

FEBRUARY 6, 2020

**LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES**

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

.....  
(Tape 2020-0206)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Hamercheck called the Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, February 6, 2020.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Young, the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Thursday, January 21, 2020 were approved as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Commissioner Hamercheck asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board. Job and Family Services Director, Mr. Matthew Battiato, gave a brief update on the services and functions and recent recognitions of the Child Support Enforcement Division. He introduced Ms. Cheryl Baibak, Child Support Administrator. Ms. Baibak reviewed and provided a handout regarding her department. She stated that some of the services they provide are genetic testing when parentage needs to be established and it is free of charge to their clients, administrative child support hearings to establish support orders, and support orders from the Juvenile Court and Domestic Relations Court in addition to interstate case enforcement. She explained that as of December 31, 2019, there were 11,143 open child support cases that they were able to collect \$35,299,902.19. Their department works in collaboration with the Lake County Treasurer’s Office which allows cash payments to be made for child support. The Treasurer’s Office collected \$1 million dollars in child support payments in 2019. Ms. Baibak stated that they are permitted to sweep bank accounts and intercept lottery or casino winnings. Mr. Battiato added that they are able to suspend driver’s licenses, recreational licenses, and hunting licenses as well as passports and passport renewals, and professional licenses for lack of child support payments. For the last four consecutive years, they have been recognized for “Best Performance in Collections of Current Support in the Large Caseload Division” (they have earned this thirteen times overall) and also “Best Performance in Collections on Cases with Arrears in the Large Caseload Division” for the last sixteen consecutive years. They have also been recognized in FFY 2019 by the State of Ohio for reaching the milestone to become one of only nine states to collect at least 70% of current child support owed by reaching 70.06% in current collections. The national average for collections of current support is 65.8%. Commissioner Cirino congratulated Ms. Baibak and her department for the hard work they have been doing and asked if there is an established best practice that is overseen by the State or if Ms. Baibak and her department have their own. She responded that Lake County is overseen by the Ohio State Department of Jobs and Family Services and in 2012, the State began the “I-70” or the 70% Initiative. Ms. Baibak explained that the State provides video conferencing to discuss enforcement techniques and they offer new tools for collections in an effort to reach and exceed that 70%. Commissioner Hamercheck congratulated the Department for exceeding both national and state standards.

Commissioner Hamercheck explained that he received a phone call from Benjamin and Alexander Weiss regarding the closure of Camp Stigwandish. He stated that both Benjamin and Alexander would be receiving special recognition for achieving the rank of Eagle Scouts. Commissioner Hamercheck introduced the Weiss brothers to read a prepared statement providing a brief background and future plans for Camp Stigwandish. Benjamin is 13 years old, Alexander is 12 years old and are Eagle Scouts in Boy Scout Troop 62 located at Painesville United Methodist Church. Erich is 8 ½ years old and he is a Cub Scout Bear located at Hope Ridge United Methodist Church in Concord. Benjamin, Alexander and Erich took turns reading the statement. Some of the information included that the Lake Erie Council of the Boy Scouts of America has made the formal decision to auction Camp Stigwandish to the highest bidder on May 30, 2020. Camp Stigwandish is a 305 acre Boy Scout youth camp facility located on Ross, Doty, and Chapin Roads in Madison Township comprised of approximately 17 permanent parcels of land and it is believed to be the last remaining functional youth camp located in Lake County, Ohio. Based on a text conversation that their father, Christian Weiss, had with Carl Boyles of Lake Erie Council, the Council expects to realize \$1.8 - \$2.4 million from the proceeds of this sale or \$6-\$8 thousand dollars per acre. Mr. Weiss in turn spoke to a relative in the real estate business to discuss the worth of the property. The boys shared their school successes and the community projects completed necessary to achieve the Eagle Scout ranking. They further outlined their plans and intentions in an effort to keep Camp Stigwandish open. They reviewed their nine-step plan to achieve this and asked the Board for their support in accomplishing their goals. Commissioner Hamercheck thanked the boys for their heartfelt statement and stated that this is a rapidly developing situation. He stated that he has reached out to three Madison Township Trustees who also support the plan of these young men. Planning and Community Development Director, Mr. David Radachy, was present and provided maps and a detailed explanation of the Camp Stigwandish property which has no water, sanitary sewer, or gas utilities. Mr. Radachy briefly reviewed other camps that have gone through closures and purchasing of potential closings of camps. Commissioner Young also expressed how impressed he was with the boys presentation and questioned the future sustainability of the property. Mr. Radachy stated that there has been one group that formed a 501C3 nonprofit and were able to purchase and maintain the property. Commissioner Cirino complimented the Weiss boys for their excellent presentation and true sincerity. He discussed several points the boys outlined in their plan to save the camp with the boys and their father, Mr. Christian Weiss. The Board, Mr. Radachy, and the Weiss family discussed the zoning of the land, the MetroParks

and the planned auction in addition to several other scenarios. Commissioner Hamercheck thanked the boys for taking the time to bring this to the Boards attention and stated they will do what they can to assist them.

Mr. John Muzik of 45 Coventry Drive in Painesville, suggested working with the MetroParks to allow the boy scouts to continue to use some of their property as a camp. He addressed Jobs and Family Services, asking about child support payments from other countries. Ms. Baibak stated that they do have reciprocity with some countries, but not all and Lake County does receive child support payments from them.

