

LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES

JERRY C. CIRINO, COMMISSIONER	JASON W. BOYD, ADMINISTRATOR
JOHN R HAMERCHECK, COMMISSIONER	LEGAL COUNSEL
DANIEL P. TROY, COMMISSIONER	MIKE MATAS, BUDGET DIRECTOR
JENNIFER BELL, CLERK	NEWS MEDIA

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(Tape 2017-0504)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Cirino called the Meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Thursday, May 4, 2017.

ROLL CALL: Upon the roll being called, all were present.

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

Lake County Prosecutor, Mr. Charles Coulson, was present and spoke to the Commissioners on the importance of the Lake County Crime Lab. Mr. Coulson stated that the Crime Lab is one of the most important crime fighting tools available to law enforcement. He explained that since the Crime Lab began in 1973, it has become an internationally accredited laboratory. The Crime Lab is facing a financial crisis due in part to the heavy case load, which is beginning to cause serious backlogs and a need for increased personnel. Mr. Coulson stated that the last levy on the ballot was back in 1999 and he discussed the current money brought in from the levy and what is needed to run the Crime Lab now. He firmly believes that there is a need for additional levy funding or there is a risk for substantial closures within the Crime Lab and explained in detail the current budget. Mr. Coulson asked the Commissioners to consider placing a 5/10 of a mill additional levy on the ballot this November. Commissioner Cirino asked what the workload was in 1999 and what inflation and operating costs are today. Mr. Coulson responded that the workload is very high and that the cost of equipment continues to increase. He did not have on hand operational costs or figures regarding inflation but said he could provide them. Commissioner Hamercheck asked for clarification on toxicology testing and if regional testing is more cost effective due to the fact that is a very specific field. Mr. Coulson responded that toxicology is a very difficult science and the Lake County Crime Lab can only perform toxicology for alcohol and drug screenings. The Lake County Crime Lab has one of only four toxicologists in the entire State of Ohio that can testify to the effects of drugs and alcohol on the body. He stated that the Crime Lab cannot perform toxicology testing for the Coroner as it is not cost effective and explained the differences between the Crime Lab testing and investigating versus the capabilities of BCI and he offered several scenarios. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that he has always supported the Crime Lab and offered accolades to the professional services performed by the staff. Commissioner Cirino asked what approach they would use to promote the levy. Mr. Coulson replied that a committee would be developed and there is not funding to promote the levy. They would need to depend on word of mouth in support of the levy, offer tours of the Crime Lab, and that scientists would speak to the public on the importance of the Crime Lab.

Commissioner Troy responded that he was a Commissioner in 1999 when the replacement levy was placed on the ballot. He also stated that approximately 65% – 70% of the County General Fund budget is now funding criminal justice system. He stated that Lake County is one of the few counties in the State that has a stand-alone Crime Lab and Narcotics Agency and the voters of Lake County have passed levy's to fund them. He stated that this request for additional levy money equates to a 226% increase in funding and he does not believe asking the voters to support this level of increase is in order at this time. Mr. Coulson stated the need for additional personnel due to several scientists retiring in the near future and he continued to explained the importance of the additional levy funding.

Mr. John Muzik of 45 Coventry Drive in Painesville Township, stated that the number one priority of Lake County Officials and the Board of Commissioners is to protect the citizens of Lake County. Mr. Muzik also discussed the many departments he has spoken with regarding their funding.

Commissioner Troy responded that he feels the citizens are well protected and he reiterated that 65% – 70% of the County General Fund budget funds the criminal justice system, and the Narcotics Agency and Crime Lab are additionally funded through levies passed by the voters of Lake County. He explained he would have an issue with any entity coming before the Board to request a 226% increase in funding. Commissioner Troy previously met with the Prosecutor and the Budget Director to discuss funding and various options of the Crime Lab. Commissioner Cirino stated he is not as concerned with the percentage of the increase but rather the job that needs to be done. Budget Director, Mr. Matas, stated he would provide a report to the Commissioners regarding the Crime Lab.

