

JUNE 24, 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 2021-0624)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Hamercheck called the Meeting to order at 10:08 a.m., Thursday, June 24, 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. Director of Administrative Services, Mr. Joel DiMare introduced Mr. Paul Stefanko, Director of the Telecommunications Department. Mr. Stefanko was present to speak on the High School Tech Internship Pilot Program, explaining that this program is the first in the state to be implemented. He thanked Mr. DiMare, County Administrator, Jason Boyd and the Auburn Career Center for their help in bringing this program to fruition. Mr. Stefanko stated that State is encouraging businesses to hire high school students or recent graduates to tech internships while also providing partial reimbursement of the costs for employers. He explained that his department will host the interns over the summer focusing their work, alongside County Technicians, on IP based cameras, card reader systems, telephones, radios, and security systems.

Mr. Stefanko introduced his interns; Michael Moorehead and Devon Donley. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that he was very impressed with the boys and they will have bright futures for receiving this experience. Commissioner Young asked what kind of reimbursement the County would receive. Mr. Stefanko responded that the reimbursement would be up to \$1,000.

Commissioner Plecnik complimented Mr. Stefanko and his department for bringing the next generation forward and offering them a very important foundation for their future.

Mr. DiMare introduced Mr. Cory Vojack as the new Director of Workforce Development. Mr. Vojack thanked the Board for the opportunity and stated that he has been employed at United Labor Agency since 2017. He has been working with Lake County on employment services and recruiting to connect local job seekers with positions for Lake County companies. He looks forward to helping people and wants to share that passion with the job seekers and employers of Lake County. The Board stated that they look forward to working with Cory and have high expectations for him. Commissioner Plecnik welcomed Cory and stated that he looks forward to him bringing youthful energy and much knowledge to the County. He hopes to see Cory have a large external focus with the companies in the County.

Mr. Brian Massie, on behalf of his group Lobbyists for Citizens, thanked Commissioner Young for arranging a meeting between him and the Visitors Bureau. He stated that his group has agreed to promote the Visitors Bureau. He added that they (his group) have filed a complaint as they believe the Visitors Bureau functions as a public body. He then discussed Deepwood and their finances, the 2020/2021 budget and how they justify a \$64 million balance. He also discussed his findings from his budget review and explained his next steps. He added that he has filed a public records request to Deepwood. He also stated that he will be going to the Budget Commission, Auditor, Prosecutor and Treasurer for more information.

County Administrator, Mr. Jason Boyd, read the following public comment received via email from Judith Willour of 7439 Case Avenue, Mentor OH 44060:

“To the Lake County Ohio Commissioners: Recently I have been following your discussions about replacing the Lake County jail with a totally new hundred-million-dollar facility. It is my understanding that studies show that the current jail could be refurbished for less than half that cost. I also understand that plans for a new building include increasing the number of beds from 350 to 526. In addition, I am aware that the state is in the process of changing the law so that low level offenders will no longer be incarcerated just because they cannot make bail. All of this makes me seriously question the need for a newly constructed larger jail. There have also been discussions about the need for increased services and facilities for mental health and substance abuse cases in Lake County. Wouldn't it make more sense to spend some money in those areas instead, thus reducing the number of incarcerated individuals and decreasing the chances that people with mental health & drug problems will be repeatedly jailed? We citizens of Lake County need you to take a long hard look at how money is spent and make sure that it really meets the needs of the people. Thank you for your consideration. -Judith Willour “

Mr. Boyd read the following comment received via email from Ms. Kathy Deane:

