

MAY 20, 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 2021-0520)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Hamercheck called the Meeting to order at 2:05 p.m., Thursday, May 20, 2021.

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Commissioner Hamercheck introduced Mr. Peter Zahirsky from the Lake County Port and Economic Development Authority and congratulated him on his new position with Team NEO. The Board presented him with a special certificate for his service to the Port Authority. His diligence and experience have greatly benefitted the citizens of Lake County and its communities. Mr. Zahirsky thanked the Board and the staff of the Port Authority. He is excited for Mr. Patrick Mohorcic to take over his duties as Director of Coastal Management. Commissioner Plecnik was pleased to honor him today as he taught Peter at the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. He added how rewarding it is to witness the success of his students. Commissioner Plecnik discussed working with Mr. Zahirsky while he was a Willoughby Hills Councilman and the challenges they faced and overcame when they brought Produce Packaging Inc. to Willoughby Hills.

RESOLUTIONS:

ITEMS #19 THROUGH #28 WERE MOVED TO THE BEGINNING OF THE AGENDA:

**19. RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF HEALTH COMMISSIONER RON GRAHAM'S LEADERSHIP (20210520\F01)(C-126)**

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.

**20. RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF WICKLIFFE FIRE CHIEF JIM POWERS AND ACKNOWLEDGING HIS EXTRAORDINARY CONTINUED EFFORTS AND DEDICATION TO THE LAKE COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT'S VACCINE CLINICS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 (20210520\F02)(C-126)**

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

**21. RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF CHRISTY ARMSTRONG FOR HER EXTRAORDINARY CONTINUED EFFORT AND DEDICATION AS PART OF THE LAKE COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT'S VACCINE CLINICS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 (20210520\F03)(C-126)**

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

**22. RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MACKENZI DIPERNA FOR HER EXTRAORDINARY CONTINUED EFFORT AND DEDICATION AS PART OF THE LAKE COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT'S VACCINE CLINICS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 (20210520\F04)(C-126)**

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

**23. RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF ARIELLE HILLIARD FOR HER EXTRAORDINARY CONTINUED EFFORT AND DEDICATION AS PART OF THE LAKE COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT'S VACCINE CLINICS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 (20210520\F05)(C-126)**

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

**24. RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF BERT MECHEMBIER FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS AT LAKE COUNTY VACCINE CLINICS IN RESPONSE TO COVID (20210520\F06)(C-126)**

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.

**25. RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF CADY STROMP FOR HER EXTRAORDINARY CONTINUED EFFORT AND DEDICATION AS PART OF THE LAKE COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT'S VACCINE CLINICS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 (20210520\F07)(C-126)**

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

**26. RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF CAROL TACKETT FOR HER EXTRAORDINARY CONTINUED EFFORT AND DEDICATION AS PART OF THE LAKE COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT'S VACCINE CLINICS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 (20210520\F08)(C-126)**

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

**27. RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF LCGHD, MRC, AND COUNTY VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS AT LAKE COUNTY VACCINE CLINICS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 (20210520\F09)(C-126)**

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.

**28. RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF FIRST RESPONDER CONTRIBUTIONS AT LAKE COUNTY VACCINE CLINICS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 (20210520\F10)(C-126)**

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

The Board thanked Commissioner Graham for his leadership, his staff for their dedication, and the countless other first responders, medical professionals, and volunteers for all their hard work. Commissioner Graham also thanked everyone for their assistance and added it would require a full page ad in the News-Herald in order to list all the names. He introduced Dyan Denmeade as their new Nursing Director. Since she started in March, they have administered approximately 20,000 vaccinations in roughly 6 weeks. She acknowledged how many people were involved as well. Mayor of Eastlake and President of Mayors and Managers, Dennis Morley, paid homage to the truly bi-partisan effort of all involved during this pandemic. He said Commissioner Graham has always had the cities backs and they all have his back.

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

David Lima of 7774 Litchfield Drive in Mentor discussed potential bail reform in light of newly introduced companion bills in the Ohio House and Senate.

Brian Massie of 8196 Rainbow Drive in Concord had some concerns regarding the cost of the new voting equipment and disposal procedures of the old. He heard there may be an additional \$400,000 in expenditures. Commissioner Hamercheck explained that there may be a purchase of kiosks to house the equipment in the amount of \$406,000 but they will know more about that in June. There may also be a \$70,000 annual maintenance fee to perform hardware/software updates, etc. Commissioner Plecnik added that, in regards to maintenance fees, this is something the BOE has already been doing on our voting equipment but there's the possibility that the new maintenance fee may actually end up being lower than what we have previously been paying. The BOE should have firmer numbers in June. Mr. Massie also mentioned he submitted a public records request to the Treasurer's Office asking who owns \$359 million dollars, specifically, what entity has what amount. He received an investment report.

