

AUGUST 26, 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 2021-0826)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Hamercheck called the Meeting to order at 10:06 a.m., Thursday, August 26, 2021.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik, the minutes of the Regular Meetings of June 17, 2021, June 24, 2021, July 22, 2021 and July 29, 2021 were approved with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

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

Treasurer-Elect Michael Zuren was sworn in by Lake County Prosecutor Charles Coulson. He was presented with a Certificate of Recognition by Commissioner Plecnik for his assistance with the "Free Kids Lunch" program which has provided over 23,000 lunches in Lake County as well as clothing and over 1,300 backpacks.

Perry Township Trustees, Bob Dawson, Rick Amos, and Nancy Steele were present in support of Agenda Item #8. Mr. Dawson said it will allow them to introduce regular patrols again that had previously been suspended for the last 10 years. He thanked the Board, Sheriff's Dept., and Clerk of Courts, Faith Andrews. Commissioner Plecnik stated how happy he is that Perry is the first township to take advantage of this grant. Commissioner Young added that nothing is more important than secure communities and they will be happy to know there will be an increased police presence and what a huge draw this is for people locating to Lake County. Ms. Andrews said she is happy to support Law Enforcement by fully funding these additional Deputies. She introduced Christine Raines, a supervisor at the Title Bureau, thanking her for her assistance and added how this would not have been possible without her help. Sheriff Leonbruno explained Perry is part of a larger, collaborative effort for the entire county. Proactive patrols are one of the most important things the Sheriff's Office can do by having professional people actively patrolling the streets and he is pleased to see our townships working together to combine resources.

James Gills, County Engineer, provided a slideshow presentation regarding the new facility that was built for salt storage. He showed photos of the old site, along with the new construction as it was in progress, and final completion photos. This new facility will hold approximately 4,000 tons of salt which may help communities if they get in a bind during a winter snow event. Materials can now be purchased directly which helps obtain better pricing by having the ability to buy in larger quantities. The Board thanked Mr. Gills for his work on this important project.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. RESOLUTION CERTIFYING THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES UNPAID SEWER SERVICE, WATER, AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES TO THE LAKE COUNTY AUDITOR (20210826\U01)(UT-7)

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 INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERRING CASH WITHIN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES SEWER OPERATING FUND AND PROJECT FUND 596, DEERFIELD RELIEF SEWER PROJECT 366-S (20210826\U02)(UT-2)

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

3. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATION IN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES WATER OPERATING FUND (20210826\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 INCREASING AND TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS IN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES WATER OPERATING FUND (20210826\U04)(UT-2)

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.

5. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN ENGINEERING AGREEMENT WITH CT CONSULTANTS INC. FOR THE RED CREEK SEWERAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT 280-S FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES (20210826\U05)(UT-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.

6. RESOLUTION REVISING THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE (20210826\C01)(C-107)

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.

7. RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING TIMOTHY C. BROTZMAN, IVAN VALENTIC AND RUDY VESELKO, III TO THE LAKE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION FOR TERMS EXPIRING AUGUST 14, 2024 (20210826\C02)(B-34)

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.

8. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON BEHALF OF THE LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND THE PERRY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR POLICE PROTECTION SERVICES (20210826\C03)(CT-10A)

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. The Board extended their appreciation again to all involved and commented on how expeditious the turnaround time was and within the county budget. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

9. RESOLUTION APPROVING THE "UNIFORM ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS" FOR THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 (20210826\C04)(C-107)

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 APPROVING THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 ADVISORY PANEL (20210826\C05)(B-107)

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.

11. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20210826\BC01)(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.

12. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20210826\BC02)(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.

13. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20210826\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.

14. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20210826\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 – Ms. Suzanne Casar, Director of Job and Family Services, notified the Board that the State is going to provide additional funds in order to administer the SNAP program which is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Due to the increase of work for school years 2021,2022, and 2023, these funds will help with an increase of staff or support overtime of current staff. JFS should receive additional information soon to explain exactly how the funds will be distributed.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – Jason Boyd stated that, in regards to ARP, the advisory panel will review project's eligibility, the accounting, etc. The Prosecutors Office will serve as legal counsel and he will serve as staff by presenting the projects and providing recommendations to the Commissioners who will decide which projects will be funded. He is working with CCAO on an RFQ to bring a legal expert on board to serve as a hotline if they run into a jam on a project and require some technical assistance, etc.

FINANCE – none.

CLERK –Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the next Commissioner's Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 2, 2021 with the time being changed from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. instead.

AUGUST 26, 2021

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: none.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Hamercheck commented that we are coming up to the renewal period for NOPEC so the Board will review if we should remain with them or not. They are still pending review of some NOPEC exhibits before reaching a decision. Commissioner Plecnik mentioned that he attended New Commissioners Training last week with Commissioner Hamercheck. It provided an opportunity to meet colleagues from all over the State.

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

John Muzik of 45 Coventry Drive in Painesville echoed everyone's thoughts regarding our Sheriffs Office and praised everyone involved as he believes there is nothing more important than police and fire protection. Next would be road maintenance so he thanked our Engineers Office for that as well. He wanted to inform the Board that Riverside High School is proposing a new campus for 2,600 students at an approximate cost of 36 million dollars and added that taxpayers can only do what they can afford in regards to tax levies.

Brian Massie on behalf of "Lobbyists For Citizens" asked David Hackman, Assistant Prosecutor, if anything has been done to date in regards to the 5.3 million dollars in overpayment of property taxes that are maintained by the Treasurers Office as he hopes the money can be returned to the taxpayers. Mr. Hackman replied that there is an ongoing effort to identify and locate these individuals in order for them to get a credit on a future tax bill. In regards to local government funds, if these are based on population, cities like Mentor and others in the western part of the county receive more money. He believes that is unjust as Concord Twp., for example, only gets \$6 per person. He would like to see a fairer distribution. If this is grandfathered in so the formula cannot be changed, any future monies should not be tied in to this formula as it dates back to the 1980's. Commissioner Hamercheck replied that the State of Ohio had to change the distribution of the CARES Act money because, based on the local government formula, it puts Lake County at a tremendous disadvantage. The legislature is aware of this and the Board has been researching it. Commissioner Young, to put things in perspective, mentioned Concord is at \$6.81 per person while some western municipalities like Wickliffe is at \$120 per person and Waite Hill is at \$246 per person. As a county, we are only at \$4.93 per person.

John Muzik wanted to give kudos to the County Engineer and his office on the Vrooman Rd bridge project. He understands it took a long time and there were many speedbumps along the way but they got the job done.

Commissioner Plecnik asked Mr. Hackman to restate the county's position regarding providing road patrols for the townships, etc. Mr. Hackman reiterated that, statutorily speaking, the Sheriff can only do what is granted to him by the statutes which set his responsibilities. The ORC requires that he maintain the peace, respond to emergency situations, etc., but there is nothing requiring him to provide road patrols 24/7 or detectives per se. It is just to preserve the peace and respond to emergencies. Commissioner Young added that typically townships don't do very well in regards to funding as they are often at the bottom of the barrel. They don't have an income tax for instance so things like this program are very important. Commissioner Plecnik replied that lower taxes are an advantage and reminded everyone that there is nothing preventing townships from incorporating and becoming cities but most recognize smaller government and lower taxes can be a benefit and has been a contributing factor to building their populations.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the Lake County Board of Commissioners adjourned to Executive Session at 11:15 a.m.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik, the Board adjourned the meeting at 11:51 a.m. with the vote as follows "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

Minutes approved this sixteenth day of September, 2021.

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, PRESIDENT

RON YOUNG, COMMISSIONER

JOHN PLECNIK, COMMISSIONER

JENNIFER BELL, CLERK