

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	

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(Tape 2024-0130)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Plecnik called the Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 30, 2024

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Commissioner Plecnik asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board. Ms. Gloria Majeski of Willoughby Hills followed up on comments she and others made in the public comment of a previous meeting pertaining to a personal attack on her and on other opinions she shared at the Commissioners Meeting of January 25, 2024.

Mr. John Muzik of Painesville asked for more detail on agenda item #6 and asked the Board to be good stewards of the tax payer dollars.

Bishop Mirbel of Painesville thanked the Commissioners for all they do and stated that they are the people that make this country great.

Mr. Lane Sheets of Concord and a member of the LakeTran Board, offered the thanks and gratitude of the LakeTran Board to Commissioner Hamercheck for his continued support and leadership. Mr. Sheets stated that the LakeTran Board of Trustees voted for suspension of/pause of the 0.25% sales tax. This decision was made due to the excess funds LakeTran currently collects.

Mr. Brian Massie of Rainbow Drive in Painesville, stated that he also attended the LakeTran Board of Trustees Meeting and asked that they suspend the collection of the sales tax. He provided several items from their financial report. He stated that he is not in favor of item #6 on the agenda and spoke of the Better Flip Project completed by the then Port Authority (now known as the Lake Development Authority).He provided the Board with a handout pertaining to the sexennial revaluation of 2024 to be paid in 2025 for their review at a later time.

Mr. Don Akins of Willoughby Hills stated that he was disturbed by how the Board of Commissioners treated the seniors of Willoughby Hills by denying their request for senior levy funding.

Mr. David Reichelt of Willoughby Hills (past president of Willoughby Hills City Council) stated that there are serious efforts being made to restore and enhance the Willoughby Hills Senior Center/Room. He pointed out that Willoughby Hills Seniors Inc. is recognized by the City.

Lake County Prosecutor, Mr. Charles Coulson, was present to clarify some allegations previously mentioned in a Commissioners meeting stating his office and the BCI had investigated individuals from Willoughby Hills. He explained that the statements made were totally false and that there was no investigation by the Prosecutors Office or the Bureau of Criminal Investigation. The decision to not investigate was based on the fact that these alleged allegations were based on rumors, suspicions and fabricated stories and that they were determined to be false and no crime to be investigated.

Mr. Chris Weiss of Leroy, wanted to set the record straight by stating that his statements are his own thoughts and opinions and he will continue to express them. He complimented Commissioner Hamercheck on his work as a good and faithful public servant and asked that Commissioner Plecnik call him directly if he has any questions.

RESOLUTIONS:

**1.RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A THREE-YEAR COMBINED MAINTENANCE BOND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$40,549.40 FOR SANITARY SEWERS AND WATERLINES FOR BOOTH FARMS PHASE 3 SUBDIVISION IN PERRY VILLAGE (JOB NO. 22-68 & 22-69)(20240130\U01)(SD-441)**

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

**2.RESOLUTION CERTIFYING UNPAID WATER AND SEWER SUMS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES TO THE LAKE COUNTY AUDITOR(20240130\U02)(UT-7)**

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

**3.RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES OF COST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$319,242.00 FOR SANITARY SEWERS FOR HIDDEN VILLAGE ESTATES SUBDIVISION-PHASE 5 IN PERRY VILLAGE (JOB NO. 23-35)(20240130\U03)(SD-437)**

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

**4.RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES OF COST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$326,579.00 FOR A WATERLINE FOR HIDDEN VILLAGE ESTATES SUBDIVISION PHASE 5 IN PERRY VILLAGE (JOB NO. 23-43)(20240130\U04)(SD-437)**

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

**5.RESOLUTION APPROVING LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES VOUCHERS DATE OF WARRANT FEBRUARY 9, 2024 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$80,694.35 (20240130\JFS01)(JFS-14)**

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

**6.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND THE LAKE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE LAKE ERIE COLLEGE ATHLETIC FIELD RENOVATION PROJECT(20240130\C01)(C-192A)**

