

JUNE 15, 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 2023-0615)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Hamercheck called the Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, June 15, 2023.

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Commissioner Hamercheck asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board. Commissioner Hamercheck read the following statement from State Senator Jerry Cirino:

RE: SENATE BUDGET AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

“Dear President Hamercheck,

I am writing to you in your capacity as President of the Lake County Commissioners to summarize the Ohio Senate's Omnibus Budget Bill, which has passed the Senate Finance Committee today, and will be voted on in our chamber tomorrow morning at 10 A.M.

As Vice Chairman of Finance and a member of Senate leadership, I have worked hard to represent the interests of my home county as well as all the taxpayers in Ohio. Our budget, which will surely pass tomorrow, is historic in many respects. For example, there will be a total of \$3.1 billion in tax relief in the form of income tax reductions, an extended sales tax holiday in August of 2024 (local taxing authorities will be made whole) and a significant reduction in the commercial activity tax rate and elimination of any commercial activity tax for almost 90% of Ohio's businesses.

Additionally, we have funded public schools in a manner that most systems will see an increase and we have also expanded school choice to afford parents the opportunity to seek educational options that are in the best interest of their children.

We have also supported the Governor's economic development plans to set aside \$1 billion to make key sites ready to attract new business expansion, such as Intel in Ohio.

As Vice Chair of Finance, I pushed very hard to remove a provision that would have prohibited investments in rental housing in Ohio's opportunity zones. This will keep alive a number of large projects right here in Lake County.

In addition to supporting K-12 education, we have also included my SB83 Higher Education Enhancement Act in the budget bill. This is much needed reform for our universities and community colleges, which have not fostered an environment of diversity of thought and true academic freedom. The bill covers many areas within higher education. The centerpiece of the bill is that students and professors need to feel free to express their opinions and that an open debate of issues is fostered as displayed in the Chicago Principles, which, I believe, have been adopted by our own Cleveland State.

Despite claims to the contrary, this legislation will not put conservative professors at risk as numerous safeguards have been put in place. These safeguards to academic freedom have been reviewed by some of the best attorneys in the state, who by the way, are all licensed to practice law in the state of Ohio.

Also in our budget is \$3 million for the remediation of the Mentor Harbor Project to assure public access to Lake Erie.

Finally, we have also set aside \$1 billion for early 2024 for qualified projects that did not fit the operational budget this year. I look forward to working with Lake County officials at all levels to identify those projects over the next few months.

We have focused on reducing spending, returning money to the taxpayer, and funding all the necessary departments throughout the state. This bill is great for Ohio.

Full details on our budget are available on the OhioSenate.gov website.

We look forward working with the House and Executive Branch on a final budget for the biennium by the end of the month. All the best for Lake County. Sincerely, Jerry C. Cirino, State Senator, Ohio's 18th Senate District”

Commissioner Hamercheck read the letter of Support sent to State Senator Cirino on June 6th, 2023 regarding Amendments Supporting North East Ohio:

“To: Senator Jerry Cirino

Date: June 6, 2023

Re: Amendments Supporting North East Ohio

Dear Senator Cirino,

As you are reviewing the State Operating Budget and in your position as vice-chair of the Senate Finance Committee, there are several budget amendments that are of great interest to the Board of Lake County Commissioners as we represent not only Lake County, but also the five county Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) region and North East Ohio through the County Commissioners Association of Ohio North East Region. These amendments support not only Lake County but students, families, and businesses across North East Ohio. Some of these amendments are:

- \$5 million for critical repairs at the Bacon Road Pump Station in Painesville Township
- \$3.5 million for the Mentor Harbor Erosion Mitigation Project
- \$1 million for the Alliance for Working Together to support their ongoing STEM education for students

These projects and several others of importance to the North East Ohio region represent significant investments into the infrastructure and institutions that make North East Ohio not only a great place to work, live, and raise a family but a destination for tourists both nationally and internationally. We ask you to help defend these critical investments as the budget makes its way through the Senate.

