

MARCH 9, 2023

LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES

JOHN R HAMERCHECK, COMMISSIONER	JASON W. BOYD, ADMINISTRATOR
JOHN PLECNIK, COMMISSIONER	LEGAL COUNSEL
RICHARD J. REGOVICH, COMMISSIONER	MIKE MATAS, BUDGET DIRECTOR
JENNIFER BELL, CLERK	NEWS MEDIA

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(Tape 2023-0309)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Hamercheck called the Meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Thursday, March 9, 2023

ROLL CALL: Upon roll being called, Commissioners Regovich, Plecnik and Hamercheck were present. Commissioner Hamercheck asked for a moment of silence in honor of the passing of Juvenile Court Judge, the Honorable Karen Lawson. She will be remembered for her fierce dedication to protecting children, for the numerous programs she implemented throughout her legal career and for her unwavering commitment to community service.

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

Lake County Council on Aging Director, Mr. Joe Tomsick was present to invite the Board to attend their annual March for Meals which will be held on Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at the Great Lakes Mall. He explained that this event recognizes the important services that the Lake County Council on Aging offers.

Mr. Brian Massie of 8196 Rainbow Drive in Painesville, asked for more information on Item #15 of the agenda. He stated that this item pertains to an appropriation increase and the Visitors Bureau. Mr. Massie asked what was being purchased and who would be benefitting from this purchase. Commissioner Hamercheck and Mr. Massie discussed the \$275,000 and how these funds were declared excess in the Certificate of Title fund and are being transferred to the General Fund. The excess funds were requested to be allocated toward the Visitor's Bureau Grand River Valley region project for a proposed Gateway Arch and Signage. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that Mr. Massie could have his other inquiries answered during the discussion portion of the resolution itself.

Mr. John Muzik of 45 Coventry Drive in Painesville spoke of senior citizens and law enforcement and that the County should remain focused on its needs and not its wants.

Mr. Rick Martle of Concord expressed his concerns regarding a situation that he has been experiencing between Flipping Lake County, the Lake County Building Department and the City of Willoughby. He stated that he has been threatened and bribed by individuals involved with Flipping Lake County.

RESOLUTIONS:

**1.RESOLUTION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE LAK-(CR 535-0.24) BOOTH ROAD BRIDGE IN THE CITY OF KIRTLAND, OHIO; FEDERAL PROJECT NO. E230160; PID NO. 117512; LCE PROJECT NO. 2022-018 (Bid Opening: April 19, 2023)(20230309\E01)(E-2)**

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

**2.RESOLUTION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR SR 2 MOWING - 2023 IN LAKE COUNTY, OHIO (Bid Opening: March 29, 2023)(20230309\E02)(E-2)**

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Regovich. Commissioner Plecnik thanked the Engineers Office for always taking care of the complaints he receives in a timely manner. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Regovich, Plecnik and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**3.RESOLUTION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR COUNTY ROADS PAVEMENT MARKINGS - 2023 IN LAKE COUNTY, OHIO (Bid Opening: March 29, 2023)(20230309\E03)(E-2)**

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

**4.RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$10,250,000 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOTES, IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS, TO PAY COSTS OF CONSTRUCTING, RECONSTRUCTING, PAVING AND OTHERWISE IMPROVING ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN THE COUNTY, INCLUDING RELATED IMPROVEMENTS AND ALL NECESSARY APPURTENANCES THERETO(20230309\E04)(E-13)**

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

**5.RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERRING CASH WITHIN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES SEWER OPERATING FUND AND PROJECT FUND 403-S ST JAMES RELIEF SEWER, BELLFLOWER-PALMERSTON SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION PHASE(20230309\U01)(UT-2)**

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

**6.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH BEL ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING, INC. FOR 2023 AIR COMPLIANCE SERVICES FOR THE LAKE COUNTY SOLID WASTE FACILITY(20230309\U02)(UT-4)**

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Regovich. Sanitary Engineer, Mr. Randy Rothlisberger, stated that this resolution pertains to the testing of methane at the Landfill. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Regovich, Plecnik and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**7.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH BEL ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING, INC. FOR 2023 ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORT SERVICES FOR THE LAKE COUNTY SOLID WASTE FACILITY(20230309\U03)(UT-4)**

