

APRIL 22, 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 2021-0422)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Hamercheck called the Meeting to order at 10:09 a.m., Thursday, April 22, 2021.

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Commissioner Hamercheck asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board.

Mr. Brian Massie of 8196 Rainbow Drive in Concord Township, stated that he has a couple issues he wishes to speak about. He reminded the Board that he had previously expressed his concerns about property taxes and the new jail that is currently under review. He asked if there were any updates the Board would like to share. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that the cost is approximately \$100 million based on usual and customary costs of construction. This project will be the largest and most costly capital project in the history of the County. He assured Mr. Massie that they continue to do exhaustive research and are looking at state and federal funding opportunities. Commissioner Hamercheck shared that he has put in many, many hours exploring options, looking at the current facility, and working with the Sheriff and recognized experts in the industry. This facility was a very big challenge from the day it was opened. Options that have been looked into are additions, remodels, rehabilitation and new construction. He gave high praises to the Lake County Judges who are doing all they can to keep the jail population low as well as the Sheriff and his staff, the Buildings and Grounds Department and the Telecommunications Department for endless efforts making repairs to keep the jail and building safe. Mr. Massie thanked him for the information and stated that he hopes the Board will not reinstitute the inside millage. Commissioner Hamercheck assured Mr. Massie that an increase is a last resort and reminded him that this millage is legacy; and therefore, it qualifies for the 10% and 2.5% rollback. Commissioner Young stated that he respects all of the work Commissioner Hamercheck has put into this project. He feels that he needs to do more detailed research before making any decisions on the jail. This is a very difficult time for people after the last year that everyone has experienced. Commissioner Hamercheck added that he had a conversation with Scott Maloney; an architect and engineer that has worked with the County for several years. Mr. Maloney cautioned him that at the rate the market is developing, every 6 months, there would be an increase of \$2.5 million to this investment. Commissioner Hamercheck stressed that he does not want to raise taxes or add a new levy when the County has the capacity. Commissioner Plecnik stated that he looks to the expert first, Sheriff Leonbruno and his staff have had the opportunity to look for alternatives for many years. He had the opportunity to tour the jail and has seen the roof leaks, water dripping down walls, and various sanitary issues and he would like to see something done before it becomes a legal liability for the County. At a certain point repairs become more expensive than a new jail. Commissioner Plecnik's opinion is that building one jail rather than a few smaller jails throughout the County would be the most fiscally responsible option. He added that the final cost of a new jail and the possibility of state and/or federal assistance is unknown at this time. Mr. Massie stated that his group would be happy to help the Board educate citizens on the issues regarding the jail. Commissioner Young stated that he feels before any decisions are made, there should be a detailed unbiased third-party analysis performed. Commissioner Hamercheck clarified with Assistant Prosecutor, Mr. Michael DeLeone, that a detailed analysis had been done with a nationally recognized firm specializing in jail study. Commissioner Hamercheck asked that this report be forwarded to Commissioner Young for further review.

RESOLUTIONS:

**1. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A THREE-YEAR MAINTENANCE BOND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,539.45 FOR SANITARY SEWERS AND \$16,551.70 FOR WATERLINES FOR FAIRWAY PINES PHASE 3A SUBDIVISION IN PAINESVILLE TWP. (JOB NOS. 20-27 and 20-28) (20210422\U01)(SD-436)**

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Planning and Community Development Director, Mr. David Radachy, explained that under subdivision regulations, an inspection and approval of the sanitary sewer lines and waterlines must be performed by the County Engineer and Sanitary Engineer upon completion of the subdivision. This developer has met all the criteria and inspections have been approved. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**2. RESOLUTION CERTIFYING UNPAID SEWER AND WATER SUMS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES TO THE LAKE COUNTY AUDITOR (20210422\U02)(UT-7)**

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

**3. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE LAKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO RENEW A THREE-YEAR PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT FOR PROPERTY, CASUALTY, PUBLIC OFFICIALS LIABILITY, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT LIABILITY INSURANCE PROGRAMS FOR LAKE COUNTY GOVERNMENT WITH THE COUNTY RISK SHARING AUTHORITY (CORSA) FOR THE PERIOD MAY 1, 2021 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2024 (20210422\C01)(INS)**

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Young. Director of Administrative Services, Mr. Joel DiMare, explained that this is a renewal agreement with CORSA for an additional three years with a 1% increase. Mr. DiMare stated that there is an estimated cost savings of \$300,000 because the County participates in loss control training. CORSA provides the County with property and casualty insurance. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**4. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A RECORDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON BEHALF OF THE LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF-CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT AND LAKE METROPARKS AND ITS METROPARKS RANGER DEPARTMENT (20210422\C02)(501c)**

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

**5. RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,096,395.94 (20210422\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: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**6. RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$530,306.17 (20210422\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: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**7. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20210422\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: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**8. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CASH AND APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS(20210422\BC04)(C-111)**

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

**9. RESOLUTION DECLARING APRIL 15 THROUGH MAY 31, 2021 CLEAN AND GREEN LAKE COUNTY (20210422\F01)(C-126)**

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. David Schick, Public Service Coordinator from the Lake County Department of Utilities, explained that as part of "Clean and Green Lake County", the Lake County Board of Commissioners in cooperation with the OSU Extension Office, hosts an annual poster contest. This year over 800 students in Lake County submitted entries into the logo contest. The winners will be announced at next weeks Commissioners Meeting. Mr. Schick stated that the first of six special collections will be held this weekend at the Lake County Fairgrounds. This collection will be for electronics. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**10. RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MAY 2021 FOSTER PARENT RECOGNITION MONTH IN LAKE COUNTY, OHIO (20210422\F02)(C-126)**

