

JULY 15, 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 2021-0715)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Hamercheck called the Meeting to order at 10:08 a.m., Thursday, July 15, 2021.

ROLL CALL: Upon roll being called, Commissioners Young and Hamercheck were present.
Commissioner Plecnik was attending the Ohio Public Leadership Academy in Columbus.

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 the time.

Commissioner Hamercheck moved items #5 through #9 on the agenda to the beginning.

RESOLUTIONS:

5. RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,505,173.78(20210715\BC01)(C-4)

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

6. RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$324,235.09 (20210715\BC02)(C-17)

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

7. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20210715\BC03)(C-111)

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

8. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CASH AND APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS(20210715\BC04)(C-111)

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

9. RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE ANNUAL TAX BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022 (20210715\BTAX)(C-8)

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. Budget Director, Mr. Michael Matas, explained that this is a follow-up to the public hearing held on June 29th. He stated that there were no public comments received. Mr. Matas explained that the tax budget encompasses all funds that receive property tax levy proceeds which include the General Fund, Child Welfare, Board of Developmental Disabilities, ADAMHS Board, Narcotics Agency, Crime Lab, and the Senior Citizens Levy. Department requests totaled \$62,255,999.92 and estimated revenues total \$56,885,875 with department requests exceeding estimated revenues by \$5,370,124.92. He stated that the budget is on track with the budget projections. Mr. Matas explained that the tax budget will be sent to the Auditor to be reviewed by the Budget Commission sometime in September. Once reviewed, it will be approved by the Board.

Commissioner Young asked Mr. Matas if the only way to pay for a new jail would be through raising taxes as the County does not have the funds to do so without making cuts to departments and/or services. Mr. Matas stated that was correct. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows "AYES": Commissioners: Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

1. RESOLUTION AWARDING A BID CONTRACT TO MORTON SALT, INC. FOR LAKE COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT SALT – 2021 (UNTREATED BULK ROCK SALT) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$654,420.00 AS REQUIRED BY THE LAKE COUNTY ENGINEER (20210715\E01)(E-3)

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. County Engineer, Mr. Jim Gills, explained that this is their annual salt contract. Morton Salt's bid came in .93 cents lower than last year. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows "AYES": Commissioners: Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

2. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERRING CASH WITHIN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES SEWER OPERATING FUND AND PROJECT FUND 596, LIFT STATION IMPROVEMENTS-ADAMS, MELRIDGE AND INDUSTRIAL PARK PROJECT 415-S (20210715\U01)(UT-2)

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

3. RESOLUTION APPROVING LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES VOUCHERS DATE OF WARRANT JULY 23, 2021, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$497,093.61 (20210715\JFS01)(JFS-14)

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

4. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR LAKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING 4TH FLOOR ADA TOILET IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (Bid Opening: August 4, 2021)(20210715\C01)(C-7)

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. Buildings and Grounds Superintendent, Mr. Mark lafelice, explained that this project will be funded through a CDBG grant to bring this restroom up to ADA compliant standards. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote 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 Commissioner’s Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: none.

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Hamercheck stated that he and Commissioner Plecnik had the opportunity to tour the Unionville Tavern, which is currently undergoing a major renovation that will maintain the historical value of the building. He added that the Tavern actually sits within Lake and Ashtabula Counties.

Commissioner Hamercheck congratulated Commissioner Plecnik on being chosen to attend the Leadership Academy and that Mr. Morgan McIntosh, Concord Township Trustee was also invited to attend.

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

Mr. Joe Tomsick from Council on Aging gave an update on the agency. He stated how his agency is now fully open as well as most of the Senior Centers and the congregate sites. Meals on Wheels is back to 5-day delivery and through a collaboration with the Humane Society, have added ‘Pet Meals on Wheels’ which is delivered once a month. He stated that they are in need for Meals on Wheels volunteers and anyone interested can contact Council on Aging directly. They are currently accepting nominations for the Senior Hall of Fame and they are due by August 20th. They are preparing for senior day at the Lake County Fair. Mr. Tomsick explained the farmers market vouchers that are available to eligible seniors in Lake County and how they still have 100 vouchers available.

Mr. John Muzik, of 45 Coventry Drive, Painesville, addressed Mr. Tomsick asking who people should contact for assistance in preparing Medicare applications. Mr. Tomsick stated that Council on Aging has staff that can assist.

Sheriff Leonbruno congratulated Commissioner Plecnik for being chosen to attend the Leadership Academy.

