

MARCH 30, 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 2023-0330)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Hamercheck called the Meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Thursday, March 30, 2023

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik, the minutes of the Regular Meetings of January 12, 2023, February 23, 2023 and March 2, 2023, were approved with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Regovich, Plecnik and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Commissioner Hamercheck asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board. Ms. Lori Boban, 6067 Ford Road, Madison, spoke on the road and bridge closures in Madison and Perry and the delay of time for emergency response teams to arrive that the closures have caused. Chief Tod Baker of the Madison Fire District explained the major disservice these closures are causing to the residents and their safety. Even a few minutes delay can potentially cause a life or death situation. Madison Township Trustee, Ms. Heather Shelton, also expressed her concerns for these closures and how they have had to rely on other Townships to assist them in emergency situations. Mr. Greg Giegerich of Madison, asked the Board to grant the County Engineer the funds he needs to make these very important repairs. Madison Township Trustee Mr. Ken Gauntner spoke of his experience as County Administrator and how he hopes the Board will find the money to make these repairs because it is a serious public safety issue. Ms. Deedi Sisson stated that safety is paramount and shared her experience of having to take detours and add time to her work day as a gas well tender. Madison Township Trustee Terry Ditchcreek, stated that safety is the #1 issue and the Board must find the funds to get these roads repaired and open. Commissioner Hamercheck read a letter from Perry Fire Chief Dominic Chiappone expressing his concern with the road closures and how they (his Department)are currently responding automatically for fire and emergency services for both Madison and Leroy Townships due to these closures.

RESOLUTIONS:

**1.RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING APRIL 2023 CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH IN LAKE COUNTY (20230330\F01)(C-126)**

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Job and Family Services Director Suzanne Casar stated that the Children Services Division will be planting blue pinwheels in front of the JFS building on April 12, 2023, symbolizing the children and families served by the agency during 2022 and a reminder that all children deserve happy, carefree childhoods. Commissioner Plecnik thanked Ms. Casar and her staff for all they do and stated that this is a time to recognize the primary importance of safety in our community and speak for those who have no voice. Commissioner Regovich complimented Ms. Casar and her staff for the great job they do. Commissioner Hamercheck reminded everyone that Lake County Job and Family Services will be participating in the Wear Blue to Work Day event, on Wednesday, April 12, 2023 and encouraged Lake County residents to also participate as a way of showing support for the prevention of child abuse and neglect. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Plecnik, Regovich and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**2.RESOLUTION AWARDING A BID CONTRACT TO KARVO COMPANIES, INC. FOR THE LAK-PROUTY ROAD (CR 414) RESURFACING PROJECT, AS REQUIRED BY THE LAKE COUNTY ENGINEER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,097,004.50 (20230330\E01)(E-3)**

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

**3.RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES OF COST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$48,890.05 FOR WATERLINES FOR MAYPINE PARK PHASE II SUBDIVISION IN THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS (JOB NO. 22-19) (20230330\U01)(UT-9)**

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

**4.RESOLUTION AMENDING THE CERTIFICATION OF THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES UNPAID SEWER SERVICE, WATER, AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES TO THE LAKE COUNTY AUDITOR (20230330\U02)(UT-7)**

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

**5.RESOLUTION AWARDING A BID CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$411,950.00 TO UNITED SURVEY FOR BELLFLOWER AREA SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS, PALMERSTON SANITARY SEWER REHAB PROJECT 403-S (20230330\U03)(UT-4)**

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

**6.RESOLUTION APPROVING LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES VOUCHERS DATE OF WARRANT APRIL 7, 2023, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$80,841.46(20230330\JFS01)(JFS-14)**

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

**7.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STATE MICROSOFT TERM CONTRACT AND EXECUTING A CONTRACT WITH DELL AND MICROSOFT FOR LICENSING TO MIGRATE EMAIL INFRASTRUCTURE TO MICROSOFT OFFICE 365(20230330\C01)(C-16-A)**

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Commissioner Hamercheck, stated that this authorization is necessary to migrate the County email infrastructure to Microsoft Office 365. He explained that the current server environment is slated to go end of life at the end of this year. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Plecnik, Regovich and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**8.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE TACTICAL SIMULATIONS GARAGE (Bid Opening: April 26, 2023)(20230330\C02)(CT-10A)**

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Regovich. Commissioner Plecnik stated that Lake County is committed to public safety. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that this facility will benefit all Lake County Law Enforcement and expand their training capabilities. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Plecnik, Regovich and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**9.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, 2023 THROUGH APRIL 1, 2024(20230330\C03)(304-y)**

