

APRIL 13, 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 2023-0413)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Hamercheck called the Meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. Thursday, April 13, 2023

ROLL CALL: Upon roll being called, Commissioners Regovich, Plecnik 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 19, 2023 and February 14, 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.

Mr. Tony Debevc, owner of Debonne Vineyards and Cask 307, read a lengthy statement offering his family's history in the wine making industry. He has been a business owner for more than 52 years and has always complied with ongoing safety regulations. Recently, Cask 307 was cited with a code violation from the fire department and soon all wineries will be subject to this new requirement and possibly cited.

Mr. Brian Massie, on behalf of Lobbyists for Citizens, discussed item #7 on the agenda pertaining to a memorandum of understanding with Lakeland Community College and expressed his opinions on the Lakeland Community College Board.

Mr. John Marra of Timberlake, stated that he watched the Board's worksession, expressed his concerns and made some suggestions for the County budget.

Mr. John Muzik of 45 Coventry Drive in Painesville asked that the Commissioners be good stewards of the taxpayer's money.

Mr. William Bruggeman of Madison, voiced his concerns about the Ford Road and Paine Road closures and the added response time for Fire and EMS.

Ms. Cindy Limburg of Grand River Cellars, spoke of the very successful Ice Wine event held recently and the donations they have been able to provide to autism and the community and also detailed how the wineries as a whole bring in many visitors to the area.

Mr. Chris Weiss of Leroy referred to the mythological character Socrates and shared some history.

Madison Fire Chief Tod Baker read a prepared statement regarding the cost of a new jail, taxes and staffing. He addressed some comments made at a previous Commissioners meeting. He also voiced his concerns regarding the safety of his community with all the road closures.

Madison Township Trustee, Chairman of the Madison Fire District and former Lake County Administrator, Mr. Ken Gauntner, praised Chief Baker for his knowledge, passion and commitment to his community. He discussed the need to repair and reopen Ford Road as soon as possible and pointed out the position the County Engineer is in with so many roads closed and the need for the Board to assist him in funding these. Several other topics discussed was the damage caused to roads and bridges by the flood of 2006, the local fire districts and the hardships of the wineries. He asked the Board to consider finding funds in the budget for these road and bridge repairs.

Mr. Tom Hach of Faye Road in Concord, stated the Lake County residents should not be viewed as a piggybank and that any tax increases should go to the vote of the people.

RESOLUTIONS:

1.RESOLUTION AWARDING A BID CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$352,906.36 TO MONTE CONSTRUCTION LLC FOR WALNUT STREET WATERLINE PROJECT 449-W(20230413\U01)(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.

2.RESOLUTION APPROVING LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES VOUCHERS DATE OF WARRANT APRIL 21, 2023, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$612,318.29(20230413\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.

3.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND THE CITY OF MENTOR FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE LAKE COUNTY TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM(20230413\C01)(404g-1)

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Director of Telecommunications, Mr. Paul Stefanko, explained that this agreement provides for mutual backup dispatch services for Central Communications and the City of Mentor and other backup needs if necessary. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Plecnik, Regovich and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

4.RESOLUTION APPOINTING CHIEF MATT NAEGELE OF THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS POLICE DEPARTMENT TO THE LAKE COUNTY NARCOTICS AGENCY EXECUTIVE BOARD TO COMPLETE THE REMAINDER OF A THREE-YEAR TERM COMMENCING APRIL 13, 2023 AND EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2025(20230413\C02)(B-17)

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Regovich. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that this appointment is to replace retired Chief Matt Byers. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Plecnik, Regovich and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

5.RESOLUTION APPOINTING CHIEF JIM SCHULTZ OF THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY POLICE DEPARTMENT TO THE LAKE COUNTY NARCOTICS AGENCY EXECUTIVE BOARD TO COMPLETE THE REMAINDER OF A THREE-YEAR TERM COMMENCING JULY 1, 2023 AND EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2025(20230413\C03)(B-17)

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that this appointment is in anticipation of Chief John Gielink's retirement in June, 2023. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Plecnik, Regovich and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

6.RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A GRANT AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A 2021 COVERDELL GRANT AGREEMENT (SUB-GRANT #2022-PC-NFS-7802) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$33,308.22, BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON BEHALF OF THE LAKE COUNTY CRIME LABORATORY AND THE OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023(20230413\C04)(CT-18)

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Regovich. Assistant Prosecutor, Mr. David Hackman stated that this is an annual grant is a non-match program and that no additional funds will be required from Lake County and supports the drug chemistry portion of the Crime Lab. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Plecnik, Regovich and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

7.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE LAKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON BEHALF OF THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WITH LAKELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOR THE CREATION OF A WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT POSITION AT LAKELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE(20230413\C05)(C-197)