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Mr. Rothlisberger, stated that this resolution pertains to the gas collection system at the Landfill. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Regovich, Plecnik and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**8.RESOLUTION CERTIFYING UNPAID WATER AND SEWER SUMS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES TO THE LAKE COUNTY AUDITOR(20230309\U04)(UT-7)**

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

**9.RESOLUTION TO CANCEL THE ADVERTISING AND BID OPENING FOR VINE STREET WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT NO. 447-W(20230309\U05)(UT-8)**

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that this is due to a clerical error and the following resolution is a corrected version with a new bid opening date. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Regovich, Plecnik and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**10. RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES OF COST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,589,566.00 FOR VINE STREET WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT NO 447-W, AND RE-ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR SAME (Bid Opening: APRIL 5, 2023)(20230309\U06)(UT-8)**

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

**11.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A SOLE SOURCE AGREEMENT WITH FEDERAL SIGNAL FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF FIFTY SIRENS LOCATED ON THE WEST-END OF LAKE COUNTY, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,564,650.00(20230309\C01)(404g)**

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Telecommunications Director, Mr. Paul Stefanko, explained that 50 emergency sirens owned by the Board of Commissioners are at the end of their useful life. The sirens are over 20 years old and the parts to repair them have become obsolete. There is only one source available to purchase these sirens from. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Regovich, Plecnik and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**12.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MASTER COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT WITH COOPERATIVE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS AND EQUALIS GROUP THROUGH THE CCAO AND EXECUTING A CONTRACT WITH GARLAND/DBS, INC. FOR ROOF REPLACEMENT OF THE LAKE COUNTY NARCOTICS AGENCY BUILDING, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$175,000.00(20230309\C02)(CT-17A)**

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

**13.RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,256,663.90(20230309\BC01)(C-4)**

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

**14.RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,199,257.84(20230309\BC02)(C-17)**

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

**15.RESOLUTION INCREASING AND DECREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20230309\BC03)(C-111)**

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Commissioner Hamercheck addressed Mr. Massie's previous questions pertaining to the \$275,000 appropriation. He stated that there are 33 wineries in the Grand River Valley with 8 of them being in Lake County. County Administrator, Mr. Jason Boyd, explained to Mr. Massie that this is one step of a two-step process. He read a list of potential projects and stated that the proposed gateway arch will be in Lake County. Mr. Boyd further explained the context and history of the Grand River Valley and how Lake and Ashtabula Counties are working collectively to make this region something special that would flourish. He also gave a history of the study that was done by a very well know consultant and how she had done the study for the successful 'Kentucky Bourbon Trail'. Her opinion was that this region could be very successful with all it has to offer. Mr. Boyd also stated that the hotels in Madison were able to hold their own throughout the COVID pandemic while hotels elsewhere were suffering. Commissioner Plecnik stated that this was an exciting project. Mr. Boyd pointed out that the Fairport Harbor Beach is visited by more than 400,000 guests and the Headlands Beach has more than one million during the summer season. Many of these visitors also visit the wine region and the Metroparks. Commissioner Hamercheck pointed out that the \$275,000 in this resolution was an appropriation and not a transfer of cash. Commissioner Plecnik announced that the Ice Wine Festival will continue this weekend and next and encouraged everyone to attend. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Regovich, Plecnik and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**16. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS**

MARCH 9, 2023

**(20230309\BC04)(C-111)**

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

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

UTILITIES – none.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – none.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – none.

FINANCE – none.

CLERK – Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: none.

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Plecnik stated that yesterday was International Women's Day and that this week is 'Women in Construction Week'.

Commissioner Plecnik made a motion from the table and it was seconded by Commissioner Regovich:

**PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup> TO MARCH 11<sup>TH</sup> AS WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION WEEK IN LAKE COUNTY, OHIO**

Commissioner Plecnik stated that more and more women are interested, engaged, and dedicated to being the best they can in this industry. Commissioner Regovich stated that he has a fearless, independent daughter who is forging her own path and that he is very proud of what she has and will accomplish. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that he too has two strong and independent daughters, one of which is an architect working in the construction field. He discussed the changing times for women in construction.

