

APRIL 29, 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

(Tape 2021-0429)

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

Thursday, April 29, 2021.

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Commissioner Hamercheck asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board.

Lake County Extension Office Program Assistant, Beth Bollas, explained that, as part of "Clean and Green Lake County", the Lake County Board of Commissioners, in cooperation with the OSU Extension Office, hosts an annual poster contest and this year, 836 students from 17 schools in Lake County entered the contest. The winning poster will be the symbol for the 2021 "Clean and Green" Program.

Commissioner Hamercheck congratulated and welcomed the students who won the "Clean and Green Lake County!" logo contest. The winners included Elementary School and Overall Winner, Julia Franz, Grade 4, from South Elementary School, Middle School Winner Jessica Gajendran, Grade 8, from Willoughby Middle School, and High School Winner, Erin Panchula, Grade 12, of Eastlake North High School.

Board of Elections Director, Mr. Ross McDonald, Deputy Director, Ms. Jan Clair, and Chairman of the Board of Elections, Mr. Dale Fellows, were present to give a brief presentation of the new voting machines. Mr. McDonald explained that the current voting system is over 16 years old and how it has well exceeded its useful life expectancy as they were told at the time of purchase, the machines had a life expectancy of approximately 10 years. With it becoming increasingly more difficult to find replacement parts, they began evaluating new systems back in 2018. A mock election was held and the voters were asked, at that time, to indicate which machine they preferred. The results unanimously indicated that the touchscreen interface was most desirable; a system that would allow users to make their selections via the touchscreen while producing a tangible, paper ballot. In 2020, negotiations began and proposals were obtained. He discussed some advancements in cyber security and the comfort level they have with the vendor; Election Systems & Software whose equipment is made in the USA. The new ADA compliant machines, known as the ExpressVote, produce a paper ballot once the selections have been finalized. The user can then again confirm their choices and once satisfied, insert the paper ballot into a scanner known as the DS200 where the ballot is counted and securely stored. Ms. Clair and Mr. Fellows emphasized that the number one priority has always been election integrity and these new machines accomplish that. Mr. McDonald then provided a demonstration of the machines.

Betsy Phillips of Kirtland asked a few questions regarding the state's procurement requirements and voiced some concerns she has with choosing this particular vendor.

Brian Massie of 8196 Rainbow Drive in Concord Twp. asked some questions about wireless connections and how the data gets from the county to the state.

David Lima of 7774 Litchfield Drive in Mentor referred to an article he recently read published by the Vera Institute which presented arguments for and against construction of new jails. He provided his statements to the Clerk and would email the Vera Institute article to the Board for their review.

Jason Boyd, County Administrator, read the following public comment from Daria Morgendorffer:

"Questions for the Board of Lake County Commissioner. Please feel free to answer individually or collectively.

Commissioner Hamercheck—

Regarding the comprehensive building study for the current jail that was referenced at the April 22, 2021 commissioner meeting, can you please confirm that this is the same comprehensive building study that the Board of Commissioners were discussing at previous meetings over a year and a half ago?

Commissioner Young—At the April 22, 2021 commissioner meeting you called for a comprehensive building study to be performed on the current jail. Did you simply forget that a comprehensive building study had already been commissioned and completed, or did you as vice president of the Board of Commissioners with Jerry Cirino as president of the Board of Commissioners waste time and taxpayer dollars on a study that today you consider to be of no value?

The board appears to be trying to inform the public that there is a need for a facility improvement at the current jail or a complete replacement. Are these discussions a part of an ongoing process, and if so can you please give an outline of what the process is that is being followed?

If the Board proceeds with a facility improvement at the current jail or a complete replacement, given the County's current revenues where is the funding for the project going to come from? Commissioner Hamercheck has already indicated that at least he "has no appetite for a new tax levy" and Commissioner Young appears to have no interest in any increased funding."-Daria Morgendorffer

Commissioner Young explained that, while he understands the need to do something about the jail, he is not in favor of a tax increase at this time. He added that this is a critical decision and believes we need some more time to deliberate.