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Young. Mr. Matthew Battiato, thanked the Commissioners for their continued support in recognizing May as Foster Parent Appreciation Month. He explained how extremely important foster parents are to children and how they provide a safe environment in the community. He introduced Mr. Gene Tetrick; Supervisor of Job and Family Services Foster Care and Adoption Team. Mr. Tetrick stated that, as of this week, there are 49 dually-licensed (as foster and adoptive) parents offering a safe and nurturing environment for these children. He spoke of the difficulties that were experienced last year and how well everyone adapted to make sure the children remained safe during all kinds of visits. Mr. Tetrick expressed how truly thankful he is to have such an amazing group. Commissioner Hamercheck thanked all the individuals that have become foster parents and applauded the difference they make in the lives of these vulnerable children. Mr. Battiato explained that sometimes despite all of their efforts, a child cannot be reunited with their parents; therefore, permanent custody is granted to Job and Family Services. Mr. Battiato stated that, more often than not, the foster parents will adopt these children as their own and provide them with a forever home. Commissioner Hamercheck shared that Lake County Job and Family Services is known throughout the State for the quality of its employees and foster parents and the efforts put forth for reunification. Mr. Tetrick briefly reviewed the licensure process these dedicated and committed foster and adoptive parents must go through to be approved. Commissioner Young recognized the challenges these parents face and commended them for their dedication. Commissioner Plecnik expressed his thanks to these families that are willing to open their homes and take care of these children as their own. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

UTILITIES – Mr. Schick stated that the first special collection of the year will be held this Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Lake County Fairgrounds. This collection will be an Electronics Collection. He assured the public that any personal information will be professionally erased in a secure facility. Other special collections scheduled for the next month or so are as follows: May 1<sup>st</sup>: Tire Collections, May 8<sup>th</sup>: Television Collections, and June 5<sup>th</sup> will be the Hazardous Waste Collections. A full list of collections, acceptable items and any applicable fees can be found on their website.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – none.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – Mr. Boyd stated that a Press Release for Foster Parent Month will be issued following today's meeting. He reported that the Federal Treasury has not released guidance on the American Rescue Plan yet

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but expects that information will be available soon. Mr. Boyd gave an update on the Covid-19 vaccine program, stating that Lake County continues to outnumber most of the state in the number of vaccinations given. The "Mega-PODS" have been very successful and there are preparations being made to move to "Closed-PODS", which will be directly scheduled with local businesses and onsite vaccinations. He encouraged Lake County residents to continue to check the Health District website ([www.lcghd.org](http://www.lcghd.org)) for the link to the ArmorVax website to download the app for scheduling of the vaccine and to obtain the latest information regarding vaccines. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that he has been assisting with the Mega-PODS that have been held at Lakeland Community College and Mentor High School. These clinics are set up to safely administer upwards of 5,000 doses at a time however, yesterday's event at Lakeland had less than 1,000 people which is a dramatic decline. He commended Lake County for being one of the top vaccinating counties in the State. Mr. Boyd stated that he had the opportunity to speak with people in Auglaize and Summit Counties and that they have experienced the same decline in vaccination. Summit County has cancelled one of their clinics.

Commissioner Plecnik stated that there are two guardrails the County needs to follow; the first being that no one should feel forced to be vaccinated however, no one that would like a vaccination should be denied. Lake County has done a great job making sure that vaccines are available to anyone that is eligible to receive one. He thanked and commended the many, many volunteers that stepped up to work these PODS. Commissioner Young also thanked everyone involved in the vaccination clinics.

FINANCE – none.

CLERK – Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that there will not be a meeting next week and that the next Commissioner's Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

She also reported that there were 3 LakeTran Board terms expiring on May 15<sup>th</sup> and anyone interested may visit the Commissioner's website for more information.

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: - Commissioner Hamercheck explained that the discussions being had concerning the jail are good discussions to have particularly in the Commissioners meeting as this is the proper venue to have the conversation. The Board's goal is to represent all public interests.

NEW BUSINESS: none.

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

Mr. Brian Massie of 8196 Rainbow Drive in Painesville Township addressed Commissioner Hamercheck regarding an email he had sent to him (Commissioner Hamercheck) regarding information he had read on the County's website regarding the Hotel/Motel Bed Tax. He read the following excerpt from their website: "A 3% excise tax on lodging was enacted by the Board of Commissioners on April 3, 2003, to be spent solely to make contributions to the convention and visitors bureau operating in the County." Mr. Massie questioned the disbursements of funds. Mr. Boyd explained that there will be a revision to their website which will reflect the changes that were passed in 2018 that permits the extra 2% for coastal projects. He further explained the flow of those dollars. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that the County's website is undergoing a complete update and that he appreciates the information.

Commissioner Plecnik asked Mr. Boyd to reiterate how a public comment is to be submitted and the information that is to be included in a written comment. Mr. Boyd explained that included in the emails sent out the day before is an email address ([publiccomment@lakecountyohio.gov](mailto:publiccomment@lakecountyohio.gov)) of where to send their public comments. These comments are delivered directly to Mr. Boyd and are received anytime before or during the meeting. He also stated that he prints a hard copy which is provided to the Clerk for the record. Commissioner Plecnik asked if Mr. Boyd checks this email for public comment during the meeting. Mr. Boyd confirmed that he does and he checks it frequently during the meeting. Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Bell, added that this email address is included in below the YouTube video of all Commissioner's meetings.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik, the Board adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m. with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

Minutes approved this twenty-seventh day of May, 2021.

**BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, PRESIDENT

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RON YOUNG, COMMISSIONER

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JOHN PLECNIK, COMMISSIONER

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JENNIFER BELL, CLERK