Mr. David Lima of 7774 Litchfield Drive in Mentor, and a representative of "Showing up for Racial Justice", spoke in detail about the possible loss of federal funding from the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security regarding any State, County, or City declaring themselves a Sanctuary entity. He asked what funds the County receives from the Department of Justice and/or the Department of Homeland Security and about the potential loss of those funds if the County were to declare themselves a Sanctuary entity. Commissioner Cirino responded that the Board would look into any correspondence that may have been received by the Prosecutors Office and provide him with the information at a later date. Commissioner Cirino added that the County has no intention of becoming a Sanctuary entity, therefore there is no risk to loss of funding. Commissioner Troy responded that the County does receive funds and a number of grants from the State. He explained that regarding the Sanctuary County status, there is no statutory authority in the Ohio Revised Code for a County government to make such a declaration, however municipalities can. Commissioner Troy stated that the City of Painesville is not a Sanctuary city and in 2008, passed a Resolution stating its intent to fully cooperate with the Federal Government with regards to immigration. Commissioner Cirino stated that a judge recently put a stay with regard to execution of withholding the funding. Budget Director, Mr. Michael Matas, stated that Mr. Lima could find a detailed listing of all funds received by the County on the Lake County Auditor's Department Website as well as the State Auditor's website. Commissioner Hamercheck clarified with Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Mr. David Hackman that the County is not now or has ever been a Sanctuary County and therefore at no risk of loss of funding. Mr. Hackman confirmed that Commissioner Hamercheck is correct and the County is not a Sanctuary County now nor has it been in the past.

Mr. Tom deHaas, of OSU Extension Office, was present and stated that the Lake County Nursery industry is booming right now. He thanked the Board for their support and updated them on several subjects including the Master Gardener Program, the helpline for gardening and pest questions and integrated pest management. Mr. deHaas explained that OSU co-facilitated a workshop with the wineries of Lake and Ashtabula Counties to explore the possibility of teaming up for a branding initiative. He stated that the Extension Office has had the opportunity to speak to 4 local schools to explain careers in the agriculture

industry. Commissioner Cirino suggested to Mr. deHaas and the winery owners that it might be a good idea to coordinate with the Lake and Ashtabula County Visitors Bureaus as they are looking into marketing the local wineries. Mr. deHaas stated that the wineries are in the early stages of their branding initiative and that might be something they would look into as they move forward. Commissioner Troy and Mr. deHaas discussed the pest issues within the County and what pests the wineries are expected to encounter.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES OF COST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$865,000.00 FOR AQUARIUS (WEST) WATER TREATMENT PLANT PAC SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT 378-W AND ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR SAME (BID OPENING: May 24, 2017) (20170504\U01)(UT-8)

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

2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADVERTISING TO SOLICIT PROPOSALS FOR MENTOR MARSH MITIGATION PROJECT 336-S FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES (Proposals due: May 19, 2017)(20170504\U02)(UT-8)

On a motion by Commissioner Troy, seconded by Commissioner Cirino. Commissioner Troy asked if this was for the sewer line replacement. Mr. Rothlisberger responded that this was a step toward the replacement and is part of the mitigation for the wetlands that were disturbed. Commissioner Troy asked if this was part of the replacement due to partial salt contamination that has existed within the marsh since approximately 1965 and deteriorated the sewer line. Mr. Rothlisberger stated that was correct. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Hamercheck, and Troy "NAYS": None

3. RESOLUTION TO DELETE A SEWER SUM CERTIFIED TO THE LAKE COUNTY AUDITOR (20170504\U03)(UT-7)

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

4. RESOLUTION APPROVING LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES VOUCHERS DATE OF WARRANT MAY 8, 2017, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$137,614.33(20170504\JFS01)(JFS-14)

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

5. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO ENTER INTO AND/OR RENEW COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WITH THE VARIOUS MUNICIPALITIES AND VILLAGES IN LAKE COUNTY FOR THE UTILIZATION OF FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1974, AS AMENDED (20170504\C01)(C-46)

On a motion by Commissioner Troy, seconded by Commissioner Cirino. CDBG Program Director, Ms. Rhea Benton, was present and explained that this agreement must be submitted to HUD every three years. Commissioner Troy stated that the indicators from Congress regarding CDBG funding appears to be at approximately 97% on average and proposed cuts to CDBG are not taking place at this point. Ms. Benton replied that the program funding for FY 2017 is about level and the concern will be for 2018 funding. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Hamercheck, and Troy "NAYS": None

6. RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,013,117.75(20170504\BC01)(C-4)

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

7. RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$576,310.98(20170504\BC02)(C-17)

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

8. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20170504\BC03)(C-111)

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

9. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20170504\BC04)(C-111)

