

MARCH 25, 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 2021-0325)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Hamercheck called the Meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., Thursday, March 25, 2021.

ROLL CALL: Upon roll being called, Commissioners Young, Plecnik 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 stated that items #11 and #12 on the agenda will be moved to #1 and #2.

RESOLUTIONS:

11. RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF MARCH 21st to 27th 2021 AS NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK (20210325\F01)(C-126)

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Farm Bureau Organization Director, Mandy Orahood, along with Steve Ohmes, Eric Cotton, and Samantha Bly were present today and gave a basket of local goods to the Board. The baskets contained locally grown eggs, beef, maple syrup and candies. Each introduced themselves and their involvement in the Lake County Farm Bureau. Ms. Orahood stated that a buyers guide for locally sourced items will be posted to their website soon. She also stated that farming and agriculture is the #1 industry in the State of Ohio. Commissioner Plecnik stated that he had the opportunity to visit Mr. Cotton at his winery; Silver Crest Cellars. He had the pleasure of receiving a tour of the winery and its vineyards. Commissioner Plecnik stated that the wine industry is very successful throughout our region and that it is a great way to bring tourism into the area. Mr. Cotton, a professor at Kent State University, took the time to explain the importance of agriculture and the wine industry. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Young, Plecnik and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

12. RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING APRIL 2021 CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH IN LAKE COUNTY (20210325\F02)(C-126)

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Jobs and Family Services Director, Mr. Battiato, stated that while child abuse prevention is important year-round, April is designated as the month to shine a special spotlight on the issue. Mr. Battiato introduced Assistant Administrator from Job and Family Services, Ms. Ali Tomaselli. Ms. Tomaselli invited everyone to wear blue to work on April 14th. She handed out blue pinwheels, pins and wristbands to anyone that would like to show their support and in honor of the children that Job and Family Services has served during the last year. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that even amid difficult times, it is important to be aware of child abuse. It is important to say something if you see something. Ms. Tomaselli stated that they responded to more than 1,900 calls regarding neglect or abuse in 2020. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Young, Plecnik and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

1. RESOLUTION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE CRILE ROAD WIDENING PROJECT IN CONCORD TOWNSHIP, OHIO, LCE Project No. 2017-005 (Bid Opening April 14, 2021) (20210325\E01)(E-2)

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. County Engineer, Mr. Gills, explained the details of this project and how as a result of a traffic study it has been determined that a turn lane is necessary in this area. He pointed out that the center lane will be widened by 10' and become the turn lane running from Auburn Road to Girdled Road. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Young, Plecnik and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR THE WISNER ROAD STREAMBANK STABILIZATION PROJECT BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON BEHALF OF THE LAKE COUNTY STORMWATER MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT AND THE CITY OF KIRTLAND (20210325\C01)(UT-46a)

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Mr. Tim Miller, Director of Stormwater Management, explained that the City of Kirtland has requested additional funding for the Wisner Road Slope Stabilization Project that was completed in late May of 2020. The project was completed, however in October 2020, an additional 80' area along Wisner Road adjacent to the completed project failed resulting in a request of \$61,642.00 for Change Order No. 1 to the original contract for the original contractor to construct additional slope stabilization along Wisner Road and the East Branch of the Chagrin River. The contractor will repair the slope, stabilize the area and utilize native plants to hold the slope in place. In order to provide funding to the City for this improvement a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been developed to document the duties of the City and the County Stormwater Department in completing the project. Mr. Miller stated that they were able to fund the \$271,200 from October utilizing \$150,000 from and Ohio EPA Grant and the remaining balance from Stormwater funding. Commissioner Hamercheck commended Mr. Miller for seeking outside funding to assist with projects. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Young, Plecnik and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

3. RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ACCEPTING THE TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION AND APPROVING THE CONTINUATION OF THE ENTERPRISE ZONE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LUBRIZOL CORPORATION AND PAINESVILLE TOWNSHIP (20210325\C02)(C-93)

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Lake County Port and Economic Development Authority Director of Public Finance, Mr. Timothy Cahill, was present and explained that this and the following resolution pertain to the approval of the Tax Incentive Review Councils recommendation to continue with the enterprise zone agreements currently in place. He stated that these companies have met or exceeded the expectations in the agreement. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Young, Plecnik and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

4. RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ACCEPTING THE TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION AND APPROVING THE CONTINUATION OF THE ENTERPRISE ZONE AGREEMENT BETWEEN WESTON JET CENTER ROAD, LLC AND THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY (20210325\C03)(C-99)

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.

5. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CONTINUATION OF LAKE COUNTY'S JUNIOR LOAN POSITION THROUGH THE EXECUTION OF THE SUBORDINATION AND STANDSTILL AGREEMENT FOR WESLEY VILLAGE II LIMITED PARTNERSHIP (20210325\C04)(C-34B)

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Home Program Coordinator, Ms. Marian Norman, was present and explained that Wesley Village is an apartment complex with 62 units of affordable senior housing located in Painesville City. They have requested that the Lake County Board of Commissioners continue in the junior loan position as they are working to refinance their original primary loan. Ms. Norman stated that they have always made timely payments and they are meeting the terms of the agreement. She recommends approval of the junior loan position. Commissioner Plecnik stated that the County should take advantage of any opportunity to support the senior community. He thanked Ms. Norman for continuing to support this project and for all that she does for the Home Program. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Young, Plecnik and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

6. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS AND QUOTES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF COMPONENTS OF THE LAKE COUNTY EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM USING AUTHORITY OF 2 CFR 200.30(f) IN ESTABLISHING APRIL 8, 2021, AS SUBMISSION DUE DATE, AND AUTHORIZING COUNTY STAFF TO REVIEW PROPOSALS/QUOTES TO ISSUE A RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (20210325\C05)(C-34B)

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Ms. Norman stated that this is a great opportunity to bring funds into the County. She stated that the number of housing units in Lake County is approximately 100,000 with roughly 25% of them being rental units. She explained that the percentage of renters that are income eligible for this program (and CDBG & HOME) are 80% median income and below. Roughly half of the renters are low income and of those, many experience an issue with lack of affordability. They pay between 30% or over 50% of their income on housing. Ms. Norman briefly discussed a report that the Census is doing weekly called "Pulse Survey" which is related to COVID -19 and the adjustments that people have had to make. This report only lists statistics of the United States and state by state. The Board thanked Ms. Norman for her hard work and the effort she has put forth. Commissioner Young asked if she had seen any applicant fraud. Ms. Norman stated that she did not have that information but could provide it later. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that Lifeline and Fair Housing are managing the program and they would have detailed information. Commissioner Plecnik stated that the Lake County Emergency Rental Assistance Program shows dedication and compassion to assist people in need and works together to make sure these needs are met. He clarified that the dedication is not seen in just this program but that other departments are utilizing their CARES Act dollars to assist businesses and residents in need. He pointed out that Commissioner Hamercheck and County Administrator Boyd have been committed to assisting wherever these dollars might be needed. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that the \$6.8 million had to be applied for and approved. He thanked Ms. Norman for taking care of this on behalf of Lake County. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Young, Plecnik and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

7. RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,166,740.43 (20210325\BC01)(C-4)

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.

8. RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$857,927.30(20210325\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.

9. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20210325\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.

10. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING AN APPROPRIATION WITHIN THE GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20210325\BC04)(C-111)

MARCH 25, 2021

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 – none.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – none.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – Mr. Boyd gave an update on the Covid-19 vaccine program, stating that the number of vaccinations is expected to remain at 5,000 doses in the next week or so for public vaccine clinics and approximately 1,400 for private clinics such as CVS, Walgreens, etc...

