

LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES

JOHN R HAMERCHECK, COMMISSIONER
JOHN PLECNIK, COMMISSIONER

JASON W. BOYD, ADMINISTRATOR
LEGAL COUNSEL
MIKE MATAS, BUDGET DIRECTOR
NEWS MEDIA

JENNIFER BELL, CLERK
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(Tape 2022-0512)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Hamercheck called the Meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. Thursday, May 12, 2022.

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

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, inquired about the work hours required for elected officials. Assistant Prosecutor, Mr. David Hackman explained that for various elected officials, an absence from the office for 90 days deems the position vacant with the exception of the Treasurer and the Auditor which is only 30 days. Mr. Massie requested Mr. Hackman email him a written explanation for posting on his website. Mr. John Muzik of 45 Coventry Drive in Painesville, asked the Commissioners to always please remember the financial difficulties of senior citizens.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MAY 2022 AS NATIONAL NURSES MONTH (20220512\F01)(C-126)

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. Commissioner Hamercheck introduced and welcomed Lake Health/University Hospitals representatives present today; Ms. Ann Rodenbucher, Ms. Valerie Kovacic-Mauer, Mr. Bill Osterman, Ms. Amy Tanner and Ms. Ashley Carlucci. The Board presented the proclamation to the representatives. Ms. Ashley Carlucci thanked the Board for recognizing May 6th through 12th as National Nurses Week and added that May 12th is also Florence Nightingale’s birthday. She stated that the theme for 2022 was “Year of the Nurse” and explained the dedication that nurses have to providing the best care possible for their patients. Commissioner Plecnik thanked them for all of their hard work and caring. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

2.RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF MAY 2022 SKIN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH(20220512\F02)(c 126)

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. Commissioner Hamercheck read the resolution in its entirety and thanked Dr. Garcia from Apex Dermatology for bringing this important awareness to the public. Dr. Garcia thanked the Board for the recognition and explained that skin cancer is one of the most common and treatable of all cancers in the world. He stressed the importance of yearly exams and the use of sunscreen and he introduced one of his patients as a skin cancer survivor. She shared her story and also stressed the importance of annual screenings as they can literally save your life. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

3.RESOLUTION AWARDDING A BID CONTRACT TO AMERICAN ROADWAY LOGISTICS, INC. FOR PAVEMENT MARKINGS – COUNTY ROADS - 2022, AS REQUIRED BY THE LAKE COUNTY ENGINEER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$149,724.85(20220512\E01)(E-3)

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. County Engineer, Mr. Jim Gills, stated that this and the following resolution are part of their annual striping program. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

4.RESOLUTION AWARDDING A BID CONTRACT TO AMERICAN ROADWAY LOGISTICS, INC. FOR PAVEMENT MARKINGS – SR 2 AS REQUIRED BY THE LAKE COUNTY ENGINEER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$130,000.00 (20220512\E02)(E-3)

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

5.RESOLUTION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR LAKE COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT SALT – 2022, LCE Project No. 2022- 010 (Bid Opening June 1, 2022)(20220512\E03)(E-2)

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. Mr. Gills explained that this is an annual bid and if the bids come in high, they have the option to purchase the salt from ODOT. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

6.RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES SOLID WASTE OPERATING FUND(20220512\U01)(UT-2)

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

7.RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERRING CASH FROM LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES SEWER OPERATING FUND TO PROJECT FUND 596, PROJECT 461-S MENTOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY DIGESTER CLEANING AND REHABILITATION PHASE 2(20220512\U02)(UT-2)

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

8. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CASH FROM LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES SEWER OPERATING FUND TO PROJECT FUNDS 596 FOR NOTE PAYMENTS DUE JUNE 29, 2022(20220512\U03)(UT-2)

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

9. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CASH FROM LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES SEWER OPERATING FUND TRANSFERS-OUT TO GENERAL OBLIGATION RETIREMENT FUNDS TRANSFERS-IN(20220512\U04)(UT-2)

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

10. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CASH FROM LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES WATER OPERATING FUND AND SEWER OPERATING FUND TRANSFERS-OUT TO OWDA BOND RETIREMENT FUNDS TRANSFERS-IN(20220512\U05)(UT-2)

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. Mr. Rothlisberger stated that this is a part of the 2022 Capital Improvement Program. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

11. RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES OF COST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,767,600.00 FOR TRUNK SEWER REBAB PHASE 2 PROJECT NO 452-S, AND ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR SAME (BID Opening June 8, 2022)(20220512\U06)(UT-8)

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. Sanitary Engineer, Mr. Randy Rothlisberger, explained that this is a continuation of Phase 2 of the major trunk sewers to the Mentor Wastewater Treatment Facility. He added that the department will also benefit through some ODOT participation funding. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

12. RESOLUTION APPROVING LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES VOUCHERS DATE OF WARRANT MAY 20, 2022, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$569,251.83(20220512\JFS01)(JFS-14)

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

13. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT SUB-GRANT AWARD AGREEMENT FOR LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE BODY WORN CAMERAS (#2019-JG-A02-V6430E) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$40,000.00 WITH THE OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2022(20220512\C01)(CT-17a)