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

**10.RESOLUTION TO REAPPOINT CARL DONDORFER AS A MEMBER OF THE REGION 13 ONEOHIO GOVERNANCE BOARD TO REPRESENT THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LAKE COUNTY FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM BEGINNING MARCH 30, 2023(20230330\C04)(C-106b)**

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Regovich. Commissioner Plecnik thanked Mr. Dondorfer for his contributions. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that this resolution is a ministerial function and Region13 will also be reappointing Mr. Dondorfer. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Plecnik, Regovich and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**11. RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,449,375.42 (20230330\BC01)(C-4)**

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

**12. RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDERS APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,936,393.30 (20230330\BC02)(C-17)**

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

**13.RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2023 PERMANENT APPROPRIATION MEASURE FOR THE GENERAL FUND(20220330\BC03)(C-111)**

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Commissioner Hamercheck read the following: The General Fund is the chief operating fund of the County and accounts for the financial resources except those to be accounted for in another fund per Ohio Revised Code restrictions. 2023 Projected Revenues are \$70,432,060 and 2022 Projected Revenues were \$61,237,875. The Projected revenues increased by \$9,194,185 or 15.01%. For 2023 the Projected Appropriations are \$70,387,488 and 2022 Projected Appropriations were \$61,217,374. The Projected Appropriations increased by \$9,170,114 or 14.99%. The cause for the increase in Projected Revenues: Interest earnings are projected significantly higher than 2022. Health care costs continue to rise even though the County is doing better than other entities. The Board have made changes to help control cost in employee coverage. Law enforcement represents our major expense category with medical care within the jail continuing to rise significantly each year. Judicial and Public Safety represent over 62% of the proposed budget. The majority of the increases in comparison between 2022 are increases in the Sheriff, Prosecutor, Courts and Public Defender's Office. Talk of an upcoming recession remains very much a concern for Lake County. We are facing many capital projects and it is great to have higher than normal interest earnings but with higher interest earnings, borrowing money costs more along with goods and services prices. We also are in the middle of union negotiations and the final cost is yet to be known. *Goal:* The County's Elected Officials and Department Heads remain dedicated to the residents of Lake County to provide the best service possible with their current staff levels based on estimated resources. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Plecnik, Regovich and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

**14. RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2023 PERMANENT APPROPRIATION MEASURE FOR FUNDS OUTSIDE THE GENERAL FUND(20220330\BC04)(C-111)**

MARCH 30, 2023

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Regovich. Commissioner Hamercheck read the following as it pertains to the Outside the General Fund: Two Types of Funds in the Outside Funds: Governmental and Proprietary: Governmental Funds: These are special revenue, debt service and permanent improvement funds. These funds account for all grants and other resources whose use is restricted, committed or assigned to a particular purpose. Proprietary Funds: Enterprise and Internal Service Enterprise funds are used to account for an activity for which fees are charged to external users for goods or services (Water, Wastewater, and Solid Waste). Internal service funds account for the financing of services provided by one department to other departments on a cost reimbursement basis (Central Purchasing, Mailroom, Health Care accounts). 2023 Projected Revenues for these funds are approximately \$255.7 million, and the appropriation resolution is approximately \$319.9 million. In comparison to 2022 numbers, the projected revenues were \$270.8 million; and the appropriation resolution was \$296.8 million. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Plecnik, Regovich 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, April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: Commissioner Hamercheck stated that they must continue to have real, open talks regarding funding for the new jail. Commissioner Plecnik suggested a large down payment to reduce the amount owed and bond out the remainder. He opposes a sales tax increase and the Auditor has said a sales tax increase is not necessary. Commissioner Hamercheck suggested continuing this conversation at a later date. County Prosecutor, Mr. Coulson, discussed a time when he was forced to layoff employees due to budget cuts.

NEW BUSINESS: none.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Commissioner Hamercheck asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board. Mr. John Muzik of 45 Coventry Drive stated that we must make the County smaller and that law enforcement should be the #1 priority. Chief Tod Baker gave several examples of emergency situations that they have experienced and asked the Board to please support Mr. Gills. The Board and Chief Baker had a lengthy discussion on funding, how the Engineers Office is currently at their full limit for debt service, renovation versus new build for the jail, what ARPA eligible projects look like, and previous capital projects in the County.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Regovich, the Board convened an Executive Session at 11:55 a.m. to discuss Personnel-Collective Bargaining with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners Regovich, Plecnik and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

The Lake County Board of Commissioners adjourned to Executive Session at 11:55 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 Plecnik, Regovich and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

Minutes approved this fourth day of May, 2023.

**BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, PRESIDENT

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JOHN PLECNIK, COMMISSIONER

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RICHARD J. REGOVICH, COMMISSIONER

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JENNIFER BELL, CLERK