

APRIL 23, 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

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(Tape 2020-0423)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Hamercheck called the Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, April 23, 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 Meetings of April 9, 2020 were approved as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

RESOLUTIONS:

**1. RESOLUTION REJECTING THE BIDS RECEIVED ON FEBRUARY 19, 2020, APPROVING THE REVISED SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATE OF COSTS, AND AUTHORIZING RE-ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR THE LAK-BENNETT ROAD (CR 05) RESURFACING PROJECT, PID NO. 105936, FEDERAL AID NO. FAN E190(613), LCE PROJECT NO. 2018-018 (Bid Opening May 20, 2020) (20200423\E01)(E-2)**

On a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. Lake County Engineer, Jim Gills, explained the details of the scope of work, the additional drainage work and the decision to pull back on the project and go to rebid. He stated that they have received the approval of ODOT for storm sewer repairs and the replacement that will be funded with a federal dollars match. The project remains slated for completion by the end of August. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**2. RESOLUTION AWARDING A BID CONTRACT TO OSBORNE CONCRETE & STONE CO. FOR ROADWAY MATERIALS - 2020 AS REQUIRED BY THE LAKE COUNTY ENGINEER'S ROAD DEPARTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$29,580.00 (LIMESTONE) AND \$60,500.00 (PLANT MIX PAVEMENTS) (20200423\E02)(E-3)**

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Cirino. Lake County Engineer, Jim Gills, stated this is a customary, annual contract. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**3. RESOLUTION CERTIFYING SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENT COSTS TO THE LAKE COUNTY AUDITOR FOR PARCEL 16C-079-K-00-035-0 (20200423\U01)(UT-7)**

On a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. Lake County Sanitary Engineer, Mr. Randy Rothlisberger, stated that this improvement was done for a private resident and that their department offers the ability to assess the property owner for the costs associated. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**4. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A THREE YEAR MAINTENANCE BOND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,196.80 FOR NORTON PARKWAY AREA MEDICAL OFFICE BUILDING SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION JOB NO. 19-45 IN THE CITY OF MENTOR (20200423\U02)(UT-12)**

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 AUTHORIZING ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR ORGANIC POLYELECTROLYTES (POLYMER) FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES (Bid Opening: May 13, 2020) (20200423\U03)(UT-8)**

On a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Young. Sanitary Engineer, Randy Rothlisberger, explained that the department goes out to bid annually for the chemicals. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**6. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A GRANT AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A 2019 COVERDELL GRANT AGREEMENT (SUB-GRANT #2019-PC-NFS-7802) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$39,891.75, BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON BEHALF OF THE LAKE COUNTY CRIME LABORATORY AND THE OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES, EFFECTIVE THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020 (20200423\C01)(CT-18)**

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Cirino. Assistant Prosecutor, Mr. David Hackman, stated that this is an annual grant for toxicology. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**7. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES-DIVISION OF WATERCRAFT TO OBTAIN MATCHING FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$34,108.28 FOR MARINE PATROL FOR THE YEAR 2020 (20200423\C02)(CT-10a)**

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Cirino. County Administrator, Mr. Jason Boyd, stated that this is an annual grant and that the Sheriff's Department is responsible for a 25% match. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**8. RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING BRIAN FALKOWSKI TO THE LAKETRAN BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR A THREE YEAR TERM EXPIRING MAY 15, 2023 (20200423\C03)(B-37)**

On a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Young. Commissioner Cirino stated that Lake County is lucky to have a great transportation system that continues to offer many new programs. He offered his congratulations to Brian, Jon and Lane on their reappointments to the LakeTran Board and thanked them for their contributions and service to the citizens of Lake County. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**9. RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING JON P. MARTEN TO THE LAKETRAN BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR A THREE YEAR TERM EXPIRING MAY 15, 2023 (20200423\C04)(B-37)**

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.

**10. RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING LANE H. SHEETS TO THE LAKETRAN BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR A THREE YEAR TERM EXPIRING MAY 15, 2023 (20200423\C05)(B-37)**

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.

**11. RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,434,217.11 (20200423\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.

**12. RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,467,648.67 (20200423\BC02)(C-17)**

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.

**13. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20200423\BC03)(C-111)**

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.

**14. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CASH WITHIN VARIOUS NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20200423\BC04)(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.

**15. RESOLUTION DECLARING APRIL 2020 FAIR HOUSING MONTH IN LAKE COUNTY, OHIO (20200423\F01)(C-126)**

On a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Young. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that Fair Housing rights apply to all of citizens since everyone falls within one or more of the protected classes such as race, color, religion, national origin/ethnicity, gender/sex, family status, and disability. Fair housing laws exist at local, state and federal levels.

Lake County is fortunate to have an office locally, the Fair Housing Resource Center, Inc., which offers 20 years of experience. This agency has the distinction of being a HUD certified housing counseling agency and a winner of several direct federal grants under the Fair Housing Initiatives Programs for both education and outreach as well as private enforcement. He explained that the federal funds received through CDBG and the HOME Program carry with it an obligation to affirmatively further fair housing. Housing locations impact the quality of a person's life as it relates to health, education, jobs, and other opportunities. An assessment of Fair Housing as required by HUD was prepared and is available on their office website and it is referenced in this resolution. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

UTILITIES – Sanitary Engineer, Randy Rothlisberger, assured the residents of Lake County that the drinking water remains safe and they have experienced no delay in the delivery of treatment chemicals. He thanked all of the employees of the Utilities Department for going the extra mile to ensure Lake County residents continue to receive all services.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – none.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – Mr. Jason Boyd discussed what the Governor and the State may plan on beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>. He stated that the County departments and services are running very well and that he continues to have weekly meetings with the Department Heads. Mr. Boyd also continues to keep up with CCAO, NACo and the state pertaining to state and federal funding. On behalf of Senior Services Coordinator, Mrs. Alyea Barajas, Mr. Boyd gave an update on the very successful grocery program and shared a news clip that aired on Channel 5 highlighting several aspects of the program. Mr. Boyd echoed Commissioner Cirino's comments on the value that LakeTran provides. Mr. Boyd congratulated Mrs. Barajas on the program organization, success and importance of ensuring Lake County's most vulnerable citizens are taken care of during this pandemic as well as the agencies involved in this special program assisting one of Lake County's most vulnerable citizens. He thanked the Board for their agreeing to utilize Senior Levy funding for this program.