Mr. Chris Weiss of Leroy, spoke of the roads and bridges and the Mentor lagoons

RESOLUTIONS:

1.RESOLUTION DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO USE PREPARED PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR REPLACEMENT OF THE WILLIAMS ROAD SLOPE IN CONCORD TOWNSHIP FOR EXECUTION WITH THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON BEHALF OF THE LAKE COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE (20230615\E01)(E-3)

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Regovich. County Engineer, Mr. Gills stated that Williams Road will be closed until further notice and that the slip continues to get worse. He stated that they should have plans and specs prepared by tomorrow and will await funding. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Regovich and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

2.RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERRING CASH WITHIN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES SOLID WASTE FUND AND PROJECT FUND 597(20230615\U01)(UT-2)

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

3.RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERRING CASH WITHIN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES SOLID WASTE FUND AND PROJECT FUND 597(20230615\U02)(UT-2)

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

4.RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERRING CASH WITHIN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES WATER FUND AND PROJECT FUND 595(20230615\U03)(UT-2)

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

5.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN ENGINEERING AGREEMENT WITH MANNIK & SMITH GROUP FOR THE CONCRETE DRIVE EXTENSION AND REPAIRS PROJECT 472-L-2023 FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES (20230615\U04)(UT-4)

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

6.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN LAKETRAN AND THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON BEHALF OF THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES TO ELIGIBLE MEDICAID CLIENTS UNDER THE NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION (NEMT) PROGRAM IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$638,750.00, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024 (20230615\JFS01)(JFS-2)

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Director of Job and Family Services, Ms. Suzanne Casar, stated that this is an annual resolution to provide nonemergency transportation through LakeTran. She added that her department serves as a funding pass through between local government funds and LakeTran. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Regovich and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

7.RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RENEWAL OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, THE LAKE COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD, THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES AND THE ONE-STOP SYSTEM PARTNERS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE OMJ-LAKE COUNTY SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM UNDER THE WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA) FOR THE ONE YEAR TIME PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2023, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025, AND AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD TO EXECUTE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (20230615\JFS02)(JFS-11)

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

8.RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A SUBGRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES AND THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON BEHALF OF LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES TO ESTABLISH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR RECEIPT OF FUNDING (20230615\JFS03)(JFS-2)

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

9.RESOLUTION APPROVING LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES VOUCHERS DATE OF WARRANT JUNE 23, 2023, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$875,945.40(20230615\JFS04)(JFS-14)

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

10. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MODIFICATION NO. 3 TO AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND LIFELINE, INC. AND FAIR HOUSING RESOURCE CENTER, INC. FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM- 2 (ERAP-2) FUNDS(20230615\C01)(C-34B)

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

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11. RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE US SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION IN LAKE COUNTY, OHIO (20230615\C02)(C-107)

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Regovich. Commissioner Plecnik stated that there will be a kick-off event on July 4th announcing Lake County's participation in the 250th Anniversary of the United States by dedicating a Bronze Marker honoring Revolutionary War Patriots who are buried in Lake County. The event will take place outside of the Lake County Courthouse in Painesville Square. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Regovich and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

12. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT WITH SCHINDLER ELEVATOR CORPORATION PROCURED THROUGH SOURCEWELL ON BEHALF OF THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF ELEVATOR #4 IN THE LAKE COUNTY JAIL IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$496,620.00(20230615\C03)(C-7)

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Sheriff Leonbruno stated that all 4 of the elevators are beyond their useful life and unserviceable at this point. Elevator #4 is the most critical and therefore needs to be the first one modernized. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Regovich and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

13. RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,544,711.05 (20230615\BC01)(C-4)

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

14. RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,665,693.59 (20230615\BC02)(C-17)

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

15. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20230615\BC03)(C-111)

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

16. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS(20230615\BC04)(C-111)

