

AUGUST 13, 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 2020-0813)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Hamercheck called the Meeting to order at 10:28 a.m. Thursday, August 13, 2020.

ROLL CALL: Upon roll being called, Commissioners Cirino, Young and Hamercheck were present. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that Commissioner Young is joining by telephone which is fully compliant with the COVID-19 regulations that the County is currently operating under.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Commissioner Hamercheck asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board. Mr. David Lima of 7770 Litchfield in Mentor, read a prepared statement in response to the Board's passage of the August 6th resolution memorializing the motto "With God All Things are Possible" on display in the Commissioners Chambers. Mr. Lima explained his procedural concerns of presenting a resolution not previously on the agenda under new business prohibits the public from offering their thoughts and opinions. He asked that the Board adopt a rule prohibiting this type of action. He stated that the motto is not inclusive of all citizen's beliefs and he feels that there is no way to take the religious meaning out of it. Commissioner Young responded by stating that the motto lends hope to individuals, is suitable to anyone regardless of creed or belief and feels it lifts the spirits of many. He stated that it has been tested many times in Court and found to be constitutional.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. RESOLUTION ADJUSTING APPROPRIATIONS IN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES WATER AND SEWER OPERATING FUNDS EQUIPMENT ACCOUNTS 50000811-812 AND 51000811-812 (20200813\U01)(UT-2)

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.

2. RESOLUTION AWARDED A BID CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$235,970.00 TO WOODFORD EXCAVATING FOR LAKE COUNTY SOLID WASTE FACILITY SOUTH ACCESS ROAD PROJECT 421-L(20200813\U02)(UT-4)

On a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Young. Director of Operations, Mr. Gary Fedak, explained that this is one of many projects regarding the expansion of the solid waste landfill. He stated that 8 bids were received and Woodford Excavating's bid came in 10% under the engineers estimate. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

3. RESOLUTION APPROVING LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES VOUCHERS DATE OF WARRANT AUGUST 21, 2020 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$447,312.10 (20200813\JFS01)(JFS-14)

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.

4. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH IMAGESOFT, INC. FOR A SOFTWARE PROGRAM FOR FOUR JUDGES IN THE LAKE COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS AND ONE JUDGE IN THE DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURT (20200813\C01)(CT-27)

On a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Young. Mr. Boyd explained that this software program is being funded by the Clerk of Court, Ms. Maureen Kelly's office. He stated that this program will allow the Judges and staff to work within the clerk's eFile system. 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 \$1,811,519.02 (20200813\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 \$403,147.75(20200813\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.

7. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20200813\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.

8. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS(20200813\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.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:UTILITIES – none.JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – none.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – Mr. Jason Boyd reported that the County's Loan/Grant Program is going very well. To date, there have been 48 grants totaling \$227,000 and 7 loans totaling \$170,000. The Board (which consists of Tim Cahill, Amy Sabath and Bob Dawson) continues to meet on a weekly basis and they are seeing an increase in loan requests. He stated that there is still capacity for more applications as approximately \$400,000 of the \$700,000 has been distributed. Commissioner Cirino confirmed that there is \$300,000 still available for businesses throughout the County.

FINANCE – none.

CLERK – Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the next regular Commissioners Meeting will be Thursday, August 20, 2020 at 10:00 am. She also mentioned that there are terms expiring on the Senior Advisory Board and on the Port Authority Board. More information can be found on the Commissioners website.

LEGAL – none.OLD BUSINESS: - none.

NEW BUSINESS: - Commissioner Hamercheck wanted to acknowledge the hard work of the Lake County General Health District and the Superintendents of Lake and Geauga Counties. He has been involved as an observer in meetings with them and stated that the discussions they have had have been productive and candid. He stated that they have had to do much adjusting and adapting. He also praised the businesses and manufacturing companies as well as the citizens of Lake County for taking this matter seriously.