Mr. David Lima of 7774 Litchfield Drive in Mentor, read a prepared statement regarding the upcoming election and partisan and non-partisan political views.

RESOLUTIONS:

**1. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR THE RESURFACING VARIOUS COUNTY ROADS – 2020 PROJECT IN MADISON AND PERRY TOWNSHIPS, OHIO, LCE PROJECT NO. 2019-018 (BID OPENING: February 26, 2020)(20200206\E01)(E-2)**

On a motion by Commissioner Hamercheck, seconded by Commissioner Young. County Engineer, Mr. Jim Gills stated that this and the following resolution are a part of their 2020 Capital Improvement Program. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR THE RESURFACING COUNTY ROADS IN PAINESVILLE AND PERRY TOWNSHIPS PROJECT, LCE PROJECT NO. 2019-013 (BID OPENING: February 26, 2020) (20200206\E02)(E-2)**

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

**3. RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES OF COST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$235,000.00 FOR MAPLEWOOD DRIVE WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT NO. 427-W, AND ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR SAME (Bid Opening: March 4, 2020) (20200206\U01)(UT-8)**

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

**4. RESOLUTION CERTIFYING UNPAID SEWER AND WATER SUMS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES TO THE LAKE COUNTY AUDITOR (20200206\U02)(UT-7)**

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

**5. RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,096,451.40(20200206\BC01)(C-4)**

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

**6. RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,176,083.20(20200206\BC02)(C-17)**

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

**7. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CASH WITHIN VARIOUS NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20200206\BC03)(C-111)**

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

**8. RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2020 PERMANENT APPROPRIATION MEASURE FOR THE GENERAL FUND (20200206\BC04)(C-111)**

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Cirino. Budget Director, Mr. Michael Matas, explained that the General Fund is the chief operating fund of the County and accounts for financial resources except those to be accounted for in another fund per the Ohio Revised Code restrictions. The projected revenues for 2020 are \$58,824,166, which is an increase of \$2,357,542 or 4.18% and the 2020 projected appropriations are 58,813,292 which is an increase of \$2,381,574 or 4.22%. The causes for increase in revenue are due to an increase in projected sales tax revenue based on current collections and an increase in Building Department revenues based on new agreements. The causes for increase in appropriations are due to rising health care costs and law enforcement represents our major expense category with medical care within the jail continuing to rise significantly each year. Judicial and Public Safety represent 65.8% of the proposed budget. He also stated that an increase of 2.25% for employees was built into the 2020 budget and is consistent with bargaining agreements that were previously approved by the Board. Mr. Matas thanked the County's Elected Officials and Department Heads for remaining dedicated to the residents of Lake County by providing the best service possible with their current staff levels based on estimated resources. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**9. RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2020 PERMANENT APPROPRIATION MEASURE FOR FUNDS OUTSIDE THE GENERAL FUND (20200206\BC05)(C-111)**

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Cirino. Mr. Matas explained that there are two types of funds in the Outside Funds; Governmental and Proprietary. The Governmental Funds are special revenue,

FEBRUARY 6, 2020

debt service and permanent improvement funds and these funds account for all grants and other resources whose use is restricted, committed to or assigned to a particular purpose. Proprietary Funds are Enterprise and Internal Service. Enterprise funds are used to account for an activity for which fees are charged to external users for goods or services (Water, Wastewater, and Solid Waste). Internal service funds account for the financing of services provided by one department to other departments on a cost reimbursement basis (Central Purchasing, Mailroom, and Health Care Accounts). 2020 Projected Revenues for these funds are approximately \$255.7 million and the appropriation resolution is approximately \$286.9 million. In comparison with 2019 numbers, the projected revenues were \$252.8 million; and the appropriation resolution was \$280.1 million. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, 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, February 13, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. There are 2 expiring terms on the Lakeland Community College Board and one vacancy on the Planning Commission. More information can be found on the Commissioners website.

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: - none.

NEW BUSINESS: - Commissioner Cirino stated that he and Commissioner Hamercheck attended the annual Blue Coats Dinner which honors members of the safety forces. Commissioner Cirino briefly shared the stories of this year’s recipients detailing their tremendous heroism and how the two officers truly saved the lives of the victims involved. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that this year’s recipients truly possess the special gift of a servant’s heart.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Commissioner Hamercheck asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board. Ms. Ellen Chamberlin of Willoughby, referred to Item #4 on the agenda and asked if the Utilities Department is seeing an increase or decrease in unpaid water and sewer sums. Sanitary Engineer, Mr. Randy Rothlisberger, stated that the numbers have been fairly consistent over the last 5 years. Ms. Chamberlin addressed Mr. Matas regarding the size of the debt service. Mr. Matas stated that he does not have exact numbers but he will provide her with the information soon. Commissioner Young stated how impressed he was with Mr. Matas and his department’s handling of the debt.

Commissioner Hamercheck stated that the next Commissioners Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: On a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Young, the Board convened an Executive Session at 10:29 a.m.to discuss Personnel-Discipline, with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

The Lake County Board of Commissioners adjourned to Executive Session at 11:30 a.m.

ADJOURN:

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Cirino, the Board adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m. with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

Minutes approved this twenty-seventh day of February, 2020.

**BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, PRESIDENT

\_\_\_\_\_  
RON YOUNG, VICE PRESIDENT

\_\_\_\_\_  
JERRY C. CIRINO, COMMISSIONER

\_\_\_\_\_  
JENNIFER BELL, CLERK