

MARCH 18, 2021

LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES

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

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(Tape 2021-0318)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Hamercheck called the Meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Thursday, March 18, 2021.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik, the minutes of the Regular Meetings of February 25, 2021, were approved with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

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.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES OF COST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,572,300.00 FOR CELL C4 EXPANSION PHASE VI-PART D CELL PREPARATION PROJECT NO. 421-L, AND ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR SAME(BID Opening April 21,2021)(20210318\U01)(UT-8)

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

2. RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES OF COST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$185,064.79 FOR SANITARY SEWERS FOR HIDDEN VILLAGE ESTATES SUBDIVISION-PHASE 3 IN PERRY VILLAGE (JOB NO. 20-06)(20210318\U02)(SD-437)

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

3. RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES OF COST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$177,382.14 FOR A WATERLINE FOR HIDDEN VILLAGE ESTATES SUBDIVISION PHASE 3 IN PERRY VILLAGE (JOB NO. 20-05)(20210318\U03)(SD-437)

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

4. RESOLUTION CERTIFYING SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENT COSTS TO THE LAKE COUNTY AUDITOR FOR PARCEL 01B-098-E-00-113-0 (20210318\U04)(UT-7)

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

5. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND VARIOUS ENTITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE FY-2019 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS (20210318\C01)(C-46)

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Young. Planning and Community Development Director, Mr. Dave Radachy, explained that they have received a CARES Act special allocation of approximately \$1.5 million in the second round of funding. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Young, Plecnik and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

6. RESOLUTION APPOINTING VARIOUS MEMBERS TO THE LOCAL CORRECTIONS PLANNING BOARD (20210318\C02)(B-134)

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

7. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING DESIGNATING ROADS, BIKE PATHS AND BIKE LANES THROUGH LAKE COUNTY AS U.S. BIKE ROUTE (USBR) 30 (20210318\C03)(C-107)

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Young. Planning and Community Development Director, Mr. Dave Radachy, stated that this resolution of support is at the request of the Ohio Department of Transportation. He explained that the ultimate goal is to connect this bike route not only throughout the State of Ohio but across the country. The Board and Mr. Radachy discussed the specific locations of the path through Lake County as well as possible relocations of existing paths and a path through the local wine region. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Young, Plecnik and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

8. RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,683,212.03(20210318\BC01)(C-4)

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

9. RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$583,265.60 (20210318\BC02)(C-17)

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

10. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING AN APPROPRIATION WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20210318\BC03)(C-111)

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

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

UTILITIES – Director of Operations, Mr. Gary Fedak, provided a slideshow and gave a detailed report on the outcome of the American Society of Civil Engineers study. He stated that the state received an overall grade of C- on the state's 2021 infrastructure report card. This was the state's first infrastructure report card in 12 years. The report card, which is updated nationally every four years, measures the conditions and needs of roads, bridges, drinking water, wastewater and other public infrastructure.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – Mr. Matthew Battiato, Director of Job and Family Services stated that many individuals throughout the State of Ohio, including Lake County have been victims of unemployment fraud throughout the past few months. He explained that this is a problem statewide and is affecting many individuals in Lake County. While the Lake County Department of Job and Family Services cannot assist with fraudulent unemployment claims, his department is providing the public with information on how they can report these concerns to the State. He stated that the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) has established a toll-free number for **individuals** to notify the agency if they believe their personal information was compromised and used to file a fraudulent unemployment claim. They can call (833) 658-0394, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and speak to cross-trained customer service representatives. Mr. Battiato added that this phone number complements a secure online portal that ODJFS established in January 2021 to provide a direct way for victims to report identity theft. Individuals who believe their identity was stolen and used to file a fraudulent unemployment claim can visit unemployment.ohio.gov, click on the "Report Identity Theft" button and follow the guidance for individuals. They have also created an online portal that provides a direct way for **employers** to notify the agency if they believe their employee's personal information was compromised and used to file fraudulent unemployment claims. Employers can visit unemployment.ohio.gov and click on the "Report Identity Theft" button. They will then be directed to both the portal and additional resources. The portal includes a template that employers can download, complete and then upload to provide the names of multiple employees whose personal information may have been compromised. A press release will be issued later today and this will be posted on the County's website. The Board and Mr. Battiato discussed the hardship this causes for small businesses.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – Mr. Boyd provided a slideshow and gave an update on the Covid-19 pandemic trends and the vaccine program. He stated that the number of cases continues to trend down and that expected vaccinations has increased from the hundreds to the thousands. He remains hopeful that this trend will continue. He encouraged residents to continue to check the Health District website (www.lcghd.org) for the link to the ArmorVax website to download the app for scheduling of the vaccine. Commissioner Plecnik stated that he and Commissioner Hamercheck attended the Perry vaccination clinic, noting that the clinic was able to administer 1,000 vaccines.

FINANCE – none.

CLERK – Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the next Commissioners Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: - none.

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Hamercheck stated that he recently learned from a resident that the Health Districts phone system had been dropping calls. He explained that the high volume of calls to the Health District caused a glitch in the system. Once the Telecommunications Department was made aware of the issue, it was quickly repaired.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Commissioner Hamercheck asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board. Mr. Brian Massie of 8196 Rainbow Drive in Concord Township, addressed several questions to Mr. Gary Fedak that related to the Utilities Department. He stated that the Utilities Department spends \$14 to \$15 million annually on projects for Lake County and asked if there was a number 1 issue that was in need. Mr. Fedak clarified that amount was for 2020 and for three separate departments within the Utilities Division. He explained that each department fluctuates with its annual spending. As it relates to 2021 and the future, he stated that they use a balanced approach and explained that there is not one topic they are honed in on. Future projects they hope to do include underground piping, and improvements at the landfill to prepare for the future. Within the wastewater department area, they have a five-year balanced and wisely invested plan to address roofing projects, and architectural and facility improvements. Mr. Fedak stated that the Department looks at this type of work holistically and globally and added that they are self-funded and do not use taxpayer money. Mr. Massie asked about the breakdown of billing and Mr. Fedak responded that there are two main components; operations and maintenance and there are future capital improvements to keep up with the infrastructure needs. Other items discussed between Mr. Massie and the Board

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included a brief breakdown of the charges included in the utility bill, grant money and external funds received and the important Downtown Willoughby sewer project. Mr. Fedak stated that as an example, a project the size of the Willoughby project, would have been identified, designed and funded a couple years earlier and would require the department going out for competitive bids. Mr. Fedak also discussed the many details that went into the coordination of the project with the City, businesses, community and contractor before it even began.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik, the Board adjourned the meeting at 11:02 a.m. with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Young, Plecnik and Hamercheck "NAYS": None

Minutes approved this fifteenth day of April, 2021.

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, PRESIDENT

RON YOUNG, COMMISSIONER

JOHN PLECNİK, COMMISSIONER

JENNIFER BELL, CLERK