Commissioner Cirino commented on House Bill 6, stating that he had the opportunity to virtually meet with the elected officials in the 3 political subdivisions that would be directly impacted if Perry Nuclear Power Plant were to close. He stated that the Board of Commissioners are going to take a proactive approach by not recommending the repeal of HB6 without some sort of a replacement bill. Commissioner Cirino explained that everyone must take a sobering look at HB6 and he gave some background of how and why the bill began and the two perspectives of an energy policy. He discussed the impact of a closure, stating that there are 700 direct employees of the Perry Power Plant and an additional 1,200 working at the plant in various other capacities. The loss of taxes paid by the nuclear plants for schools and various levies would be devastating. He explained that while the process has been tainted by the accusations and allegations of Householder and others that does not automatically render the policies of HB6 inherent to be irrelevant. It was a good policy a year ago and is still a good policy today. He stressed that there cannot be a straight repeal but that there must be a repeal and replacement bill. Commissioner Cirino added that is this Board's job as elected officials to stand up for the community and its economy. He stated that he has heard people say that this bill is a bailout. His response, as an example, is that when General Motors closed their Lordstown location the building could be repurposed and become viable again. That cannot happen should either of the Ohio nuclear facilities close as they cannot be used for any other purpose. Commissioner Young stated that the bill was tainted but if it is thrown away without another on the books, which would be catastrophic. Commissioner Hamercheck encouraged everyone to look at the big picture. He added that we are a part of the Northeast Ohio Area Wide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) whose primary mission is air quality in transportation. He stated that it had been reported by the EPA that Lake and Geauga Counties were pulling down the air quality standard not only for these counties but also for Cuyahoga, Lorain and Medina. This does not mean we are the source of the emissions that have seemed to have settled over Lake County. Perry is the single largest source of clean energy in the State of Ohio.

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

Mr. David Lima of 7770 Litchfield in Mentor, spoke of House Bill 6, and feels that there will be a replacement bill. He hopes that there will be the reinstatement of renewable standards in the State of Ohio and funding for coal power plants. Commissioner Cirino addressed Mr. Lima stating that Lake County has had the cleanest air over the past couple years than it has had in many years. Commissioner Cirino stated for the record that he has never gotten involved in this issue on behalf of First Energy. He has always been focused on doing what is best for our community and not watching a plant close down and unemployment ensue. There are things that are going to have to change, like the economic formula that is used for the clean energy credits that will likely cost them something, but as of yet, we don't know what those numbers will look like. It will be a different bill and at the end of the day the bill that is passed has to be something that will keep Davis-Besse and Perry operating for the foreseeable future. Commissioner Hamercheck spoke of the renewable side of energy explaining the many issues that LEEDCo has faced trying to get the first wind project built in Lake Erie. Most recently was from the Ohio Power Siting Board. They inserted a poison pill into its approval of the wind turbine project that makes the project financially untenable by requiring it to shut down at night. Commissioner Cirino added that Lake County must come together as a community to support a replacement bill to HB6.

Ms. Lois Osborne of 334 South St. Clair Street, Painesville, spoke of House Bill 6 and Perry. She discussed her understanding of the bill and that it should be repealed and not replaced until January (2021). She offered her opinions on several items Commissioner Cirino and Commissioner Hamercheck discussed earlier. Commissioner Hamercheck clarified for Ms. Osborne the restrictions of the Ohio Power Siting Board that would set the LEEDCo project up for failure. Commissioner Young agreed with Commissioner Cirino in that if they repeal now, the issue will die, Perry plant will die, jobs will die, and air quality in Lake County will go down. They should wait until next

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year. Ms. Osborne asked Commissioner Hamercheck to clarify his statement regarding solar energy. Commissioner Hamercheck explained that there is an effort on behalf of CCAO regarding the proposal for a commercial solar farm and the issues that they are facing.

The Board and Ms. Osborne discussed further details of HB6 and the savings that would be seen in consumer electric bills. She also offered her opinions on the Perry Nuclear Power Plant and the State motto.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Young, the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m. with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

Minutes approved this third day of September, 2020.

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, PRESIDENT

RON YOUNG, VICE PRESIDENT

JERRY C. CIRINO, COMMISSIONER

JENNIFER BELL, CLERK