

LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES

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

(Tape 2024-0125)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Plecnik called the Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, January 25, 2024

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

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

Clerk of Court, Ms. Faith Andrews, presented the Board with a reimbursement check received for a successful Court case.

Ms. Tammy Gabor of Madison stated that she is not in favor of limiting the time the public can speak, explaining that many residents seek assistance on their concerns. She also stated that the public should not be taking advantage of the opportunity to may disparaging remarks or insults to the Board and she reminded everyone that there may be children watching and it is very disrespectful.

Ms. Kathy McAdams of Concord spoke of concerns regarding the many possible tax levies and increases to property taxes and how senior citizens will be forced out of their homes with these increases.

Mr. Brian Massie of Painesville reiterated Ms. McAdams' concerns. He stated that he will be speaking with the Auditor and providing the Board with an update.

Mr. John Muzik of Painesville also shared his concerns about taxing seniors out of their homes and asked that the Board be good stewards of the taxpayers dollars.

The following Willoughby Hills residents spoke on their need for a Senior Center in their community:

Ms. Gloria Majeski, read from a prepared statement outlining her concerns with the letter of denial of senior levy funding. She reviewed several items from a senior study that she was provided.

Ms. Suzanne Chock continued reading from the prepared statement which pertained to the Senior Advisory Panel's process and review of levy applications.

Ms. Vicki Miller, Councilwoman from Willoughby Hills supports the need for funding for a Willoughby Hills Senior Center. She stated it is a valuable tool in the community, that she and her mother are members and how she enjoys the monthly lunches and speakers. She shared that there are individuals paying out of their own pockets for supplies for the senior room and added that there is a shortage of LakeTran drivers.

Ms. Mary Ellen Buzanski stated the homes in Willoughby Hills are far apart and it is hard to get to the other area senior centers.

Ms. Tonya Taylor Draper, Councilwoman from Willoughby Hills stated that she feels there needs to be a more objective way of reviewing senior levy applications.

The following Willoughby Hills residents do not feel Willoughby Hills is in need of a senior center:

Mr. Scott Cordes stated that he has had the opportunity to speak with many Willoughby Hills seniors and the general consensus from them is that the current program is not appealing and they prefer the amenities and programs that the Willoughby Senior Center offers.

Ms. Jenna Bing stated that the Willoughby Hills senior center is really just a room in the basement of the Community Center. She has attempted to go to several events but has never felt welcomed and noted they are not very well attended.

Mr. Dale Fellows stated that there is nothing more important than carefully spending taxpayer dollars. He agreed with Ms. Bing's statement that it is a room in the basement and some attendees do not feel welcome. He feels there is a lack of credibility for this to be a true senior center.

Ms. Doris Dodge stated she would be outraged if her tax dollars went to fund Willoughby Hills. She discussed the top notch senior centers that are all within 5 miles of Willoughby Hills. Ms. Dodge is not only a member of Willoughby Senior Center but an instructor. She spoke on signs of elder abuse as wells as what a senior should do if they are approached, adding someone to their home's deed or financial accounts.

Mr. John Marra, as Mayor of Timberlake, voiced concerns for the seniors in Timberlake should their property taxes increase again.

RESOLUTIONS:

1.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 3 LAKE COUNTY RESURFACING PROJECT - 2023 WITH COLE BURTON CONTRACTORS, LLC DECREASING THE AMOUNT BY \$58,131.77, LCE PROJECT NO. 2022-019 (20240125\E01)(E-3)

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

2.RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A THREE-YEAR MAINTENANCE BOND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$16,226.00 FOR ANDREWS RIDGE SUBDIVISION PHASE I JOB NO. 22-34 IN THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY(20240125\U01)(UT-12)

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

3.RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERRING CASH WITHIN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES SEWER FUND AND PROJECT FUND 554, RED CREEK SEWER 280-S. SEWER FUND TRANSFERS-OUT APPROPRIATION IS INCREASED AND CASH IS TRANSFERRED TO PROJECT 280-S, CONTRACTS-PROJECTS APPROPRIATION IS INCREASED FOR PURCHASE OF GENERATOR AND ELECTRICAL UPGRADE(20240125\U02)(UT-2)

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

4.RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERRING CASH WITHIN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES SOLID WASTE FUND AND PROJECT FUND 597, GCCS IMPROVEMENTS 2022 PROJECT 458-L-2021. SOLID WASTE FUND TRANSFERS-OUT APPROPRIATION IS INCREASED AND CASH IS TRANSFERRED TO PROJECT 458-L-2021, PROFESSIONAL SERVICES-CONSULTANTS APPROPRIATION IS INCREASED FOR ADDITIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES PROVIDED BY BEL ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING(20240125\U03)(UT-2)

