



Board of Commissioners

PRESS RELEASE

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Lake County Commissioners Places Thousands of Records Online

PAINESVILLE, Ohio, April 10, 2023— Jennifer Bell Commissioner's Clerk announced today that the Lake Board of Commissioner Clerk's office has completed an extensive digitization project, placing thousands of Board of Commissioner's records online. Lake County staff and the public now have secure, remote access to data and images 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Digitizing provides a valuable public service by providing convenient access to the information without needing to handle the original documents that are often fragile. Offering online access to records eliminates the need to travel to the office, helping to protect constituents during public health emergencies. By digitizing these documents, Jennifer Bell County Commissioner's Clerk is also ensuring that the Lake County Board of Commissioners valuable records are preserved and backed up electronically in case of disaster.

The County worked in partnership with Cott Systems to scan and organize the records using Cott's Online Index Books software.

Jennifer Bell, County Commissioner's Clerk said, "The Lake County Commissioners' Office records stretching back to the 1840s will be in a searchable online database, is part of the project to preserve historic documents and make them easily accessible to the public and Lake County staff members. My goal was two things, to protect history forever and also make it free and easy to access for the public."

"Electronic access to relevant data will streamline many County processes, be more convenient for the public and less expensive for Lake County compared to providing paper copies. This will also allow for greater transparency to the public at a lower cost to Lake County," said Commission President John R. Hamercheck.

"By creating a digitally accessible collection of our records, we enhanced the preservation of these valuable records, their authenticity, and historical significance," said Commissioner John Plecnik.

Commissioner Richard J Regovich stated, "This project provides a stable, scalable, and sustainable web-based platform for the delivery and long-term management of the Lake County Board of Commissioner's digital records." He further said that, "The older records are delicate, handwritten and can be difficult to read, and it is imperative that these records are preserved forever as part of Lake County's history."

Historical Records from the board of commissioners are now digitally available and searchable online by visiting: <https://recordroom.cottsystems.com/LakeOHBoC/guest/Search/OIB>

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