

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

(Tape 2021-1230)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Hamercheck called the Meeting to order at 10:06 a.m., Thursday, December 30, 2021.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Young, the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 7, 2021 and December 16, 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.

Special Certificates were presented to former Willoughby Hills Councilwomen Nancy Fellows, Laura Lenz, Janet Majka, and Laura Pizmoht as the first women-majority City Council in Lake County. The Board praised them for their dedication and hard work and how they are an inspiration to all of Lake County. Commissioner Plecnik detailed some of their achievements and read the certificates in their entirety.

Brian Massie of 8196 Rainbow Drive in Concord asked if the 2022 budget hearings are open to the public. The Board confirmed that they are and County Administrator, Jason Boyd, added they are typically held the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> week of January. Date/time is yet to be determined. Mr. Massie explained that he was made aware of bonuses being paid to some county employees and how he would like that opportunity extended to all county employees/departments. Commissioner Hamercheck responded by saying there have been some labor negotiations and collective bargaining agreements with some unions recently where some sums of money were paid out in addition to hourly wages and these were approved at previous Commissioner’s meetings if that is what Mr. Massie is referring to however some sources are restricted due to statutory requirements when it comes to other elected officials and their departments.

RESOLUTIONS:

**1. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A STANDARD HIGHWAY EASEMENT AND SEWER EASEMENT FOR THE NORTHERN TERMINATION POINT OF VROOMAN ROAD IN PERRY TOWNSHIP(20211230\E01)(E-11)**

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Young. County Engineer, James Gills, explained how this is a housekeeping resolution but added that they are planning to clean up a lot of property/easement agreements by the first half of the year. This resolution refers to the intersection of 84 and the new Vrooman Rd as there was sanitary sewers, power, etc. so some adjustments needed to be made in regards to the right-of-way. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows : "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A SNOW PLOW, ROAD CLOSURE BARRIERS, AND TURNAROUND AGREEMENT BETWEEN LAKE METROPARKS BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS AND THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE HILL SECTION OF OLD VROOMAN ROAD(20211230\E02)(E-3)**

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Young. Mr. Gills detailed how this refers to a section of Old Vrooman Rd. that goes into the park which will now become park property. The park intends to temporarily close that for winter in order to avoid plowing it. The county is working with them to create a turnaround for their trucks because the area that runs in front of some homes will still need to be plowed. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**3. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A THREE-YEAR MAINTENANCE BOND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,211.00 FOR AUBURN ROAD SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION JOB NO. 21-01 IN CONCORD TOWNSHIP(20211230\U01)(UT-12)**

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 PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES OF COST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$98,652.60 FOR SANITARY SEWERS FOR RIDGEWOOD GREENS PHASE III SUBDIVISION IN THE CITY OF MENTOR (JOB NO. 21-40))(20211230\U02)(UT-9)**

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Young. Sanitary Engineer, Randy Rothlisberger, stated that this is for replacing a pump and is a part of their Capital Improvement Program. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows : "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**5. RESOLUTION AWARDING A BID CONTRACT TO FERGUSON WATERWORKS (Exhibit A) FOR COLD WATER METERS FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES(20211230\U03)(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 APPROVING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES OF COST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,785,000.00 FOR AQUARIUS WATER TREATMENT PLANT SWITCHGEAR AND GENERATOR PROJECT NO 435-W, AND ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR SAME (Bid Opening February 9, 2022)(Bid Opening February 9, 2022)(20211230\U04)(UT-8)**

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 APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERRING CASH FROM LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES PROJECT FUND 595 TO THE WATER OPERATING FUND(20211230\U05)(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.

**8. RESOLUTION CERTIFYING UNPAID SEWER AND WATER SUMS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES TO THE LAKE COUNTY AUDITOR(20211230\U06)(UT-7)**

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.

**9. RESOLUTION APPROVING LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES VOUCHERS DATE OF WARRANT JANUARY 7, 2022, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$91,365.64(20211230\JFS01)(JFS-14)**

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 AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A SERVICE CONTRACT BETWEEN UNITED LABOR AGENCY, INC. (ULA) AND THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON BEHALF OF THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES TO PROVIDE RESEA SERVICES AT OHIOMEANSJOBS-LAKE COUNTY (OMJ-LAKE) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$162,177.00 FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022(20211230\JFS02)(JFS-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.