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

5.RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES OF COST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,857,725.10 FOR RED CREEK SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS-CONTRACT A AND CONTRACT B - PROJECT NO 280-S, AND ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR SAME (BID Opening: February 28, 2024)(20240125\U04)(UT-8)

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. Sanitary Engineer, Mr. Randy Rothlisberger, explained that this is the largest infrastructure project his department has done. He stated it has been in the planning since 1998. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Regovich, Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

6.RESOLUTION CERTIFYING UNPAID WATER AND SEWER SUMS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES TO THE LAKE COUNTY AUDITOR(20240125\U05)(UT-7)

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

7. RESOLUTION APPROVING PAY APPLICATION #6 (RELEASE OF RETAINAGE) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$48,913.12 WITH COLE BURTON CONSTRUCTION, LLC. FOR THE LAKE COUNTY RESURFACING PROJECT-2023(20240125\C01)(E-3)

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

8.RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF JUDY MORAN AS A MEMBER OF THE REGION 13 ONEOHIO GOVERNANCE BOARD TO REPRESENT THE INCORPORATED AREAS OF LAKE COUNTY FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM BEGINNING MARCH 30, 2024(20240125\C02)(C-106b)

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that Ms. Moran has been a tremendous asset to this Board and her knowledge is incredible. Commissioner Plecnik added how she has served Lake County with distinction. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Regovich, Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

9.RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,072,165.85(20240125\BC01)(C-4)

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

10. RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,659,232.57(20240125\BC02)(C-17)

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

11. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20240125\BC03)(C-111)

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

12. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CASH AND APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20240125\BC04)(C-111)

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

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

UTILITIES – Sanitary Engineer, Mr. Randy Rothlisberger stated that he had provided the Board with the 2024 Rules and Regulations and there no major changes for their review.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – Director of Job and Family Services, Ms. Suzanne Casar reminded everyone that there will be a “Resume Revision” event at the OMJ offices tomorrow, Friday, January 26th from 9:00 am to Noon. Next Wednesday, January 31st from 9:00 am to Noon, they will be hosting a “Career Exploration” event.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – Mr. Jason Boyd offered a detailed explanation on the history and description of the Senior Advisory Panel, the Senior Tax Levy, the application process for awarding of senior levy funds and the subrecipient agreements. Mr. Boyd further explained that the awards are provided on a reimbursement based disbursement, meaning the recipients front the costs and submit for reimbursement. Many years ago, awards were given upfront and any funds leftover would have been returned to the fund. He also discussed the 2015 senior study and how the County is beginning to resume the study that began in 2019 but was put on hold due to the Covid pandemic. He discussed several important data results from the study that were identified and programs have begun. A few of these include the Senior Guardian Program, Adult Protective Services, the Non-Medical In Home Program and bringing the Volunteer Network into the County in order to reach more seniors. This collaboration has provided a \$20,000-\$30,000 cost savings annually, and works with LakeTran to provide transportation for seniors to get to senior centers. The study also identified how the County will work towards programs for senior homelessness and senior veterans as well as consideration of emerging trends and sustainability of programs. Mr. Boyd also pointed out how the west end of the County has 5 fully functioning Senior Centers all within a 5 mile radius. He stated he would be happy to meet with anyone who needs more information or answer any questions. Mr. Boyd provided the Board with an update on the OneOhio Region 13 Board stating that outside Counsel has been secured in order to begin the process of considering how to expend existing opioid funds. He thanked Ms. Moran for her work on the Region 13 Board. Mr. Boyd also provided the Board with an update on the proposed Safety Center stating that schematic design should be nearing completion in the next few weeks.

CLERK – Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 10:00 am

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: none.

NEW BUSINESS: none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Regovich, the Board convened an Executive Session at 10:40 a.m. to discuss Employment – Personnel with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Regovich and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

The Lake County Board of Commissioners adjourned to Executive Session at 11:00 a.m.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Hamercheck seconded by Commissioner Regovich, the Board adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m. with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Regovich, Hamercheck, and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

Minutes approved this eighth day of February, 2024.

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JOHN PLECNIK, PRESIDENT

JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, COMMISSIONER

RICHARD J. REGOVICH, COMMISSIONER

JENNIFER BELL, CLERK