

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 2021-1007)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Hamercheck called the Meeting to order at 10:02 a.m., Thursday, October 7, 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.

Cory Vojack, Director of Workforce Development, introduced a new "Employer Spotlight Series" from OhioMeansJobs-Lake County called "On-Site with OhioMeansJobs" which will showcase Lake County businesses via short 3-4 minute video clips. Once a business is selected, they will receive a list of questions they will be asked during the shooting of the videos. The videos will be shared publicly on the OhioMeansJobs Lake County website and on social media. Mr. Vojack showed a short video clip of what people can expect. The Board commended Mr. Vojack and OMJ-LC on their efforts to highlight the great businesses our county has to offer.

John Muzik of 45 Coventry Drive in Painesville discussed the possibility of upcoming inflation which he believes could last through 2022. He asked if there has been any increase in benefits the last few months. Suzanne Casar, Director of Job and Family Services, said that they have seen an increase since the pandemic started and that still continues to this day for food assistance, etc.

Brian Massie of 8196 Rainbow Drive in Concord stated that he emailed David Hackman, Assistant Prosecutor, for an update in regards to his concerns about the Visitors Bureau. Mr. Hackman confirmed he received the email and said it is important to emphasize that the Visitors Bureau has a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS. As such, this Board has no authority over them so his questions may be better suited to the IRS or Visitors Bureau.

Michael Zuren, County Treasurer, thanked the Board for their support of the upcoming Town Hall meetings his office will be conducting. The first one will be held in Willowick at the end of October. Also, he wanted to remind Lake County property owners who are refinancing or buying and selling any real estate that they must notify the Treasurers' Office immediately. The Board commended Mr. Zuren and his staff for conducting the upcoming Town Hall meetings.

1. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE LAKE COUNTY ENGINEER TO ENTER INTO A LOCAL PUBLIC AGENT (LPA) AGREEMENT WITH THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION OF THE STATE OF OHIO FOR THE LAK-NEWELL STREET (CR 335) RESURFACING PROJECT (PID 112485); Federal Aid No. FAN E200(681); LCE Project No. 2020-011 (20211007\E01)(E-3)

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. James Gills, County Engineer, explained how this is a joint project with the County and the City of Painesville funded with federal funds out of NOACA (Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency). This resolution is required to receive the funds. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows "AYES": Commissioners: Young, Plecnik and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

2. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING AND INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS IN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES WATER OPERATING FUND (20211007\U01)(UT-2)

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

3. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR COLD WATER METERS FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES (Bid Opening: October 27, 2021)(20211007\U02)(UT-8)

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

4. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR THE OPERATION, MONITORING AND MAINTENANCE OF THE LAKE COUNTY SOLID WASTE FACILITY'S LANDFILL GAS COLLECTION AND CONTROL SYSTEM (Bid Opening: November 3, 2021)(20211007\U03)(UT-8)

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Gary Fedak, Director of Operations, explained that this is for service support (i.e. maintenance, etc.) for the Solid Waste Department (landfill). The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows "AYES": Commissioners: Young, Plecnik and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

5. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERRING CASH WITHIN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES WATER OPERATING FUND AND PROJECT FUND 595, TALL TREE BOOSTER STATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT 414-W (20211007\U04)(UT-2)

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

6. RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES OF COST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,602,300.00 FOR GLK WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY VFD REPLACEMENT PROJECT NO 440-S, AND ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR SAME (BID Opening November 3, 2021)(20211007\U05)(UT-8)

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Mr. Fedak stated that this resolution is a good example of the County investing in our wastewater treatment plants. This will be used for electrical improvements in an attempt to be proactive as some of the electrical components are approaching 20 years old or more. He described how they are beginning to experience some issues with finding parts so it is best to make this improvement sooner rather than later. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows "AYES": Commissioners: Young, Plecnik and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

7. RESOLUTION APPROVING FINAL ESTIMATE NO.5 (RELEASE OF RETAINAGE) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,134.47 WITH FABRIZI TRUCKING AND PAVING COMPANY, INC. AND ACCEPTING A THREE-YEAR MAINTENANCE BOND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$16,032.07 FOR SEVENTH STREET SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT 416-S FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES (20211007\U06)(UT-12)

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

8. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A THREE-YEAR MAINTENANCE BOND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,528.52 FOR SANITARY SEWERS AND \$13,279.30 FOR WATERLINES FOR HIDDEN VILLAGE PHASE 3 SUBDIVISION IN PERRY VILLAGE (JOB NOS. 20-06 AND 20-05)(20211007\U07)(SD-437)

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

9. RESOLUTION CERTIFYING UNPAID WATER AND SEWER SUMS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES TO THE LAKE COUNTY AUDITOR (20211007\U08)(U-7)