“To the Lake County Commissions, As a resident of Lake County and a registered voter, I am writing to voice my concern on spending 100K for a new and larger jail. The state is working on a bipartisan bill which will overhaul the Ohio bail system. This bill is backed by conservatives and liberals. The first hearing on HB315 and SB182 will be next week. If passed these bills would responsibly reduce incarceration, reform the bail system and Lake County would not need a bigger jail. According to a report by the Criminal Sentencing Commission, 40% of incarcerated persons in Lake County are being held because they cannot afford bail and committed low level crimes or misdemeanors. I am excited to see state legislators work to safely reduce the jail population. If the jail population is reduced, would a jail restoration project be more prudent?? According to reports, “there was nothing structurally revealed or observed that would indicate significant issues regarding the sub-structure of the building. A restoration program which includes properly, comprehensively and thoroughly performing all the recommended restoration repairs and replacements will put the facility in a position to perform as it was originally intended and make the structure

economically maintainable.” Also, the minimum-security jail on Blasé Nemeth Road is permanently closed. What would it take to reopen this facility? It was only in operation from 2001-2009. It is my understanding; this facility was planned for inmates awaiting bail or those participating in a work release program. I understand, the space was used for those sentenced for 1 year or less and was closed because of budget cuts. The building is 20 years old but only used for nine years. What would it take to make this a viable space? Sheriff Leonbruno has expressed a need for additional space for “mental health/ substance abuse treatment”. Is re-opening Blasé-Nemeth an option to explore??? I hope that the legislature overhauls Ohio’s bail system. If the Lake County Commissioners decide that it is in the best interests of Lake County to build a new jail, I believe the question should be decided by the voters.”
Respectively, Kathy Deane 344 Bank Street Painesville, Ohio 44077

Commissioner Hamercheck responded that all discussions by the Board, no matter how spirited they become, will be open and transparent and they will do their due diligence to examine all sides of the jail. No decisions have been made. He stated that the minimum-security facility is currently being used as a NEOCAP facility for short-term nonviolent offenders. Commissioner Plecnik stated that their conversations are exactly what these deliberations call for. He discussed the costs of restoration/refit versus new jail, broke down the cost savings by year of a new jail and assured the public that the Board will find a fiscally responsible solution. Commissioner Young stated that it is important to keep an open mind and that he fully supports a rehabilitation of the current jail.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERRING CASH WITHIN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES WATER OPERATING FUND AND PROJECT FUND 595, WALNUT STREET WATERLINE PROJECT 449-W (20210624\U01)(UT-2)

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote 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 (20210624\U02)(UT-7)

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

3. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERRING CASH WITHIN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES SEWER OPERATING FUND AND PROJECT FUND 596, MENTOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY VFD REPLACEMENT PROJECT 440-S (20210624\U03)(UT-2)

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

4. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT AGREEMENT WITH GREAT LAKES OBSERVING SYSTEM ISSUED UNDER DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION GRANT AWARD FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES (20210624\U04)(UT-4)

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Young. Sanitary Engineer, Mr. Randy Rothlisberger, stated that this grant will provide funds to purchase monitoring equipment for the raw water plants. The equipment will provide the treatment plants with early information regarding the condition of the lake allowing the treatment plant operators to adjust treatments in advance of the water entering the plants. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

5. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A SUBGRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD AND THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES TO SERVE AS THE DELIVERER OF ADULT AND DISLOCATED WORKER CAREER SERVICES FOR THE OHIO MEANS JOBS (OMJ) LAKE COMPREHENSIVE CAREER CENTER (20210624\JFS01)(JFS-15)

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Ms. Suzanne Casar, Director of Job and Family Services, stated that this is a required agreement to allow Job and Family Services to provide these necessary services. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

6. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON BEHALF OF THE LAKE COUNTY STORMWATER MANAGEMENT DIVISION AND MADISON TOWNSHIP FOR THE LAKE ROAD WEST STORMWATER AND RESURFACING PROJECT (20210624\C01)(UT-46a)

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Young. Director of Stormwater Management, Mr. Tim Miller, explained that Madison Township will received bids next week for the Lake Road West project and would like to utilize their stormwater funds for a portion of the project. This MOU will permit them to deposit funds with Madison Township for the purposes of paying for the drainage portion of the project. Any remaining funds will be returned to the County Stormwater Department and if additional costs are necessary, there will be a review by the Department. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

7. RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,260,158.09 (20210624\BC01)(C-4)

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

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8. RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$162,641.87 (20210624\BC02)(C-17)

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

9. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20210624\BC03)(C-111)

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

10. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CASH AND APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS(20210624\BC04)(C-111)

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

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

UTILITIES – none.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – none.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR –Mr. Boyd reported that the Governor has ended the declaration of State of Emergency last Friday. A resolution ending the State of Emergency in Lake County will be on the agenda in the near future. He stated that the General Health District continues to hold vaccine clinics in Mentor, Madison and Wickliffe. Mr. Boyd introduced the Director of Nursing and Clinical Services at the Health District, Mrs. Dyan Denmeade. Mrs. Denmeade, on behalf of Health Commissioner, Ron Graham, thanked the Board for their continued support. She stated that the Health District has begun their demobilization, meaning that they are condensing the vaccine and Covid efforts. Mrs. Denmeade reported that there are nurses providing the vaccine at the jail, with the mobile unit at Mentor Public Library and Mentor on the Lake today. They will revisit NEOCAP for a second time next week. She reviewed several statistics stating that the 8 Megapods vaccinated 11,000 people, walk-ins and businesses have vaccinated 2000 people and the mobile unit has vaccinated 1,000 thus far. The mobile unit is used to vaccinate those that are not able to get out of their homes or are in difficult areas. Lake County is #2 in the State for vaccinations. Commissioner Hamercheck was recently informed that the State will be pulling the mobile vaccine clinic out of Lake County and relocate it elsewhere in the State. He explained that he is working with the Health Commissioner to purchase the unit and permanently station it within Lake County. There has been much cooperation with the Governor's Office and the Ohio Department of Health with assistance in this acquisition. Mr. Boyd stated that this purchase falls within the ARP parameters. Mrs. Denmeade explained that the mobile unit is fully equipped as a clinic and can accommodate handicapped persons as well. Mrs. Denmeade also stated that this mobile unit can and will be used in the future to provide routine childhood vaccinations and the flu shot in addition to other activities.

FINANCE – none.

CLERK –Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the next Commissioners Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 29, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: none.

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Plecnik recognized the 30th anniversary of Slovenia's independence which is celebrated as Statehood Day on June 25th. Ohioans were instrumental in the United States to recognize Slovenia's independence from communism.

Commissioner Hamercheck gave an update on NOACA stating that Lake County will be the beneficiary of some exciting projects. State Route 44 and Jackson Street has been placed back on the list and the County looks forward to once again becoming a partner with the City of Painesville.

He added that Lake County also continues to enjoy a strong working relationship with the Governor's Office.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Commissioner Hamercheck asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board. Brian Massie of 8196 Rainbow Drive, Concord. Mr. Massie reviewed several Ohio Revised Codes and the surplus and unclaimed funds account in Lake County. He gave a detailed report on their balances. Mr. Massie offered to assist the County in locating the rightful owners of the monies being held. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that his comments and offer will be directed to Budget Director Michael Matas and the Prosecutor's Office. Assistant Prosecutor, Mr. David Hackman, stated that his understanding is that the Treasurers office always attempts to return the funds to the taxpayers.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the Board convened an Executive Session at 11: 03 a.m. to discuss Personnel-Collective Bargaining and Personnel-Employment with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Young, Plecnik and Hamercheck "NAYS": None

The Lake County Board of Commissioners adjourned to Executive Session at 12:06 p.m.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik, the Board adjourned the meeting at 12:06 p.m. with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None

Minutes approved this twenty-sixth day of August, 2021.

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, PRESIDENT

RON YOUNG, COMMISSIONER

JOHN PLECNIK, COMMISSIONER

JENNIFER BELL, CLERK