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

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

UTILITIES –none

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES- Job and Family Services Director, Ms. Suzanne Casar, reported that today is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Lake County and across the country. It is the time of year when cities and states can take a moment to shed light on this significant issue. She explained that Elder abuse is a widespread issue affecting every community across the country. It is estimated that 1 in 10 older Americans are victims of elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Even more alarming is that research suggests that as few as 1 in 14 cases of elder abuse ever come to the attention of authorities. Anyone wanting more information, or to report concerns of abuse, neglect or exploitation, should contact the Lake County Department of Job and Family Services, Adult Protective Services Division at (440) 350-4000, press # 1. She invited everyone to participate in the World Elder Abuse Awareness walk today at 11:45 AM beginning at Job and Family Services and concluding at Veterans Park in the Painesville Square and she encouraged everyone to wear purple. Ms. Casar reminded everyone that effective June 13th, their Public Assistance and Customer Service line is now answered by a centralized call center. The benefits of switching to the centralized call center is that clients would no longer have to prepare and personally drop off their paperwork in the dropbox of Job and Family Services and they would not have to physically see a social worker and the social workers could accept an "audio signature". In addition to the previous, they can also apply by phone for SNAP cash, childcare and apply for benefits, renew benefits, and report changes. The number that they will be directed to call is: 1-844-640-OHIO (6446).

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – none.

FINANCE – none.

CLERK – Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 22, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. and that the resolution setting the new Commissioners Meeting schedule is through mid-October and will be posted online later today. Ms. Bell also stated that County offices will be closed June 19th in observance of the Juneteenth holiday.

LEGAL – none.

ENGINEER- . Mr. Gills stated that effective Monday, June 12th, Williams Road between 608 and Cascade was closed until further notice. He gave an update on the Sanctuary Bridge citizens group and their decision to not move forward with their design plans. Mr. Gills updated the Board on Paine Road stating that the estimate for the project is \$3.5

million and the plans and specifications are nearly complete. The Board discussed with Mr. Gills several funding scenarios and acknowledged that historically the Engineers have not come to the Board for funding. Mr. Gills explained that any federal money received must be used for federal projects and that they continue to apply for funding from outside sources.

OLD BUSINESS: Commissioner Plecnik wished Treasurer Zuren a Happy Birthday. Commissioner Hamercheck briefly discussed a communication project and will keep the Board updated.

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Hamercheck discussed the State Budget, stating that the Mentor Harbor received an additional \$3 million and the local share is \$500,000. He stated that waterplant did not receive approval and that there were cuts to school districts budgets in every city but Fairport and Kirtland. Commissioner Plecnik stated that the cuts made were very disappointing. He pointed out the cut to the Willoughby-Eastlake School District budget went from \$1.9 million to \$396,000 in the state budget and the only way to make up the difference is to cut programs or place a levy on the ballot.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Commissioner Hamercheck asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board. Mr. John Muzik of 45 Coventry Drive in Painesville, thanked Sheriff Leonbruno and Captain Cynthia Brooks for their hard work.

Mr. Brian Massie, 8196 Rainbow Drive, on behalf of Lobbyists for Citizens, spoke of a Mentor School Board meeting he recently attended.

Mr. John Marra of Timberlake discussed with the Board issues that he has with NOACA.

Ms. Gilda Spencer of Madison, discussed her displeasure with the road closures in Madison and shared a traffic issue she experienced yesterday when a tractor trailer got stuck and blocked one of the open roads.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Regovich, the Board convened an Executive Session at 11:56 a.m. to discuss Real Estate – Acquisition with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Regovich and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

The Lake County Board of Commissioners adjourned to Executive Session at 12:15 p.m.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Regovich seconded by Commissioner Plecnik, the Board adjourned the meeting at 12: 15 p.m. with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners Regovich, Plecnik and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

Minutes approved this thirty-first day of August, 2023.

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, PRESIDENT

JOHN PLECNIK, COMMISSIONER

RICHARD J. REGOVICH, COMMISSIONER

JENNIFER BELL, CLERK