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County Commissioners Passed Balanced Budget

The Lake County Commissioners unanimously passed a balanced county budget for 2022 at the March 17, meeting.

The Commissioners, under the direction of Finance Director Michael Matas, worked diligently with the elected officials and department heads to successfully create balanced and sustainable budgets for the inside and outside general funds.

“I would like to personally thank Finance Director Matas and his staff for preparing a fiscally conservative budget that continues to meet the increased demands and services that our local businesses and residents expect in Lake County,” said Commission President John R. Hamercheck.

The County General Fund is the chief operating fund of the County and accounts for the financial resources required to administer daily operations with exception those funds required by the Ohio Revised Code to be recorded in other accounts. The 2022 General Fund revenue is projected to be \$61,237,875 representing a 7.7% increase from the 2021 budget. The estimated revenues are attributed primarily to a stronger local economy, which is resulting in a projected increase in sales tax and conveyance fees due to the real estate market.

Commissioner John Plecnik added, “The County budget is the single most important decision that the Commissioners are responsible for and I am extremely proud to support two balanced budgets. This vote on the budget is a strong reflection of our commitment to run Lake County government super-efficiently and return the savings to you. The taxpayer is our boss, and we never forget it.”

Within the General Fund, the judicial system and public safety represent 64.81% of the proposed budget. The Outside General Fund budget was also approved with projected revenues estimated at \$270.8 million. Funds in this budget include enterprise funds such as the County’s water, wastewater and solid waste accounts.

“Lake County continues to be a fiscally conservative community and I am proud support a budget that will allow services and programs to continue under our existing revenue streams without a tax increase,” said Commissioner Ron Young.

The General Fund and Outside General Fund budgets can be viewed at www.lakecountyohio.gov.