The number of COVID cases continue to trend down; this week Lake County had 149 cases/100,000 people. Once the County cases trend down to 100/100,000 people we will be classified as "Level Orange". 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. Mr. Boyd explained that our office is acting as a 'local clearinghouse' for dollars expended by the communities and he encouraged their fiscal officers and budget directors to send their overhead costs to our Director of Administrative Services, Mr. Joel DiMare, who is the point of contact in our office. Once compiled the County will work with Budget Director Matas and EMA Director Busher on a federal reimbursement process. Mr. Boyd also gave a brief update on the American Rescue Plan which is the most recent relief dollar program. He stated that the costs of the vaccine program and the intensive manpower necessary for the vaccine clinics is quite high. The County has asked each community to set aside 1% of these funds to offset the manpower costs associated with the vaccine clinics. This is in addition to the federal reimbursements which equates to approximately \$745,000 with Lake County contributing in a majority of the funds. Commissioner Hamercheck mentioned that they are looking into a mobile vaccine type plan to assist those unable to attend clinics. Mr. Boyd stated that there have been discussions about mobile vaccines for the homebound, homeless, etc. and that they will be using the model from the Census for data. Mrs. Donna Tyson and Mr. David Radachy will assist with this. This type of program is quite time intensive. He thanked the Health District for spearheading this program.

FINANCE – none.

CLERK – Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that there will not be a meeting next week and that the next Commissioners Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: - Commissioner Hamercheck discussed the \$50 million available from the State for jail improvements. The State will make awards in \$25 million increments. Although the County will most likely not qualify, the Board and Sheriff Leonbruno are working very closely on an application for this funding. Mr. Boyd stated that there is no doubt that capital infrastructure improvements are very important for public safety and also the safety of the employees. There is an aging jail system all throughout the State and the Lake County Jail is an over 30-year-old building that has been open and running 24/7/365. SB 310 provides for \$50 million competitively throughout Ohio to be awarded in \$25 million increments. Lake County is fortunate enough to have the ability to make improvements to the jail on an as-needed basis but it is also important to make the state aware of the age and condition of it. The Sheriff and staff do a great job working inside the facility, our Buildings and Grounds and Telecommunications Department are able to maintain, make repairs and improvements and the County has been fiscally prudent so since all of this sounds like good news, we do not show the immediate need for assistance. Commissioner Hamercheck added that the County Commissioners Association has asked every County to make their jail needs known to the State. The County should not be punished for fiscal responsibility. Commissioner Young stated that it is critically important to make our needs known to the State. Commissioner Plecnik echoed Commissioner Young's statement.

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Hamercheck spoke of a new initiative named the Emergency Services Telecommunicators Program being hosted at the Auburn Career Center. Captain Warner was key to implementing this program. Commissioner Hamercheck explained that a telecommunicator is a well trained dispatcher and they are the first point contact with the public. They are the calm voice on the phone until help arrives. Lake County is on the cutting edge with this new program, which is now out of the pilot program phase and has moved into being an accredited program. This program has been made an example to those around the State. The Board of Commissioners funded the pilot program and are looking to fund a pilot program for scholarships as well. The Board of Commissioners has enjoyed a great relationship with the Clerk of Courts who is helping with funding this. He invited Clerk of Courts, Ms. Faith Andrews to speak on this issue today.

Clerk of Courts, Ms. Faith Andrews, was present and stated that she is thrilled to be able to provide \$20,000 in seed funding to support the scholarship program at Auburn Career Center for their Emergency Services Telecommunicators course of study. These funds come from the Title Bureau surplus. She commended her hard working and dedicated staff and stated that she has a stellar team working in the title bureaus. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that when the Clerk of Courts was made aware of this need, she had no hesitation in agreeing to provide assistance with this very important public safety need. Commissioner Plecnik added that this will be a premier program in Ohio and he is grateful to the Clerk of Courts for funding this very important effort. It benefits and improves safety in the community.

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 Plecnik, the Board adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m. with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Young, Plecnik and Hamercheck "NAYS": None

Minutes approved this eighth day of April, 2021.

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, PRESIDENT

RON YOUNG, COMMISSIONER

JOHN PLECNİK, COMMISSIONER

JENNIFER BELL, CLERK