Sheriff Frank Leonbruno reminded everyone that (2) independent studies were done back in 2012/2013 indicating the jail is at the end of its mechanical life and no longer able to support an expanding inmate population. A more recent 2019 study found the same to be true. The cost to remodel would be about 20-25 million dollars in order to bring it to current standards. That would provide 353 beds but they are currently averaging 365 inmates a day.

The Board debated the pros and cons of building a new jail.

Mr. Lima stated that overcrowding is the main driver of jail populations and it appears we may be faced with that. We need a change in the policies/practices of the criminal justice system. If the system doesn't change, then the overcrowding persists. He endorses the idea of further discussion and investigation.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR THE LAKE COUNTY ENGINEER'S ROAD DEPARTMENT SALT – 2021, LCE PROJECT NO. 2021-004 (BID OPENING: MAY 19, 2021)(20210429\E01)(E-2)

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

2. RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES OF COST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,119,883.00 FOR ADAMS COURT, INDUSTRIAL PARK AND MELRIDGE PUMP STATION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT NO 415-S, AND ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR SAME (BID OPENING JUNE 2, 2021)(20210429\U01) (UT-2)

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Sanitary Engineer, Mr. Randy Rothlisberger, explained that these are between roughly 50-60 years old and beyond their useful life which is why they are on the agenda today. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Young, Plecnik and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

3. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERRING CASH WITHIN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES WATER OPERATING FUND AND PROJECT FUND 595, MANTLE ROAD WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT 407-W (20210429\U02)(UT-8)

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik.

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

4. RESOLUTION APPROVING LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES VOUCHERS DATE OF WARRANT MAY 7, 2021, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$94,875.57(20210429\JFS01)(JFS-14)

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

5. RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE REVISED LAKE COUNTY FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION REGULATIONS FOR THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LAKE COUNTY, OHIO FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM (20210429\C01)(C-66)(504-C)

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Jason Boyd, County Administrator, explained that this is the final step in order to be in conformance. No public comments have been received so we are ready to go. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Young, Plecnik and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

6. RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,752,124.78(20210429\BC01)(C-4)

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

7. RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,017,726.30(20210429\BC02)(C-17)

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

8. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20210429\BC03)(C-111) (PG-177)

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

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9. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING AN APPROPRIATION WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20210429\BC04)(C-111) (PG-177)

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

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

UTILITIES – Randy reminded everyone that they will be having a Tire Collection this Saturday at the Lake County Fairgrounds.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – none.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – Mr. Boyd stated that he is in receipt of some upcoming vaccine clinic dates and we are now migrating from the Mega-Pods to smaller, remote opportunities and as always, he reminded everyone to visit the Health District’s website (www.lcghd.org) for the most current information on how to register for those. He commended Lake County for being one of the top vaccinating counties in the State. Mr. Matas, County Budget Director, sent out the preliminary 2022 budgets to all elected officials and departments.

FINANCE – none.

CLERK – Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that there will not be a meeting next week and that the next Commissioners Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: - Commissioners Hamercheck and Plecnik discussed the wages of Correctional Officers for our jail vs other correctional facilities. They will have the Clerk obtain information regarding the pay scale so if the public has questions, that information will be available.

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Hamercheck hinted that there will be a joint project coming up that has been a long time in the making between the Public Defender, Clerk of Courts, and the Board of Commissioners. An official announcement will be forthcoming.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Commissioner Hamercheck asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board. No one present wished to address the Board at this time.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik, the Board adjourned the meeting at 1:39 p.m. with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Young, Plecnik and Hamercheck "NAYS": None

Minutes approved this second day of September, 2021.

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, PRESIDENT

RON YOUNG, COMMISSIONER

JOHN PLECNIK, COMMISSIONER

JENNIFER BELL, CLERK