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Commissioner Regovich stated that he began to talk about this position when he served as Mayor. In speaking with the local schools, this position will add extra support and coordination with visiting high schools, partnerships with businesses and also Auburn Career Center. He added that AWT has created their own and this will also assist them. The Governors budget has been supporting these types of Hubs in larger areas and Lake County could be considered for this designation. Commissioner Plecnik stated that he supports Commissioner Regovich's proposal. Commissioner Hamercheck explained that he spoke to Ms. Amy Sabath and the Prosecutors Office to verify that this position will not conflict with the County's Workforce Development Department. This program will not be competing for the same funding and will support and add to the work of the County's workforce development. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Plecnik, Regovich and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

8.RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,576,474.42(20230413\BC01)(C-4)

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.

9.RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,202,267.91 (20230413\BC02)(C-17)

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 INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20230413\BC03)(C-111)

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.

11. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CASH AND APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20230413\BC04)(C-111)

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.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

UTILITIES – none.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – Director of Job and Family Services, Ms. Suzanne Casar, thanked Commissioners Plecnik and Regovich and all those in attendance at the Foster Parents Reverse Raffle. She thanked Commissioner Hamercheck and all those that participated in "Wear Blue to Work" Day in support of child abuse prevention. She invited everyone to stop by Job and Family Services to view the pinwheels placed in their lawn as an uplifting reminder that children deserve a happy and safe upbringing.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – none.

FINANCE – none.

CLERK – Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

LEGAL – none.

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ENGINEER: none.

OLD BUSINESS: none.

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Hamercheck discussed the report on fund balances found under the General Fund provided by Budget Director, Mr. Matas. He reviewed several line items in detail to better understand what the financial future of the County looks like and bonding capabilities.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Commissioner Hamercheck asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board. Mr. John Muzik of Painesville, discussed the flood of 2006 and explained that there is still a flood issue in the area where he lives. He stated that for 17 years nothing has been done and he would like to see something done. He spoke of being a good steward of taxpayer money.

Ms. Lori Bobin of Ford Road, has lived on Ford Road for 22 years and expressed the frustrations her and all the residents have experienced as more and more roads are closing and how there doesn't seem to be anything happening to make this a priority. Chief Tod Baker reiterated what the legitimate concerns the residents are sharing. He stressed that something needs to be done with the roads and bridges to keep the residents safe. He invited the Board to come to his office to discuss these issues and also the wineries.

Mr. Brian Massie of 8196 Rainbow Drive, spoke of the opioid trial verdict and bonding. Mr. Hackman explained that the Prosecutor's Office did not represent the County in the opioid trial. That representation was private. He stated that the verdict has been appealed and is still an open case.

Mr. John Marra of Timberlake, discussed his views on the jail from the perspective of an experienced contractor.

Mr. Ken Gauntner reiterated Chief Baker 's earlier statement that there has only been one citation issued to a business and explained the process that has to be followed . He discussed tax increases and HB1 and a statement that Commissioner Plecnik made at an earlier meeting.

Ms. Margaret Bushman of Ford Road in Madison, spoke of her home and adjacent property that her family owns and asked the Board to make some decisions regarding the road closures in Madison. She stressed her concerns for emergency services being able to get to her as she lives alone as do several of her neighbors.

Mr. Matthew Hebebrand of Mentor, thanked the Board for approving the MOU for Lakeland Community College. He addressed several of his concerns such as the Madison road closures and why Engineer Gills did not incorporate some of these closures into his budget for this year. He addressed the County budget and the economy in general. He also expressed concern for the business community and he thanked Commissioner Plecnik for pledging to not raise taxes and carefully making cuts where necessary. Commissioner Hamercheck addressed Mr. Hebebrand' s statement regarding Mr. Gills not including the road issues into budget by explaining that Mr. Gills was awaiting a decision from Columbus on funding and that the triggering event was that he was not successful in obtaining these funds. Mr. Gills added that what is currently occurring is a very unusual event and in 2022, he began making a list of priority roads and bridges as well as meeting with State Senator Cirino to attempt to obtain funding for these projects. He provided a detailed timeline of what he and his office have done to obtain funding and reviewed emergency projects the office has been working on along with cost increases and continued problems within the emergency projects.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Regovich, the Board convened an Executive Session at 1:16 p.m. to discuss Legal – Imminent Litigation (x2) and 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 2:54 p.m.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik seconded by Commissioner Regovich, the Board adjourned the meeting at 2:54 p.m. with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Regovich and Hamercheck "NAYS": None. Minutes approved this fifth day of July, 2023.

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, PRESIDENT

JOHN PLECNIK, COMMISSIONER

RICHARD J. REGOVICH, COMMISSIONER

JENNIFER BELL, CLERK