Sheriff Leonbruno explained how the jail has always met the minimum standards of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections. He then introduced Mr. John Adams, Administrator of the Ohio Bureau of Adult Detention, and Mr. Chris Darlington, who serves as Project Manager with the Bureau of Adult Detention. Mr. Adams explained that they have oversight of all of the jails in Ohio and that every jail in the state is inspected annually. The inspection of jails is to ensure compliance with the "Minimum Standards" for Jails in Ohio.

Commissioner Young stated that he has seen numerous local reports of problems within the jail such as a leaking roof, rusting plumbing system, and erosion of communication and electrical systems. Mr. Adams stated how the inspections are for jail operations only; not structural integrity or infrastructure. They do not have the means or training to look in walls or inspect rooftops and any issues would need to be visible to them. He also stated that their inspections are just a snapshot of the day(s) the inspections are performed. They are not looking into the mechanics or plumbing but they check and verify water flow and ensure that there is a working generator. Mr. Adams added that, if the communication system was functioning on the day of the inspection, it would meet the standards. Mr. Adams further explained that the County has on-staff experts that know the building, its systems, and the viability of same.

Commissioner Young asked what occurred in Ashtabula County and Mr. Adams replied that the cannot speak to specific jail issues. He added that, any jail that is not in compliance with one or more issues will be cited for non-compliance of standards. The citation would include how they are not in compliance and suggestions as to what would need to be done in order to meet the standards.

Commissioner Hamercheck clarified with Mr. Adams that there is no difference between the terms “minimum standards” and “standards”. Mr. Adams stated that was correct.

Commissioner Young spoke of the third-party inspection that was approved by him (and the Board) when he was fairly new to the Board. At the time, he did not realize that they might bid on the project. Mr. Adams restated how detailed inspections pertaining to structural or mechanical issues are outside of their area of expertise. Mr. Darlington would be able to assist with approving plans for renovation or construction of a new jail and can provide information regarding current trends in technology, operations, construction, and best practices in the area of community corrections. Mr. Darlington stated that he is only involved in Phase 1 of a new build or jail renovation meaning he can assist with looking over plans to make sure they meet the state’s criteria.

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Commissioner Hamercheck used the analogy that you could compare them to an Umpire on a field; they are there to make sure that the rules are being followed. Mr. Adams stated that was a very good analogy. The Bureau of Adult Detention deals with operations, health and safety, quality of life and security of a facility only. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that the County has used K2M as an advocate for the County to hold others responsible and avoid any gaps in planning. Mr. Adams stated that he is familiar with K2M and they have been involved in other project but he cannot recommend any firms for inspections. He suggested the Commissioners speak with their peers regarding recommendations. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that there has been an exhaustive investigation of all options pertaining to renovation, refits and additions. Commissioner Young asked Mr. Adams how many minimum standards are on the list for inspection. Mr. Adams responded that there are approximately 181; 55 essential standards that are inspected annually. He explained that the remainder of the list is split between two years and detailed how the inspectors handle the inspections. Commissioner Hamercheck and Mr. Adams discussed continuity of care, inmate capacity and cell size footage requirements. Sheriff Leonbruno wanted to clarify that cell doors are not coming off their hinges but rather the locks have been and continue to deteriorate. He explained that Lake County is dealing with three types of criteria; operational, mechanical and structural. The County depends on the Bureau of Adult Detention for the operational aspect and he depends heavily on the expertise of Telecommunications Director, Mr. Paul Stefanko and Buildings and Grounds Supervisor, Mr. Mark lafelice, to keep the jail in adequate condition. Mr. Stefanko has done an excellent job making what repairs are possible to the doors and door locks, however, it is becoming more and more difficult to get parts due to the age of the locks. Mr. lafelice and his staff also do a great job maintaining every other aspect of the building including heating, air conditioning, cooling, and plumbing systems on a daily basis. He shared an incident that occurred when Building and Grounds workers drilled into a wall to place in an anchor and water poured out of the hole. This means there is water in the bricks of the walls. K2M has looked into these incidents and agrees that there are many issues that at some point will no longer be able to be repaired. He stated that the jail is not ADA compliant and, by today’s standards, would not be approved for operations. Sheriff Leonbruno shared that they are currently at 350 inmates a day and how they are seeing daily jail population increases.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the Board adjourned the meeting at 11:58 a.m. with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None

Minutes approved this twenty-second day of July, 2021.

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, PRESIDENT

RON YOUNG, COMMISSIONER

JOHN PLECNIK, COMMISSIONER

JENNIFER BELL, CLERK