Mr. Lucia have spoken. What Mr. Lucia referred to in the editorial was the structure of a Perry Nuclear Power Plan Drill and not the organizational structure, command structure or the operation of the Emergency Management Agency. He stressed that the EMA is under the control of the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Lucia's assertions regarding the Health District will be addressed during the following presentation.

Commissioner Hamercheck stated that Governor DeWine has asked that each County working with the Health District and the Emergency Management Agency provide the public with a vaccine update. This update will be presented by Lake County Health District Commissioner, Mr. Ron Graham, EMA Director, Mr. Joe Busher and Mayors and Managers President, Eastlake Mayor Dennis Morley.

Mr. Boyd stated that approximately one week ago, Governor DeWine made a statement about the Phase 1B vaccine strategy and asked that all counties make a public service announcement to address this Phase. This meeting will be posted to the Commissioners website and shared with all the entities throughout the County to share with their residents. He turned the floor back to Commissioner Hamercheck for introduction and discussion of the countywide multidisciplinary plan that has been worked on for hours on end.

Commissioner Hamercheck introduced Health District Commissioner, Mr. Ron Graham, Emergency Management Director Joe Busher and Eastlake Mayor Dennis Morley representing the Mayors and Managers Association and the President of the Association.

Mr. Ron Graham, Commissioner of the Lake County General Health District, gave an update of the coronavirus pandemic vaccines throughout the State of Ohio and specifically, Lake County.

Mr. Graham thanked the Board for opportunity to speak on this very important topic and gave a brief update on his background. He addressed the misinformation out in the public and the multi-scale plan for vaccines. Mr. Graham stated that the Health District has partnered with the Board of Commissioners, Lake Health and the Emergency Management Agency as well as the Fire Departments throughout the County. He added that the reverse 9-1-1 system will be of great help with notification of the vaccines. He stated that it is important for Lake County residents to understand that the total number of vaccine doses being sent to each county to administer to its residents is quite small, with vaccine providers only receiving 100 - 200 doses each. Lake County providers will receive 2,400 doses in total to administer to Phase 1B residents next week. Additionally, providers do not know how many doses they are to receive each week until several days before shipment, making it difficult to schedule appointments many days in advance. To date, over 15,000 Lake County residents have expressed interest in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine through LCGHD. For these reasons, it will take many weeks to reach everyone in Phase 1B who are eligible and seeking vaccination. Mr. Graham reviewed the locations that will also be receiving vaccines. Some locations included Lake Health, CVS, Drug Mart and Giant Eagle. He reviewed the dates and age groups, locations and brief instructions on how eligible people can sign up for the vaccine. Mr. Graham reminded everyone that even though the vaccine has been rolled out, it is still very important to practice social distancing and continue with mask wearing and hand washing.

Commissioner Young asked Mr. Graham to give an update on businesses and the pandemic. Mr. Graham stated that education and employment are two key components with the pandemic and that the District continues to work with businesses to keep them open and assist with any resources available to them.

Emergency Management Director, Joe Busher, stated that since the beginning of the pandemic, the EMA has been working very closely with the Board of Commissioners, the General Health District and local municipalities under a unified command. He discussed in detail the importance of the unified command management. The EMA continues to manage PPE and implementation of the established plan as well as continuing to work on the Points of Dispensing (PODS) as supplies become available. He explained in detail what the term "Points of Distribution" (PODS) refers to and the development of many adaptable locations throughout the County. There will be a POD set up next week and Mr. Graham is handling the details. He directed residents to text the keyword **LAKEOHVAX** to **69310** to sign-up to receive messages from the WENS system. This is an optional service and residents do not need to sign up for this service to receive notifications when a vaccine is available. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that there are a number of plans and precautions in place at all levels to avoid any wasted vaccines. Mr. Busher concurred that was

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correct and added that not one vaccine went to waste during the Phase 1A vaccine rollout. If there were extra doses available, they would reach out to have that vaccine given.

Mr. Graham discussed the development of the East, West and Central location zones to keep within social distancing guidelines and how they are working with LakeTran for assistance with transportation. He also stated that in most cases, they have been able to get 11 doses out of each vial rather than 10. For clarification purposes, Commissioner Hamercheck explained that the extra dose is due to the standard industry "overfill" and assured the residents that each dose is a full dose.

Commissioner Young asked how many vaccines Lake County received. Mr. Graham responded 1, 700 so far and all but 60 doses have been administered which will be done by the end of this week. County Administrator, Mr. Jason Boyd added that in addition to the elderly, those included in Phase 1A were first responders, medical staff, nursing home residents and the physically and mentally disabled. Mr. Boyd highlighted three very important items for the public to keep in mind. There is a very limited number of doses and up to date information can be found on the Health District's website. He stressed that it is critical everyone register for the vaccine and they will be notified via reverse 9-1-1 or text when and where they are to report. No walk-in vaccines will be given. He added that the Health District has no control over the pharmacies or private health providers and how they distribute their vaccines. Mr. Boyd reviewed the upcoming Phase 1B timeline and that it can be found on the Health District website. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that it is important for everyone to realize that registration does not equal vaccination at this time. He explained that there are 234,000 people in Lake County and thus far, the Health District has received 500 doses the first week followed by 400 doses in each subsequent week. Commissioner Hamercheck added that Lake County has been very fortunate to have flexibility and some local control because the County is in a better position and has done a better job with administration of the vaccine than many other counties.

Commissioner Hamercheck referred to the beginning of this pandemic and the statement "unified command". He stated that very early on, Eastlake Mayor Dennis Morley became the go-to guy and that his civilian leadership is much appreciated. Mayor Morley continues to take each challenge that comes and works closely with Commissioner Hamercheck, Mr. Graham, Mr. Busher and Mr. Boyd as well as the fire department agencies to come to a solution.

Mayor Morley thanked the Board, Mr. Graham, Mr. Dino DiSanto of Lake Health, Mr. Busher and Mr. Boyd and all of the staff and agencies involved for their hard work throughout this past year. He gave a detailed report on all of the meetings, plans for future PODS and reviewed programs that have been put in place. Commissioner Hamercheck thanked Ms. Judy Moran for the important daily emails updating everyone on the most current case numbers and news from the State as well as all of the support staff that have adapted to continue to get work done while remaining safe and healthy. He stated that even with the limited local control and federal and state mandates in place, the Lake County General Health District has successfully made full use of its local control. Commissioner Young asked if Lake County has experienced any vaccine waste like some states have had. Mr. Graham responded that the County has had no waste whatsoever and that there are multiple measures in place to ensure the vaccines are kept at the designated temperature. They have regularly been able to get more vaccines out of each vial.

Mr. Boyd stated that there have not been any wasted vaccines and if someone does not show up for an appointment, a call is made for another registered person. Arrangements are being made for additional drive-thru locations. He reiterated his early statement, stating that there is a very limited number of doses and up to date information can be found on the Health District's website. He stressed that it is critical everyone must register for the vaccine and they will be notified via reverse 9-1-1 or text when and where they are to report. No walk-in vaccines will be given.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the Board adjourned the meeting at 11:03 a.m. with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None

Minutes approved this twenty-fifth day of February, 2021.

**BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, PRESIDENT

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RON YOUNG, VICE PRESIDENT

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JENNIFER BELL, CLERK