David Hackman, Assistant Prosecutor, explained that there are no individuals as well as non-profits in the investment pool if that was the information Mr. Massie was looking for. Much of the \$359 million is for organizations like Deepwood, ADAMHS Board, etc. Mr. Massie said he was interested in a listing of all of them with the corresponding dollar amount for each. Mr. Hackman said he would be happy to set up a discussion with Mr. Massie to better determine exactly what information he is looking for. Mr. Massie then expressed how he contacted the Concord Township Trustees regarding the Visitors Bureau to see if they would lend their support to defund them. He believes that if an entity is in receipt of taxpayer's dollars, they should be transparent about how that money is spent, subject to Ohio Sunshine laws regarding public meetings, and obligated to respond to public records requests. Commissioner Hamercheck said that, once the Visitors Bureau looked at the Board of Commissioners applicants not as appointments but simply recommendations, there were some spirited discussions but he has since spoken to Neil Stein, the Executive Director, and Amy Sabath, the Board President, and they had a very candid and productive conversation. They agreed to expand their Board and he believes they are executing a plan to be more open. Mr. Hackman added that, as a matter of law, this Board cannot defund the Visitors Bureau as this is a statute issue. The county is obligated to turn money over to them as long as a bed tax is in place. Mr. Massie asked if the BOC could fold the Visitors Bureau into another government body or office so they would then be accountable to Sunshine laws, public records requests, etc. Mr. Hackman responded that he would have to do some research on that but, at this time, this Board cannot compel the Visitors Bureau to do anything as they are not considered a public body; they are a non-profit organization.

Faith Andrews, Clerk of Courts, mentioned that, when she came on, their grant writing was outsourced. She believed they had some very qualified people within who were capable of doing this so they applied for a technology grant with Judge Lucci as a sponsor. She is pleased to report that the \$44,000 grant was approved and it will be used to continue their mission of access to justice for Lake County residents.

David Lima of 7774 Litchfield Drive in Mentor wanted to clarify that the American Rescue Plan was enacted to mitigate the results of the COVID pandemic and that is what is bringing \$44 million dollars to Lake County. The infrastructure plan has not yet been passed by Congress. These are 2 separate plans.

**1. RESOLUTION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE BATES ROAD & COUNTY LINE ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT, MADISON TOWNSHIP, OHIO, BATES ROAD OPWC NO. TBD, COUNTY LINE ROAD OPWC NO. TBD, LCE PROJECT NO. 2020-012(Bid Opening June 9, 2021)(20210520\E01)(E-2)**

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Young. County Engineer, Mr. Jim Gills, explained that this is Phase 1 of 2 and will be a complete reconstruction of County Line and Bates Roads. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

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**2. RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS AND SPECIFICATION FOR QUAIL HOLLOW #10 SUBDIVISION PHASE 2, CONCORD TOWNSHIP(20210520\E02)(SD-433)**

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Young. Joseph Rose, Planner I from the Planning and Community Development Department, stated that this is the final phase for this subdivision and all parties have reviewed and approved the details. Mr. Rose stated that this subdivision is east of Crile Road, and is a cul-de-sac with 8 sublots. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**3. RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES OF COST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$570,287.30 FOR SANITARY SEWERS FOR BROOKVIEW RESERVE-PHASE 1 SUBDIVISION IN THE CITY OF MENTOR (JOB NO. 21-07)(20210520\U01)(UT-9)**

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Sanitary Engineer, Mr. Rothlisberger stated that this is a new subdivision in the City of Mentor. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**4. RESOLUTION CERTIFYING UNPAID SEWER AND WATER SUMS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES TO THE LAKE COUNTY AUDITOR (20210520\U02)(UT-7)**

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

**5. RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES OF COST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$473,900.00 FOR SR 174- & 84 750,000-GALLON STANDPIPE TANK PAINTING PROJECT NO 436-W, AND ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR SAME (BID Opening June 16, 2021)(20210520\U03)(UT-8)**

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Mr. Rothlisberger stated that this is part of the 2021 Capital Improvement Plan. He explained that every other year they go out to bid for the painting of one of the seven tanks located throughout the County. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**6. RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES OF COST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,389,260.00 FOR LAKESHORE TRUNK SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT NO 438-S, AND ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR SAME (BID Opening June 16, 2021) (20210520\U04)(UT-8)**

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Young. Mr. Rothlisberger explained that this is Phase 1 of the rehabilitation project to replace and/or reinforce piping at the Mentor Wastewater Treatment Plant that is more than 35 years old. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**7. RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES OF COST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$39,096.20 FOR A WATERLINE FOR QUAIL HOLLOW #10 PHASE 2 SUBDIVISION IN CONCORD TOWNSHIP (JOB NO. 20-63)(20210520\U05)(SD-433)**