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FINANCE – On behalf of Budget Director, Mr. Michael Matas, Commissioner Hamercheck assured the citizens that the County finances remain strong, however they will continue to monitor the budget.

CLERK – Assistant Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Kathy Russo, stated that the next Commissioners Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 30, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: - Lake County Engineer, Jim Gills, gave an update on the closing of Madison Avenue and the emergency repair process of the street. Mr. Gills provided the Board with a report and photographs of the area that is in need of emergency repairs. Mr. Gills reviewed and explained each photograph provided. He stated that the work was performed 28 years ago and should have a life expectancy of 50 years, adding that there is a high degree of corrosion and they are looking into whether the proper materials were used at the time. He stated that the good news is that they had postponed starting this improvement last year (2019) and they have now received Federal funding. They plan on going to bid for this project after July 1<sup>st</sup> and he will keep the Board updated on its condition and progress.

Commissioner Hamercheck reported that ODOT has acknowledged that US Route 20 in Madison Township (between Route 528 and Countyline Road) should remain a 4 lane highway. He thanked Madison Township, the Mayors and Managers and NOACA for their support of this issue and added that this is an example of state, county and local governments working together. Mr. Gills stated that this was the proper decision for ODOT to make. Commissioner Young stated that this outcome would not have occurred if not for Commissioner Hamercheck standing up and bringing the issue to all parties involved for a satisfactory outcome. Commissioner Hamercheck reported that NOACA has been working toward direct payments for federal stimulus of populations of 500,000 or more. He stressed that there is no guarantee for approval, but it will at least put us on the radar for the funding. He explained the funds that are available and what Lake County may be eligible for. He also explained that in order for the County to be eligible for funding, Lake County must account for any Covid-19 related expenses. Commissioner Cirino stated that the Board has issued a Press Release and it can be viewed on the website following today's meeting. He explained that all 23 communities in Lake County have passed the necessary resolutions or ordinances to receive their portion of the one-time \$1.5 million in funding for road infrastructure improvements. These funds came from the economic development fund, which was mostly casino dollars that were apportioned to the County. He stressed that the Board recognizes the importance of well cared for road infrastructure and it is critical to economic development progress throughout Lake County. Commissioner Cirino reviewed the method used to award the funds to each entity and the criteria that each community met to receive this funding. Checks should be issued within the next few days to the communities. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that he appreciates the method used to divide the monies up between the communities. The County applied the methods of the Ohio Department of Taxation as a model for funding. Commissioner Young added that the communities in Lake County work very well together. Infrastructure is an important priority that can easily be overlooked.

Commissioner Hamercheck thanked Commissioner Young for attending a video conference yesterday as it freed him up to speak with Senator Portman. Commissioner Hamercheck thanked Senator Portman and Congressman Joyce for their assistance with potential funding. He added that he appreciates how well the Board works together.

NEW BUSINESS: - Mr. Gills stated that today is the first day asphalt will begin and the first project is Chapel Road. Commissioner Hamercheck added that these projects are being funded by the \$5.00 license fee and will relieve the 12 year backlog within 2 ½ years. Mr. Gills explained that his office is funded through gas taxes and licensing fees and that he receives no funding from the general fund.

Commissioner Cirino reminded all residents that the County Commissioners office largely depends on sales tax revenue (as do all Counties in the state) and they will continue to meet to discuss what the implications of Covid-19 may be. They will discuss what the shortfalls may be, the rate of recovery and the county budget. Commissioner Cirino stated that the reopening of businesses may occur soon and that he looks forward to what the Governor may have planned in the next couple of weeks. He commended Lake County for abiding by the Governor's stay at home and social distancing order. The Covid-19 statistics have been relatively low compared with what had previously been projected. Commissioner Cirino stated that they have received notification that in addition to the 2019 HUD block grant allocations, there will be an additional \$822,000 available. A public hearing will be held to allow for the acceptance of applications for several different small business aid packages. Commissioner Hamercheck added that this will leverage the County for a strong comeback. Commissioner Hamercheck reminded everyone that the primary election is April 28<sup>th</sup> and that there is still time to request an absentee ballot. The Board of Elections can be reached at 440-350-2700 and he provided the Board of Elections website: <https://www.lakecountyohio.gov/lakeelections/>. Commissioner Hamercheck also stressed the importance of the 2020 Census and provided statistics. Currently, the response rate nationally is 51%, the State of Ohio is at 54.7% and Lake County has been very receptive with a rate of 61.5%.

Commissioner Hamercheck stated that the next Commissioners Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 30, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Cirino, the Board adjourned the meeting at 11:03 a.m. with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

Minutes approved this thirtieth day of April, 2020.

**BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, PRESIDENT

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RON YOUNG, VICE PRESIDENT

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JERRY C. CIRINO, COMMISSIONER

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KATHLEEN RUSSO, ASSISTANT CLERK