

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 2020-0528)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Hamercheck called the Meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Thursday, May 28, 2020.

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

Lake County Health Commissioner, Mr. Ron Graham, and Director of Community Health Services, Ms. Tara Perkins, were present to give an update about contact tracing for COVID-19.

Ms. Perkins explained that contact tracing will be handled internally by the Lake County Health District in anticipation of business reopening. They are working with partners such as Kent State and through their intern program. They are also receiving training from an epidemiologist.

Commissioner Cirino asked if the approach to tracing is similar to what other communities are implementing, and he asked for an explanation of the operational approach. Ms. Perkins further explained the Lake Health District will be notified by a healthcare professional of a case and an epidemiologist will do an initial investigation. Once that information is in the system, the epidemiologist will share that information with the contact. The contact is someone who tests positive for COVID-19 or has been in close contact with someone who is positive. From there they need to identify anyone they have been in close contact with in the past 48 hours. They will ask the person to quarantine themselves for 14 days. They will be sent a template of letters to follow and after the 14 days, they will receive a letter of discontinuation which will be required for employees who need to get back to work.

Commissioner Cirino asked, if a person was positive and went to the grocery store, will everyone who was at the grocery store at the same time be contacted and tested?

Ms. Perkins replied that shopping or walking by someone is considered at low risk and not considered close contact. Commissioner Cirino requested that an explanation of contact tracing be posted on the Lake County General Health District website because many residents are concerned about having personal information disclosed about themselves.

Commissioner Cirino stated that there is much talk about a second wave of COVID-19 coming perhaps in the fall. He asked what is the scientific information regarding this theory and if it supports the likelihood of this happening.

Ms. Perkins replied that she will get that information for the Commissioners. Commissioner Young stated that we do not want a society of terrified citizens because we see when this happens, then suicides and overdoses increase. We have to be careful how this is handled. Mr. Graham kept a balanced attitude with concern and did not blow anything out of proportion. Commissioner Young asked if the contact tracers looked back past 48 hours.

Ms. Perkins replied that they will identify the date the symptoms began and go back 48 hours from then to identify people. The 48 hour timeframe has a lot to do with the way the virus sheds.

Commissioner Young stated that, in many cases, the deaths reportedly caused by COVID-19 are due to other underlying conditions. Mr. Graham stated that the Lake County COVID-19 death rate is correct.

Commissioner Cirino reported that recently the State of Ohio made the Wall Street Journal on Page 3 regarding mental health and anxiety taking a toll in Ohio from the lockdown.

Mr. Graham stated that the Health District is trying to take a systematic approach to improve the economy and mental health in Lake County.

Commissioner Hamercheck thanked Mr. Graham and his staff for the impressive amount of work they have done since March. He stated that Lake County leads the way in many areas. The Lake County Health District and Mr. Graham have always been very open, and since he attended this meeting face-to-face, we are one step further in getting back to a normal way of life.

Commissioner Hamercheck reported on the winners of the "Clean and Green Lake County" Logo Contest Winners. He held up a picture of the winning logo from Middle School student Casey Hall of the Willoughby/Eastlake School of Innovation. The framed picture will be hung up in the Commissioners Chambers for a year. The Elementary School Division Winner is Savannah Brown from Melridge Elementary School and the High School Division Winner is Clara Maruna from North High School. The Commissioners congratulated the students on this honor.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING ACCOUNTS WITHIN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES WATER PROJECT FUNDS 595 TO BE KNOWN AS 174/84 TANK PAINTING PROJECT 436-W (20200528\U01)(UT-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.

2. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A THREE YEAR MAINTENANCE BOND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$19,602.00 FOR SANITARY SEWERS FOR RIDGEWOOD GREENS PHASE I SUBDIVISION IN THE CITY OF MENTOR (JOB NO. 18-77) (20200528\U02)(UT-4)

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.

3. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CASH FROM LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES WATER OPERATING FUND AND SEWER OPERATING FUND TRANSFERS-OUT TO OWDA BOND RETIREMENT FUNDS TRANSFERS-IN (20200528\U03)(UT-2)

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Cirino. Commissioner Hamercheck explained that this is a significant amount of money, \$2 million, being transferred so we are making tremendous progress. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

4. RESOLUTION APPROVING LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES VOUCHERS DATE OF WARRANT JUNE 5, 2020 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$58,698.21 (20200528\JF01)(JFS-14)

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.

5. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON BEHALF OF THE LAKE COUNTY STORMWATER MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT AND HULL AND ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR THE BRIGHTWOOD LAKE DAM REMOVAL AND STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT THROUGH THE WATER RESOURCE RESTORATION SPONSOR PROGRAM (20200528\C01)(UT-46A)

On a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Young. Mr. Tim Miller, Stormwater Management Superintendent, explained that this resolution brings the Brightwood Lake Dam project in Concord Township one step closer to construction. They requested qualifications from firms and those were received four weeks ago. There were nine submittals and after the team reviewed the qualifications, they selected three of the most qualified to submit a request for proposal. Once those are received, they will be reviewed for the design/build of the restoration of Brightwood Lake Dam. Mr. Miller hopes that the dam will be removed by the fall with restoration occurring in 2021. They will need approval from OEPA and they are running behind because of COVID-19.