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. Lake Development Authority Executive Director, Mr. David Anderson, stated that the County was approached by Lake Erie College for financial assistance. He read the following, Ohio Revised Code Section 4582.023, which states that any political subdivision within the jurisdiction of a port authority may appropriate and expend public funds not otherwise appropriated to finance or subsidize the operation and authorized purposes of the port authority so created. Subject to making due provisions for payment and performance of its obligations, a port authority may be dissolved by the subdivision or subdivisions creating it, and in that event, the properties of the port authority shall be transferred to the subdivision creating it or, if created by more than one subdivision, to the subdivisions creating it in such manner as may be agreed upon between the subdivisions prior to the dissolution of the port authority. He also explained that the Lake County Board of Commissioners is permitted to provide funds to the Lake Development Authority for activities that will enhance, foster, and aid economic development, recreation, and education within Lake County. Mr. Anderson further stated that a college brings many opportunities to the community it is in and that 82% of rostered Lake Erie college students are athletes. He stated that Lake Erie College has been in existence since 1856 and over this time they have continued to enhance, foster, and aid economic development, recreation, and education within Lake County. As with any college, they are in constant competition for students and athletics are a key component in helping attract future students. Commissioner Hamercheck explained that if the County wants to be serious about economic development, we must look at all economic development. The Port Authority is the economic development arm for this Board and he pointed out that this project is a proper use of these funds. He also stated that when Lake Erie College first opened its doors, it was a women's college and over the years, they have retooled and rethought what is necessary to attract youth to attend. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Hamercheck, Regovich and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

**7.RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,008,597.93(20240130\BC01)(C-4)**

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

**8.RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,031,386.22(20240130\BC02)(C-17)**

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

**9.RESOLUTION INCREASING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT (20240130\BC03)(C-111)**

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

**10.RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CASH AND APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20240130\BC04)(C-111)**

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

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

UTILITIES – none.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – none.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – Mr. Boyd stated that he met with Sanitary Engineer, Mr. Randy Rothlisberger to review several Utilities Department Projects. He reminded the Board that Mr. Rothlisberger provided them with the annual rules and regulations for their review and that this resolution should be on the agenda in the next few weeks. Mr. Boyd stated that he is beginning to schedule his quarterly meetings with the Department Heads.

CLERK – Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 10:00 am.

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: Commissioner Hamercheck suggested the Board meet to discuss the inside millage windfall and the possibility, at minimum of making it a net neutral, rollback. He quoted Mr. Massie as he once said that “any tax that can leave a person homeless is immoral”. This is a very genuine concern and taxes are very complex; the Board must meet for a serious discussion.

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Plecnik explained a new change to the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board, (ADAMHS) stating that Sub.H.B. No. 33 provides for the Board of Commissioners to appoint two-thirds of the members of the ADAHMS Board and how the Board must be divisible by three. He also explained that in speaking with the Executive Director of the Lake County ADAHMS Board, it was learned that there is at least one category on the Board that does not currently have representation. He stated that the increase in the Board members would #1) make the Board divisible by three and #2) allow the Board of Commissioners to appoint someone that would check the appropriate boxes for representation under state law as required. He explained in detail that, if the Board of Commissioners votes to approve the change in size of the ADAHMS Board, the Board of Commissioners must first send a representative to a meeting of the ADAHMS Board to solicit feedback from their Board about the matter. The Board of Commissioners may only proceed with implementing the change in the size of the ADAHMS Board after considering this feedback. Commissioner Plecnik stated that after speaking with Assistant Prosecutor, Mr. Hackman, a motion should be made in New Business designating County Administrator, Mr. Jason Boyd, to represent the Board of Commissioners at an ADAMHS Board meeting to receive their feedback.

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, to designate Lake County Administrator, Jason Boyd as the representative of the Board of Commissioners to attend an ADAMHS Board meeting and inform them of this Board’s decision to increase the size of the ADAMHS Board and receive feedback. Commissioner Hamercheck inquired what the process would be before filling these additional ADAMHS Board seats and also what their qualifications would be. Commissioner Plecnik stated that there will be an important application process and the Board would determine what category the applicant would fall into. Commissioner Hamercheck pointed out that a mastered nurse practitioner was recently removed from the ADAMHS Board, and that there needs to be a formalized process moving forward to ensure that the applicant meets the ADAMHS Boards criteria. Typically, throughout the State, ADAHMS Boards prefer the “less is more” way of thinking. The foregoing motion was approved with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Hamercheck, Regovich and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Regovich seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:41 a.m. with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Hamercheck, Regovich and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

Minutes approved this seventh day of March, 2024.

**BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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JOHN PLECNİK, PRESIDENT

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JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, COMMISSIONER

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RICHARD J. REGOVICH, COMMISSIONER

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JENNIFER BELL, CLERK