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

10. RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MAY 2017 FOSTER PARENT RECOGNITION MONTH IN LAKE COUNTY, OHIO (20170504\F01)(C-126)

On a motion by Commissioner Troy, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. Job and Family Services Director, Mr. Matthew Battiato, thanked the Commissioners for their continued support and stated that every May is Foster Parent Recognition month. He introduced Mr. Gene Tetrick, supervisor of Job and Family Services Foster Care and Adoption Team. Mr. Tetrick stated that currently there are 38 licensed foster parents with an additional 7 people currently going through training. There are 89 children in the custody of Lake County and of those 89 children, 50% are thriving in family homes. This year's special event will be held at the Lake County Captain's Stadium on May 11th. Mr. Battiato invited all interested to join in this special evening. Commissioner Troy thanked all the individuals that have become foster parents and applauded the difference they make in the lives of these vulnerable children. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Hamercheck, and Troy "NAYS": None

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

UTILITIES – Public Service Coordinator, David Schick, reported that there was a 20% increase in this year's special computer collection, which was an all-time record of 673 vehicles served. He stated that there will be a scrap tire collection this Saturday, May 4th from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm and thanked the Commissioners for their continued support of these special collections.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – none.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – none.

FINANCE – none.

CLERK – none.

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: - Ms. Chamberlin asked if there was an update regarding the rejected bids for psychological services for the Juvenile Court. County Administrator, Mr. Boyd, responded that Mr. Simon, Administrator of the Juvenile Court, stated they are exploring in-house services and possibly an additional employee.

NEW BUSINESS: - Commissioner Troy updated the Board on the State’s Substitute Budget Bill, stating that in regards to the indigent defense funding, CCAO requested 100% reimbursement on Capital cases and 50% reimbursement on other cases and that the House met us half way and CCAO remains hopeful that the Senate will fund the remaining half. Commissioner Troy stated that the House passed the Substitute Budget Bill yesterday and the new revenue figures would be reported today. Commissioner Troy reported that he and two other Commissioners had an opportunity to testify in front of the Finance Committee on the need for assistance in funding for the new voting machine equipment. He explained that there is language in the budget bill that includes a \$1 million dollar appropriation for Counties that have already bought new machines. He stated that as of now, there is a 50/50 split for the replacement of the voting machines. Commissioner Troy reported that there would be an additional \$170 million allocated in the budget to address the opiate epidemic and that some of the funding would go toward children’s services. He updated the Board of the Medicaid Managed Care Sales Tax loss and said they will continue to keep an eye on the budget process and the impact on Lake County.

Commissioner Hamercheck stated that a personal friend of his, Mr. Craig Price, a talented drummer, was recently diagnosed with ALS. He explained that May is ALS awareness month and read a resolution declaring May as ALS awareness month in its entirety.

Commissioner Cirino stated that he hosted his second “Coffee and Conversation” with the Willoughby Western Lake County Chamber of Commerce and 8 business owners from western Lake County. Commissioner Cirino explained the business owners had an opportunity to offer their input on economic development and ideas. He stated he will also be meeting with some area realtors and lenders to discuss the decline in first-time home buyers and homeownership in general, and any other concerns that they have about Lake County. Commissioner Cirino reported he and Representative Ron Young met with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the sports fishermen of Ohio in Columbus regarding the perch yield. He explained the differences between sports fishermen and commercial fishermen and the economic impact the reduction of perch yield has had on Lake County.

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

Commissioner Cirino stated the next Regular Commissioners’ Meetings are scheduled for Thursday, May 11, 2017 at 10:00 A.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Personnel – collective bargaining

EXECUTIVE SESSION: On a motion Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the

Board convened an Executive Session at 11:17 a.m. to discuss Personnel – collective bargaining with the vote as follows:

"AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Hamercheck, and Troy "NAYS": None

The Lake County Board of Commissioners adjourned Executive Session at 11:20 a.m.

On a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the Board returned to open session at 11:27 a.m., with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Hamercheck, and Troy "NAYS": None

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the Board adjourned the meeting at 11:28 a.m., with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Hamercheck, and Troy "NAYS": None

Minutes approved this fifteenth day of June, 2017.

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JERRY C. CIRINO, PRESIDENT

JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, COMMISSIONER

DANIEL P. TROY, COMMISSIONER

JENNIFER BELL, CLERK