Commissioner Hamercheck stated that there is a life-safety component to this improvement. There are three homes across the street located in a breach area that would be in trouble if the dam fails. Mr. Miller agreed that there is a potential for loss of life.

Commissioner Hamercheck thanked Mr. Miller for his leadership and guidance for getting most of the area landowners on board to support this project. He asked if homeowners still have a chance to join if they want in the future. Mr. Miller replied that the deadline was last June so it would be up to the OEPA to determine. He stated that native plantings will be done to protect the land from erosion. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

6. RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE POLICY PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE 304.02 (20200528\C02)(C-107)

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 DECLARING THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE BEGINNING JUNE 4, 2020 (20200528\C03)(C-107)

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.

8. RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE OHIO TREASURER'S OFFICE TO ADMINISTER A STABLE ACCOUNT PLAN FOR DIRECT DEPOSIT EARNINGS OF QUALIFYING LAKE COUNTY EMPLOYEES(20200528\C04)(304-z)

On a motion by Commissioner Hamercheck, seconded by Commissioner Cirino. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that if this resolution is adopted it would put Lake County on the map and will be part of statewide best practices. Lake County would become the first county to partner with the Ohio Treasurer's office to provide an option that makes it easier for county employees and their families to take advantage of STABLE accounts. The measure allows Lake County employees to set up recurring direct-deposits from their paychecks into STABLE accounts for themselves or a qualifying family member.

The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

9. RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$803,875.68(20200528\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.

10. RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$301,708.38(20200528\BC02)(C-17)

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 INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20200528\BC03)(C-111)

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 TRANSFERRING CASH AND APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS(20200528\BC04)(C-111)

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.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

UTILITIES – Commissioner Hamercheck reported on some upcoming Special Collection dates for 2020. There is more information about the collection dates online at the Lake County website. The Household Hazardous Waste collections will be held on June 6 and October 3 from 9am – 3pm at the Fairgrounds. The electronics collection will be August 15 from 9am – 3pm, and the television collection will be held on August 15 from 9am – 3pm. There will not be a tire collection this year due to COVID-19 restrictions.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – none.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – Mr. Jason Boyd stated that at noon today the Lake County Small Business Assistance Program will be available for accepting applications. There will be a link at the top of the Lake County website for the program. Mr. Boyd reported that beginning June 1, 2020, the Lake County campus will be open to the general public, with the exception of the Job & Family Services Offices and the Building Department. The Building Department will open June 15th. There will be one point of entry for all residents and businesses to enter the building. People coming into the building will be screened and they will have to sign in. The County will be open for business as usual and will continue to evaluate the trends as the summer continues. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that he is pleased with the team effort that has been in place since the beginning of the pandemic.

FINANCE – Commissioner Hamercheck stated that the County remains in a strong financial position and they have been working with other elected officials to ensure this continues.

CLERK –Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the next the regular Commissioners Meeting will be Thursday, June 4, 2020 at 10:00 am. She also acknowledged and congratulated the Clean and Green Logo Contest Winners and stated that the winners and their artwork will be posted on the County website.

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: - none.

NEW BUSINESS: -

Mr. Boyd read a public comment from Mr. Dave Lima asking the Commissioners to please refrain from minimizing the severity of the pandemic and the devastating results affecting 1.7 million cases and over 100,000 deaths in the United States.

Commissioner Cirino stated that he met with the Geauga County Commissioners recently and believes that they have a good working relationship and great communication which is a good opportunity for sharing ideas.

Commissioner Hamercheck reported that LEEDCo was approved for construction of the wind turbines on Lake Erie but was told that the turbines could not operate from dusk until dawn which makes them less-effective. He will give further updates as more information is learned.

Commissioner Hamercheck stated that the Commissioners received a thank you letter from Grand River Village for a 2012 Chevy Impala from the Sheriff’s Office. The gift will be used by law enforcement professionals to continue to keep taxpayers and officers safe. He stated that the County has a great working relationship with our municipalities and through the Lake County Mayors and Managers Association.

Commissioner Young asked how the automated process for the building permitting is going. Mr. Boyd replied that the County is almost ready to implement the first phase of building permits making it easier for developers to go through County processes. Internally, there have been good reviews about the automated system. It will be going live soon.

Commissioner Hamercheck stated that this is a four-year project in the making. He has been involved from the beginning and sat in on training a few weeks ago. He stated it was a pleasure seeing the staff embrace the new software. Permitting will be expedited and we are well ahead of other counties. The software is called lworkq. It is cost-effective, and the vendor is extremely responsive.

Mr. Boyd stated that Mr. Dave Strichko, Mr. Joel DiMare, and Mr. Dan Donaldson did a lot of work on this project. There was much cooperation and coordination to get it right. The vendor came in under \$50,000. He congratulated everyone on this accomplishment.

Commissioner Hamercheck stated that the opioid press release can be viewed online. Lake County is a bellwether county related to the opioid litigation. Lake and Trumbull Counties of Ohio lay out dispensing and distribution claims against Walgreens, CVS, Walmart, Rite Aid, and HBC Giant Eagle for their role in fueling the opioid epidemic.

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

Minutes approved this eighteenth day of June, 2020.

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, PRESIDENT

RON YOUNG, VICE PRESIDENT

JERRY C. CIRINO, COMMISSIONER

JENNIFER BELL, CLERK