Commissioner Hamercheck stated that he had an opportunity to attend an event and sit with the utility workers from the City of Painesville. He stated that the greatest take away from this event was their cooperation and how well they work together. He was also able to attend the Painesville State of the City breakfast this morning and is pleased with how well the County and City work together acknowledging that County Administrator, Mr. Jason Boyd has been instrumental in bridging the gap.

Commissioner Hamercheck also discussed NOACA and pointed out that they were a key player in arranging for Lake Erie College providing housing on the Painesville Square. He also explained they worked closely with Representative Callendar to secure \$77.4 million in state funding for the I-90 project. He gave several other examples of the assistance NOACA has provided. He thanked County Engineer, Mr. James Gills, for all his hard work and his involvement with the Air and Water Quality Committee.

Commissioner Plecnik stated that considering yesterday was International Women's Day, he would like to recognize and congratulate Eastlake resident and Cleveland State University student, Ms. Destiny Leo, for her exceptional basketball season. He announced that she was named the 'Horizon League Player of the Year' and that for the first time since 2010, the Cleveland State Women's Basketball Team is headed to the NCAA Tournament as Horizon League champions.

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

Mr. Brian Massie of 8196 Rainbow Drive thanked Commissioner Hamercheck for the information he provided on NOACA. He stated that he wished to become more educated on NOACA so that he may address the lies that people may believe and educate them. Mr. Massie also stated that he had heard LakeTran and Geauga Transit were entering into some kind of agreement and that LakeTran would be transferring funds to Geauga County. Commissioner Hamercheck briefly explained that for scheduling and maintenance purposes they (LakeTran and Geauga Transit) have discussed a partnership. He stated that, for timesaving purposes, it has been discussed that this partnership may be helpful because some Lake County communities are closer to Geauga County and some Geauga County communities are closer to Lake County.

County Administrator, Mr. Jason Boyd, gave an update that Energy Harbor was recently purchased by Vistra Energy and that he has requested a meeting with their leadership team when the time is appropriate.

Lake County Visitors Bureau Executive Director, Mr. Neil Stein was present and stated that he has been with the Visitors Bureau for three years. Their Branding Initiative began in 2014 with a priority list being created and he explained the Board has worked with previous Clerk of Court Maureen Kelly and current Clerk, Ms. Faith Andrews. He expressed his appreciation for everything that is being done to promote the Grand River Valley. Mr. Stein stated he recently received the Hotel Occupancy Report and that the statistics were phenomenal. He reported that the 4 eastern Lake County hotels are essentially booked year-round with an average cost of \$275/night. He also reported that the Baci Winery (which is in Lake County), has begun a massive construction project. The more than \$1 million in bed tax and tourism is incredible. He added that tourism numbers have exceeded their record breaking 2019 year.

Mr. John Muzik of 45 Coventry Drive in Painesville spoke of limited government and how less is more. He stated that there are higher priorities than this and that the private sector needs to do more. His concern is for seniors because they can barely afford their needs. Commissioner Plecnik stated that there are times when investment is necessary and that money must be spent to reap the benefits. He discussed Commissioners Young work on the Grand River

Valley. Commissioner Hamercheck noted that the Visitor’s Bureau receives 3% of the bed tax and the Lake Development Authority receives 2%. Commissioner Regovich spoke of his experience with taxes and the great lakeshore and wineries back when he served as Willowick Mayor. Commissioner Plecnik also spoke of economic development and taxes when he was a City of Willoughby Hills Councilman and the incredible growth the wineries are experiencing.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Plecnik, the Board convened an Executive Session at 11:45 a.m. to discuss Personnel-Employment (2) with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners Regovich, Plecnik and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

The Lake County Board of Commissioners adjourned to Executive Session at 11:54 a.m.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik seconded by Commissioner Regovich, the Board adjourned the meeting at 12:54 p.m. with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Regovich, Plecnik and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

Minutes approved this twenty-three day of March, 2023.

**BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, PRESIDENT

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JOHN PLECNİK, COMMISSIONER

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RICHARD J. REGOVICH, COMMISSIONER

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JENNIFER BELL, CLERK