**11. RESOLUTION APPOINTING JOSEPH GIBSON TO THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM COMMENCING WITH THE ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING IN JANUARY, 2022(20211230\C01)(B-49)**

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.

**12. RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING ANDREA POKLAR-BYRNE AS A MEMBER TO THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM COMMENCING WITH THE ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING IN JANUARY, 2022(20211230\C02)(B-49)**

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 APPOINTING FRED A. TOUGH TO THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM COMMENCING WITH THE ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING IN JANUARY, 2022(20211230\C03)(B-49)**

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 DECLARING THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE BEGINNING JANUARY 6, 2022(20211230\C04)(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.

**15. RESOLUTION TO CHANGE THE NAME OF A SECTION OF RIVER ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY TO VROOMAN ROAD LOCATED IN PERRY TOWNSHIP(20211230\C05)(C-87)**

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.

**16. RESOLUTION TO APPOINT SPENCE KLINE TO THE WESTERN RESERVE AREA AGENCY ON AGING FOR A TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024(20211230\C06)(B-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.

**17. RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING CHIEFS KEN GUNSCH OF THE CITY OF MENTOR POLICE DEPARTMENT AND RANDY E. ICE OF THE CITY OF WICKLIFFE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO THE LAKE COUNTY NARCOTICS AGENCY EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR THREE YEAR TERMS COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2022 AND EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2024(20211230\C07)(B-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.

**18. RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$679,881.62 (20211230\BC01)(C-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.

**19. RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$19,709.89 (20211230\BC02)(C-17)**

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 INCREASING AND DECREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20211230\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.

**21. RESOLUTION ADVANCING AND TRANSFERRING CASH AND APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20211230\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 – none.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – none.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – Mr. Boyd stated that Health Commissioner, Ron Graham, provided an update to him regarding the pop-up COVID testing event held at the County Fairgrounds on 12/29. There were (195) positive tests and (627) negative tests for a 23.7% positivity rate. He commended the Sheriff's Department, the Emergency Management Agency, the Utilities Department, and the Health District for rallying together in order to make this happen. He added that Budget Director, Mike Matas, has notified all the county departments that the Board will be conducting the 2022 Budget Hearings and what they need to do if they are interested in participating.

FINANCE – none.

CLERK –Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the Organizational Meeting of the Commissioners will be held on Thursday, January 6, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. and that the next Regular Commissioner's Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 6, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: - none.

NEW BUSINESS: - Commissioner Hamercheck explained how, as part of Region 13 under the OneOhio Plan in regards to the opioid litigation, the Board has been tasked with referring an individual(s) for the State Board that will review proposals for funding. While the Board will have a representative, they would also like to seek the assistance of the Mayors and Managers Association in choosing other qualified candidates so it would not consist solely of elected officials.

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

Brian Massie of 8196 Rainbow Drive in Concord thanked Ross McDonald, Director of the Board of Elections, for allowing him to speak at their last meeting. He, along with Mr. McDonald's assistance, is still attempting to convince others that there has been no election fraud in Lake County. He publicly admonished himself for falling victim to some of the rumors he had heard. He also thanked Christopher Galloway, County Auditor, for promptly answering all his questions regarding inside and outside millage and helping him understand property re-evaluations. He asked the Board for their assistance in providing an update from County Treasurer, Michael Zuren, regarding the unclaimed funds that he recovered. He also mentioned that there is a piece of legislation sponsored by State Representative Daniel Troy that would increase the Homestead Exemption from \$25,000 to \$31,200 for elderly or disabled homeowners. While he does not personally think that will be enough (due to ever-increasing property taxes, inflation, gas prices continuing to increase, etc.), he appreciates the effort that is being made and hopes the Board supports this important cause. Commissioner Plecnik clarified that he believes there should be a complete exemption from property taxes for seniors. Unfortunately, at this time, the Board is limited in the terms of what they can do however they just implemented the senior discount on utilities. Commissioner Hamercheck added that House Bill 1 regarding the proper funding of schools would be of tremendous value to property owners but there is a gap between where we are now and where we need to be. With so much going to our schools, there is definitely a burden on the taxpayers.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik, the Board adjourned the meeting at 11:12 a.m. with the vote follows "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

Minutes approved this thirteenth day of January, 2022.

**BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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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