

OCTOBER 12, 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 2021-1012)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Hamercheck called the Meeting to order at 10:04 a.m., Tuesday, October 12, 2021.

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

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

Brian Massie of 8196 Rainbow Drive in Concord stated he was made aware some Lakeland representatives approached the Board asking for endorsement of their upcoming levy. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that, as a Lakeland alumni and having many family and friends that are alumni, he knows firsthand what a quality education Lakeland provides and he feels an obligation to support them. Commissioner Plecnik stated that, while he supports Lakeland's mission to provide a quality yet affordable education, he doesn't feel it would be appropriate for him to endorse this levy since he received his seat on this Board solely as an appointment by the Lake County Republican Party Central Committee; not as a result of winning an election. He is restricting his endorsements for this election cycle to candidates and issues that the party has chosen to endorse. Commissioner Young stated that he has not endorsed the levy as of yet. Although he has worked closely with Lakeland over the years and has a lot of respect for the organization, their revenue is in flux right now and he has a real concern with property taxes so he is still weighing his support at this time.

John Muzik of 45 Coventry Drive in Painesville agreed with Commissioner Young's property tax concerns and wondered if our tax dollars might be better spent with regards to seniors. He himself is a senior on a fixed income and he believes inflation is going to hit seniors hard. We need to get back to smaller government, not larger. Also, any organization receiving tax dollars should be completely transparent, accountable, etc.

Lorin Kinkaid-Kolek of Painesville Township stated that she agrees with Mr. Muzik. There is not enough accountability and the Sheriffs Office is under-funded. She had a concern regarding an incident on her property in which someone hit one of her trees and the OSHP (Ohio State Highway Patrol) came out to take the report; not the Sheriffs Dept. She lives in a neighborhood with many vulnerable seniors and she believes their need for more security must be addressed. Commissioner Plecnik asked David Hackman, Assistant Prosecutor, to clarify the Board's obligation with respect to this issue since the Painesville Twp. Trustees have initiated this debate. Mr. Hackman explained that, as a matter of law, the Sheriff has a duty, statutorily, to maintain peace throughout the county. That said, the Sheriff is not required to patrol the county. The townships have the ability to contract for police services if they so choose. Commissioner Plecnik further explained that, while 9-1-1 calls are the responsibility of the Sheriffs Dept., this is in regards to actual emergencies. Not all 9-1-1 calls are true emergencies.

Sheriff Leonbruno clarified that "keeping the peace" does not constitute routine road patrol. While the Sheriff's Office responds to emergencies, they are not required to perform routine traffic stops, safety checks of businesses, etc. The Commissioners are currently funding approximately (12) deputies and (5) detectives to investigate serious crimes at a cost of around \$5-6 million dollars. In comparison, Painesville and Concord Townships are paying for (1) police officer each to patrol their communities at a cost of around \$800,000 each so the difference is quite substantial.

Commissioner Young reminded everyone that the Board offered the townships an opportunity to participate in a local "COPS" grant program that would help with funding for additional officers by providing a second deputy for every deputy added to current policing contracts.

Sheriff Leonbruno explained that, under the current contract, Painesville Township is paying for approximately (6) deputies and Concord Township is paying for (7). Perry and Leroy Townships had none. In an ideal world, the Sheriff recommends (12) each for Painesville and Concord Townships and believes Perry could use (6) deputies and Leroy possibly (2). He said this new grant would pay for additional deputies for (4) years then the townships would need to pick up the tab after that.

Ms. Kinkaid-Kolek added that she is aware Painesville Township rejected the grant offer but is disappointed the Board did not provide a counter offer. She asked why the Board is unwilling to work with the township as they have a responsibility to negotiate.

Commissioner Hamercheck clarified the Board's position regarding Painesville Township and this grant offer.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERRING CASH FROM LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES PROJECT FUND 595 TO THE WATER OPERATING FUND (20211012\U01)(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.

2. RESOLUTION APPROVING FINAL ESTIMATE NO.6 (RELEASE OF RETAINAGE) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$39,021.96 WITH TRAX CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. AND ACCEPTING A THREE-YEAR MAINTENANCE BOND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$95,915.33 FOR ERIE STREET WATERLINE REPLACEMENT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT 413-W FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES (20211012\U02)(UT-12)

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Young. Randy Rothlisberger, Sanitary Engineer, explained this was a project on Erie St. in downtown Willoughby and this resolution will close out the project. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

3. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND THE COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA, LOCAL 4340, EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2023 (20211012\C01)(301A)

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 APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,118,019.10 (20211012\BC01)(C-4)

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 APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$150,583.38 (20211012\BC02)(C-17)

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 INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20211012\BC03)(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.

7. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CASH AND APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20211012\BC04)(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.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

UTILITIES – Commissioner Plecnik asked Mr. Rothlisberger for an update on the possibility of senior discounts for utility bills. Mr. Rothlisberger explained that he has been working with the Prosecutor's Office on the language and he should have something soon for the Board's review.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – none.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – No report as Mr. Boyd is representing the county at the opioid litigation today.

FINANCE – none.

CLERK –Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the next Commissioner's Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 21, 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.

Brian Massie of 8196 Rainbow Drive complimented the Sheriffs Dept. regarding an issue in his area last week where some concerns he had were addressed promptly. He also mentioned that he spoke to Concord Trustees and believes there is a true unequal distribution of government funds. In regards to vaccine mandates, he believes that what happens in Europe is a foreshadowing of what will happen here. He asked the Board if they have received any political pressure regarding county employees in relation to this topic. The Board said they have not and reminded everyone that they have no legal authority regarding these mandates and, per the Constitution, it is each individual's right to accept or reject medical care.

John Muzik of 45 Coventry Drive in Painesville provided his opinion on vaccine mandates and also on the COPS grant. In asking Painesville Twp. for some budget details, he was told 95% of their budget goes to police/fire/roads.

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ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik, the Board adjourned the meeting at 12:29 p.m. with the vote as follows "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young 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 PLECNİK, COMMISSIONER

JENNIFER BELL, CLERK