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

10. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A GRANT AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A 2020 CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENT FUNDING PROGRAM GRANT (SUB-GRANT #2020-CE-OTH-2361) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$146,557.88, BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON BEHALF OF THE LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND THE OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES (20211007\C01)(CT10A)

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Young. Commissioner Hamercheck explained this is a state reimbursement grant for the jail's medical and COVID-related expenses. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows "AYES": Commissioners: Young, Plecnik and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

11. RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$903,571.19 (20211007\BC01)(C-4)

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

12. RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$418,264.01 (20211007\BC02)(C-17)

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

13. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20211007\BC03)(C-111)

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

14. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CASH AND APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20211007\BC04)(C-111)

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

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

UTILITIES – Mr. Fedak showed slides of some equipment acquisitions the Utilities Department made as a result of the Volkswagen Diesel Grant including a 400,000-gallon transport vehicle, a sewer cleaning vehicle valued at around \$500,000, and a new dump truck with (3) more vehicles yet to come. He also explained how they are experiencing some difficulty in procuring certain chemicals. In the past, they had a 48 hour or so turnaround time; now, they could take as long as 10 weeks. They will obviously be planning much further ahead given this new timeline. The Board commended Mr. Fedak, Mr. Rothlisberger, and the Utilities Dept. on how clean and well-maintained everything is. They are also impressed how dedicated they have been in searching out the availability of grants ultimately helping to lower the tax burden for everyone.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – Ms. Casar reminded everyone that the OhioMeanJobs-Lake County Job Center is located right in JFS at 177 Main St. in Painesville. Job seekers can walk in Monday-Friday from 8-4:30 and someone will be available to assist them with questions from creating resumes/cover letters to tips on interviewing. For job seekers who meet certain criteria, there are even training dollars available in fields such as truck driving, nursing, IT, and manufacturing.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – No report from Jason Boyd this week. He is currently representing Lake County in ongoing opioid litigation.

FINANCE – none.

CLERK –Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the next Commissioner’s Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. County Offices will be closed on Monday, October 11th, 2021 in observance of Columbus Day.

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: Commissioner Hamercheck stated that Mr. Boyd and the Sheriffs’ Office resent the road patrol contracts to Painesville Township. They clarified some questions they had regarding those and reminded them of the deadline.

Commissioner Plecnik explained that the review of utility fees in regards to seniors is ongoing since the Board has the authority to grant them a discount. That said, in regards to this discount, a senior will be defined as 65 years of age or older and there will be some income and/or other qualifications that must be met. More to come on this.

NEW BUSINESS: - none.

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

Brian Massie of 8196 Rainbow Drive of Concord read from a prepared statement from Lobbyists for Citizens regarding voter and election fraud and how they did not find any proof of that in Lake County. The Board thanked him for his time, research, and passion in regards to this issue. Commissioner Hamercheck reiterated the paragraph where Mr. Massie and his team concluded there has been no voter fraud in Lake County. The Board echoed his opinion on everyone’s right to vote and how we should not take that for granted. Commissioner Plecnik indicated how grateful he is for the partnership the Board has had with the BOE in relationship to the new voting machines and the integrity of our elections.

David Lima of 7774 Litchfield Drive in Mentor echoed and amplified Mr. Massie’s comments in regards to voting and the election process. He stated that, out of 5.9 million votes cast in Ohio in 2020, Ohio Secretary of State, Frank LaRose, referred 13 votes/voters for consideration of prosecution which is only .000002%. He added that, while there may be voter fraud, it is so rare that we should all feel confident in our voting process.

John Muzik of 45 Coventry Drive in Painesville thanked the Board of Elections by explaining that he has worked for them in the past and, internally speaking, he can verify that they do a really great job. He also commended the Sheriff and law enforcement by emphasizing how important safety and protection of the people is.

Ross McDonald, Director of the Board of Elections, thanked Mr. Massie for his continued support of the BOE and also thanked Mr. Muzik and Mr. Lima for their praise. He agreed with Mr. Muzik that the best way to learn about the election process is working as a poll worker or a Precinct Election Official. The top priority of the BOE is election integrity and they undergo very painstaking procedures to ensure this on a daily basis. That said, they are continuing to work on educating the public on our voting process. He reminded everyone that early voting has started and, so far, they have received very positive feedback on the new equipment. Early voting hours are listed on the website at lakecountyohio.gov/boe and you can call (440) 350-2700 to express an interest in working for the election.

Dante Lewis, Deputy Director of the Board of Elections, added how fortunate the BOE is to have the greatest staff out of all 88 counties in Ohio and he also thanked Mr. Massie for recognizing this.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik, the Board adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m. with the vote as follows "AYES": Commissioners: Young, Plecnik and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

Minutes approved this twenty-first day of October, 2021.

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, PRESIDENT

RON YOUNG, COMMISSIONER

JOHN PLECNIK, COMMISSIONER

JENNIFER BELL, CLERK