

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 2022-0407)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Hamercheck called the Meeting to order at 10:13 a.m. Thursday, April 7, 2022.

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 Meetings of March 24, 2022 and March 31, 2022 were approved with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Young, Plecnik and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

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

Mr. Brian Massie of 8196 Rainbow Drive in Painesville gave an update on his findings of the Treasurer’s Office overpayment refund program and asked the Board to support Treasurer Zuren in the hiring of an additional employee to oversee this program.

Treasurer Zuren was present and stated that they are working very hard to repay those that have overpaid. He also stated that they sent out 166 letters to residents that had delinquent property taxes and that they were able to collect from about 50% of them.

The Board presented Chief Probation Officer, Mr. Craig Berry, with a certificate for being awarded the Vince Polito Executive Leadership Award which is presented by The Ohio Chief Probation Officers Association. Mr. Berry is being recognized statewide for his dedication and leadership in the community as well as his contributions to the community corrections and probation profession. Mr. Berry thanked the Board for the certificate and stated that the success of the office is truly a team effort. Commissioner Hamercheck thanked Mr. Berry for all of his work and participation in discussion of the potential new jail facility. Sheriff Leonbruno congratulated Mr. Berry for all of his hard work.

RESOLUTIONS:

ITEMS # 14 & #15 WERE MOVED:

**14.RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF APRIL 10 - 16, 2022 NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK (20220407\F01)(C-126)**

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Young. Commissioner Plecnik stated how important telecommunicators are because they are the first responder to any incident. He stated that Lake County has the best team in Ohio and that he is very proud of them. Sheriff Leonbruno explained how hard telecommunicators work explaining that they handled a total of 335,000 calls in 2021 dispatching to police, fire and rescue. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that Lake County uses best practices to keep people safe and that they stay on the line with the caller until the next dispatch answers. Captain Dan Bachnicki stated that he was on road patrol for 25 years and did not realize the impact telecommunicators make in the lives of people until he took over the department. Commissioner Young stated that their kind words make a difference in the lives of the caller. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows : "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**15.RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF APRIL 3-9, 2022 NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK IN LAKE COUNTY, OHIO(20220407\F02)(C-126)**

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Young. Commissioner Plecnik stated that he realized the importance of libraries and what they offer when he served as a Willoughby Hills Trustee of the library. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that libraries have to work very hard to maintain the level of relevancy that they do and they should be commended for their hard work. Commissioner Young stated that libraries are a window to the world. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows : "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**1. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 3 FOR THE LAK-MADISON AVENUE (CR 306) RESURFACING PROJECT WITH KARVO COMPANIES, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$28,177.58, PID 112490, FEDERAL AID NO. FAN E200(649), OPWC NO. DGX05, LCE PROJECT NO. 2019-022(20220407\E01)(E-3)**

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Young. County Engineer, Mr. Jim Gills explained that this is the final change order for this project. The next step is to work with the Army Corps of Engineers for a plan to replace the remainder of the wall. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**2.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR LAWN MAINTENANCE SERVICE FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES (BID OPENING April 27, 2022)(20220407\U01)(UT-8 )**

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.

**3.RESOLUTION CERTIFYING UNPAID WATER AND SEWER SUMS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES TO THE LAKE COUNTY AUDITOR(20220407\U02)(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.

**4. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION FROM LAKE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND APPROVING THE CONTRACT FOR A LAKESHORE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN MADISON TOWNSHIP, OHIO (20220407\C01)(209g)**

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 AUTHORIZING THE LAKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL DESIGN SERVICES CONTRACT WITH HOK IN ACCORDANCE WITH A REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS APPROVED NOVEMBER 18, 2021(20211118\C01)(20220407\C02)(207N)**

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. County Administrator, Mr. Jason Boyd, explained that, after interviewing 4 design/architectural firms, the selection committee narrowed it down to 2 firms to come back in for a second interview. He explained the independent scoring and processes used by the selection committee while interviewing the firms. The selection committee independently and unanimously scored HOK as their top choice. Mr. Boyd gave a detailed timeline (beginning in 2012) of the discussions regarding the condition of the jail and the need for a new facility. He thanked everyone involved for their input and dedication to choosing the best firm for this project. The Board also thanked the selection committee and others involved in this process. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows : "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**6. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN NEARMAP US, INC. AND THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON BEHALF OF THE LAKE COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE FOR CURRENT PICTOMETRY SERVICES FOR THE 2024 SEXENNIAL APPRAISAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$113,400.00(20220407\C04)(C-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.

**7. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE LAKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR EXCESS WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYER'S LIABILITY INSURANCE WITH USI INSURANCE SERVICES, AGENT FOR MIDWEST EMPLOYERS CASUALTY COMPANY, EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2022 THROUGH APRIL 1, 2023 (2022407\C05)(304y)**

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.