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

**8. RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES OF COST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$39,002.70 FOR A SANITARY SEWER MAIN FOR QUAIL HOLLOW #10 PHASE 2 SUBDIVISION IN CONCORD TOWNSHIP (JOB NO. 20-53)(20210520\U06)(SD-433)**

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

**9. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT AGREEMENT WITH R.W. SIDLEY INC. AND THE BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (20210520\U07)(UT-4)**

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Mr. Rothlisberger explained the original agreement was executed in 2005 but, due to poor economic conditions in 2008, the Sidley Company asked that the project be delayed. They would now like to proceed with the project, however costs have escalated and this amendment to the agreement is reflective of those increases. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**10. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 IN ORDER TO RECEIVE AND EXPEND FEDERAL FUNDS (20210520\C01)(C-107)**

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Young. Budget Director, Mr. Michael Matas, explained that this and the following resolution pertain to Federal funds. This resolution will allow him to enter the grant portal to accept the funds. The funds take four to five days to be transferred. Ms. Norman will do the same to accept the Emergency Rental Assistance Federal funds (item #11). Mr. Matas also spoke of the creation of 2 special accounts for these funds which are items #17 and #18 on the agenda. Commissioner Plecnik thanked Mr. Matas and Ms. Norman for the important work that they do. Ms. Norman had to apply for these funds in order to receive them. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**11. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 FOR EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE IN ORDER TO RECEIVE AND EXPEND FEDERAL FUNDS (20210520\C02)(C-107)**

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Young, Home Program Coordinator, Ms. Marian Norman, explained that the allocation total is \$5,436,069.90. She stated that these funds can be used to stabilize households in order to prevent evictions of households that are at or below 80% Area Median Income who have experienced a COVID-19 hardship. These funds may also be used to pay for rent that is in arrears, for current rent, or for future rent in 3-month increments, and also for utilities. Direct Assistance must use 90% of the budget fund and up to 10% may be used for Administration and Case Management. The Board thanked Ms. Norman for her hard work and the effort she has put forth. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**12. 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 \$34,987.97 FOR MARINE PATROL FOR THE YEAR 2021**

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Commissioner Hamercheck explained that this is an annual resolution allowing the Sheriff's Department to receive a grant from ODNR to assist with the Marine Patrol operations. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**13. RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$931,518.80(20210520\BC01)(C-4)**

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

**14. RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$371,135.38 (20210520\BC02)(C-17)**

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

**15. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20210520\BC03)(C-111)**

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

**16. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20210520\BC04)(C-111)**

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

**17. RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A FUND TO BE KNOWN AS AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (20210520\BC05)(C-111)**

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

**18. RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A FUND TO BE KNOWN AS EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM #2 (20210520\C06)(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.

ENGINEER: Mr. Gills provided a short status update of Madison Ave. in Painesville Township. He hinted at more news to come very shortly.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – none.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR –Mr. Boyd provided a COVID-19 update stating that Governor DeWine announced that he has asked the Ohio Department of Health to remove most pandemic health orders, including masks on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The County will begin to develop a policy according to the Governor's directives. He continued to encourage Lake County residents to check the Health District website ([www.lcghd.org](http://www.lcghd.org)) for the link to the ArmorVax website to download the app for scheduling a vaccine and added that there are many appointments available. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that he has received much positive feedback from schools and superintendents in the County about the Health District and, in particular, Health District Commissioner Graham. Commissioner Plecnik stated that he is thankful to serve on this Board as they take the lead on reopening the County in a strong and safe way. Commissioner Hamercheck thanked the people of Lake County who have worked so hard to achieve this goal. He thanked all of the volunteers in the County that assisted with the vaccination clinics so that we may enjoy the summer with family and friends. Commissioner Hamercheck gave special thanks to Mayors and Managers and Mayor Morley as they have been true partners throughout the pandemic.

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FINANCE – none.

CLERK – Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the next Commissioners Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 27, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: - none.

NEW BUSINESS: none.

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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik, the Board convened an Executive Session at 12:08 p.m. to discuss Real Estate- Acquisition with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Young, Plecnik and Hamercheck "NAYS": None

The Lake County Board of Commissioners adjourned to Executive Session at 12:10 p.m.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik, the Board adjourned the meeting at 12:46 p.m. with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Young, Plecnik and Hamercheck "NAYS": None

Minutes approved this sixteenth day of September, 2021.

**BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, PRESIDENT

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RON YOUNG, COMMISSIONER

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JOHN PLECNIK, COMMISSIONER

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JENNIFER BELL, CLERK