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. Sheriff Leonbruno stated that his department has been working with the Board and the Prosecutor's office for this grant. He explained that the first application had been denied and through much hard work with the second application, they were able to secure the grant. He stressed the importance of body worn cameras for the officers in the field and how the footage can be critical evidence in some cases. Commissioner Plecnik commended Sheriff Leonbruno and his staff for their hard work to secure this grant. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

14. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (NOPEC) ENERGIZED COMMUNITY GRANT(S)(20220512\C02)(C-73)

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

15. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE TRAINING FACILITY (BID OPENING: June 8, 2022)(20220512\C03)(CT-10A)

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. Commissioner Plecnik stated that this is a very exciting first step for not only the sheriff's department but all the police departments in the County. He explained that at this time, some of the officers must travel outside of the County to receive training. Sheriff Leonbruno stated that there are several important things that are key to proper training. The facility plans include classrooms for self-defense, education, and a computer lab for training in addition to real-time training programs. The facility will be able to handle three departments at a time and will be state of the art. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

16. RESOLUTION DESIGNATING LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONER JOHN PLECNIK A MEMBER OF THE LAKE COUNTY INVESTMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ORC SECTION 135.341 (A), (B) AND (C)(20220512\C04)(C-40)

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

17. RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,959,915.39(20220512\BC01)(C-4)

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

18. RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$769,818.41(20220512\BC02)(C-17)

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

19. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20220512\BC03)(C-111)

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

20. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20220512\BC04)(C-111)

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

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

UTILITIES – none.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – Director of Job and Family Services, Ms. Suzanne Casar, stated that this month is “Public Assistance Fraud Awareness Month” and explained that fraud is a statewide problem. Jobs and Family Services has a full-time staff dedicated to investigations of fraud. She also announced that it is “In Demand Jobs Week”. Ms. Casar introduced Mr. Matt Myers from the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services adding that Mr. Myers’ office is within Lake County Jobs and Family Services. Mr. Myers thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak and explained that In Demand Jobs Week is designed to promote Ohio’s most in-demand and fast-growing industries through hiring, education and training events. Commissioner Hamercheck thanked Mr. Myers for his enthusiasm and energy and expressed his appreciation for his hard work. Commissioner Plecnik also thanked Mr. Myers for the work that he does.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – Commissioner Hamercheck stated that Mr. Boyd continues to represent Lake County in Federal Court for the ongoing opioid trial.

FINANCE – none.

CLERK – Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the next Commissioners Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 19, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: - none.

NEW BUSINESS: - Commissioner Plecnik announced that earlier today, the Board had the privilege of rededicating the Wall of Service of former and current Commissioners by hosting a ribbon cutting. He stated that former Commissioners Sines, Malecek, Moran, Fellows, Young and Cirino (now Senator) were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Commissioner Hamercheck asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board. Mr. John Muzik of 45 Coventry Drive in Painesville, stated that he is in full support of a new jail and stressed the importance of law enforcement having the training and tools they need to protect the citizens of Lake County. He stated that he noticed scaffolding on the roof of the jail and asked what was being done. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that it is part of continued maintenance to the jail.

Mrs. Pokelsek of 6015 Cedarwood in Mentor on the Lake, spoke of a recently released movie titled “2000 Mules” and expressed her concerns regarding voter fraud. She stated how watching this movie started her thinking about voter fraud in Lake County and has her unbelievably concerned. Mrs. Pokelsek asked for the return of paper ballots and for a forensic audit of the recent Lake County primary election. Commissioner Plecnik stated that he will watch the movie and explained that Lake County has three cameras pointed directly at the outside ballot drop-off boxes; one of which records the drivers face. He explained that there is no internet connection to the computers that count the votes and that it is basically a calculating computer. Commissioner Plecnik also explained that the new voting machines print out a paper ballot of the choices the voter made for their review and verification before casting their vote into the paper ballot machine. This extra step is for the voter to verify they have pushed the right choice and that everything on the paper ballot matches their choice. He explained that the Lake County Board of Elections is required and does perform a random pull of votes to verify all information.

Commissioner Hamercheck stated that he is not familiar with the movie either. He explained to Mrs. Pokelsek that the electronic pollbook verifies the signature of the voter and only shows eligible voters in the system. He went on to explain that the second machine is a hybrid of sorts in that the voter casts their vote electronically, reviews their choices and prints a paper ballot of the voter’s choices. The paper allows the voter to double check their choices before casting their vote.

Mr. Brian Massie of 8196 Rainbow Drive in Painesville, on behalf of Lobbyists for Citizens, expressed his groups’ displeasure with the Common Pleas Judges and the accusations currently pending in the Ohio Supreme Court brought by Clerk of Courts, Ms. Faith Andrews against the Judges. He addressed Mrs. Pokelsek directly with his group’s opinions and how they have deemed Lake County elections safe.

Commissioner Plecnik thanked the Prosecutors for being good counsel to the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Dale Fellows, Chairman of the Lake County Board of Elections, also explained to Mrs. Pokelsek in detail how the voting machines work in the Board of Elections and assured her that they are extremely safe. He explained that Secretary of State, Mr. Frank LaRose, is huge on cybersecurity and has received national recognition for his work.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Young, the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m. with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Young and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

Minutes approved this sixteenth day of June, 2022.

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, PRESIDENT

JOHN PLECNİK, VICE PRESIDENT

JENNIFER BELL, CLERK