**8. RESOLUTION FIXING THE COMPENSATION FOR PETIT AND GRAND JURORS AT \$25.00 PER DAY FOR JURY SERVICE IN THE LAKE COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS(20220407\C06)(CT-23)**

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Commissioner Plecnik explained that the Judges petitioned for an increase in juror fees and the Board supports their request. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows : "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**9. RESOLUTION TO JOIN WITH THE LAKE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY TO APPLY TO THE LAKE COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, PURSUANT TO R.C. 305.14(A), TO EMPLOY AND COMPENSATE LEGAL COUNSEL TO ADVISE AND REPRESENT THE LAKE COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS, FAITH ANDREWS, REGARDING ANY DISPUTES ARISING BETWEEN THE CLERK OF COURTS AND THE JUDGES OF THE GENERAL DIVISION OR DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION OF THE LAKE COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT CONCERNING THE CONDUCT OF THE CLERK OF COURTS AND THE OPERATIONS OF THE CLERK'S OFFICE(20220407\C06)(CT-1)**

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Young. Assistant Prosecutor, Mr. David Hackman, explained that the Prosecutor's Office is statutory legal counsel for the Common Pleas Judges, Domestic Relations and Probate Judges, and the Clerk of Courts. Any dispute between the Judges and Clerk would create a conflict of interest for the Prosecutors Office and therefore they could not represent either side. Counsel would need to be employed for Clerk of Court, Ms. Faith Andrews. Mr. Hackman stated that Ms. Andrews specifically requested the law firm listed in this resolution . He stressed the importance of passing this resolution today in order to proceed with resolving the issues. Attorney Mr. Edmund Searby was present and stated that he agrees with the Prosecutors office. They recognize a conflict and this conflict warrants that independent counsel represent Ms. Andrews. He gave a brief background of the cases he and his law firm have worked on. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows : "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**10. RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,412,341.02 (20220407\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.

**11. RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,066,563.64(20220407\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.

**12. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20220407\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.

**13. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CASH AND APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS(20220407\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 – Sanitary Engineer, Mr. Randy Rothlisberger, was happy to announce that the Department of Utilities in conjunction with OhioMeansJobs, will be holding its first hiring event on April 13<sup>th</sup> . Detailed information can be found on their website.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – Job and Family Services Director, Ms. Suzanne Casar, stated that while child abuse prevention is important year-round, April is designated as the month to shine a special spotlight on the issue. April 13 has been designated as “Wear Blue to Work” Day in support of child abuse prevention. She encouraged all citizens to participate and take photos showing their support.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – Jason Boyd provided an update on the Grand River Dredging Project, stating that Lake County will receive \$11.3 million in funding to construct its facility in Painesville Township. On behalf of the Board, he thanked Senators Jerry Cirino, Matt Dolan, and Kenny Yuko and Representatives Jamie Callender and Daniel Troy for their exhaustive efforts to see this get done. He explained that not only is this facility extremely important but could possibly lead to a public, shoreline trail that may eventually span for over two miles between Painesville Township Park and Fairport Harbor in the future.

FINANCE – none.

CLERK – Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the next Commissioners Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 14, 2022 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. Mr. Brian Massie of 8196 Rainbow Drive in Painesville, stated that he assumes Budget Director Matas is the person monitoring how the ARPA funds are spent. He asked if there have been any other substantial dollars given besides the light upgrade for the Captains Stadium and an ambulance for the Health District. Commissioner Hamercheck clarified that it is a Mobile Vaccine Clinic van that was purchased for the Health District. County Administrator Boyd stated that in addition to the two previously mentioned there is also a low to moderate income housing assistance program that assists homeowners with roof repairs/replacement and hot water tanks, etc., and the employment of Bond Counsel. He added that the County is evaluating future projects for the next round of funding. Commissioner Hamercheck explained that Bond Counsel is very important to the County as they review any project or funding being considered to be sure it falls within the guidelines. Mr. Massie also discussed the County Auditors idea to cut property taxes with ARPA funds, fiber optics and how well water is still being used by some Lake County residents. Commissioner Hamercheck addressed Mr. Massie’s comment regarding property taxes by stating that to date, he has not been provided with any information that could be legally done and there is no indication that this is a lawful act. Commissioner Plecnik stated that using ARPA funds would not be a lawful way to cut taxes and suggested some ways that the County could legally utilize these funds.

Mr. Massie mentioned that he has met with the FBI and that they appreciated his transparency. He addressed the Journal Entry (possibly draft) drawn up by the Common Pleas Judges for Clerk of Court, Ms. Faith Andrews. Assistant Prosecutor, Mr. David Hackman, explained that he is not aware of a Journal Entry but rather a document drawn up and styled as a Journal Entry but not yet filed and it is considered a public record. Mr. Massie stated that Ms. Andrews is a very good friend of his and how the document appears to be a gag order.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik, the Board convened an Executive Session at 12:08 p.m. to discuss Real Estate- Acquisition with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

The Lake County Board of Commissioners adjourned to Executive Session at 12:20 p.m.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Young, the Board adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m. with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

Minutes approved this twenty-eighth day of April, 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, VICE PRESIDENT

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JENNIFER BELL, CLERK