

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 2024-0222)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Plecnik called the Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, February 22, 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. The Board presented Lake Development Authority Executive Director, David Anderson, with a special certificate in honor of his upcoming retirement. Commissioner Regovich read the certificate in its entirety. Mr. Anderson thanked the Board for the recognition and stated that he has thoroughly enjoyed the past 3 ½ years serving. Mr. Boyd thanked Mr. Anderson for his hard work and spoke of his time as Mayor of the City of Willoughby. Commissioner Regovich also spoke of working Mayor to Mayor with Mr. Anderson and how he always had the time to share his experience with others.

Sheriff Leonbruno spoke of the recent National Sheriff’s Association Conference he attended with Chief Deputy Izzo and the topics discussed. The Sheriff shared what he learned about the growing threat of terrorism across the United States and how our County is responding and preparing to such threats in our community. He also gave some history on the SWAT Team and how they are recognized as one of the best teams in the State. Sheriff Leonbruno explained that they have expanded the SWAT team, to now include members from the Geauga and Ashtabula County Sheriff’s Offices, and other police departments from across our area some of which include Painesville, Madison Township, Chesterland, and Middlefield. He also provided an update on several topics such as how in 2023 the range renovation was completed and he provided many details on what the range has to offer. He also added how for many years the Sheriff’s Office has participated in the Northern Border Initiative working with the Border Patrol to be proactive in finding threats to our security along our countries northern border.

Bishop Mirbel of Painesville, offered his blessings to the Sheriff and his department.

Mr. John Muzik of Painesville, thanked the Sheriff and Chief Deputy Izzo. He stated that they are great leaders and public servants.

Reverend Chris Bilhainy of Painesville also thanked the Sheriff and stated what a blessing all law enforcement is.

Mr. Chris Weiss of Leroy, encouraged the Board to provide upgraded and encrypted radios to law enforcement. He explained the importance of encryption for our safety forces. Sheriff Leonbruno provided everyone with an update on everything that the Board of Commissioners has provided and how he is very grateful for the support the Board provides to all safety forces in Lake County.

RESOLUTIONS:

1.RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A THREE-YEAR MAINTENANCE BOND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,860.00 FOR THE MAINE AVENUE WATERLINE EXTENSION JOB NO. 23-49 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP(20240222\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.

2.RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES PROJECT FUND 596, KIRTLAND - OLD TOWN SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT 445-S-2021. CONTRACTS – PROJECTS APPROPRIATION IS INCREASED FOR PHASE II CONSTRUCTION EXPENSE(20240222\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.

3.RESOLUTION AWARDDING A BID CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,176,321.00 TO CHIVERS CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR KIRTLAND OLD TOWN SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE II PROJECT 445-S-2021 (20240222\U03)(UT-4)

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. Sanitary Engineer, Mr. Randy Rothlisberger, explained that this is Phase 2 of the Project and will satisfy the findings and orders of the Ohio EPA. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Regovich, Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

4.RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE LAKE COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD AND THE LAKE COUNTY YOUTH COMMITTEE(20240222\JFS01)(B-24)

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.

5.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO ENTER INTO A FEDERAL EQUITABLE SHARING AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY ON BEHALF OF THE LAKE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY’S OFFICE

AND THE LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO RECEIVE FEDERALLY FORFEITED PROPERTY AND/OR FUNDS (20240222\C01)(CT-8con)

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.

6.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH COBRA SYSTEMS, INC. AND THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD ON COMMISSIONERS ON BEHALF OF THE LAKE COUNTY JUVENILE COURT FOR A NEW CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$750,000.00(20240222\C02)(CT-3C)

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. Juvenile Court Judge Michael DeLeone stated that this is a historic moment for the Court. The current case management system the court utilizes has been in place for over 15 years. The new software would allow access to attorneys and the public to review cases, check court hearing status, and file motions on cases on a password protected basis and meet all safety protocols. Increasing case flow within the court as well as providing the public with access to their individual cases would assist the Court in better serving the people of Lake County. He stated that this could not have been possible without the Board of Commissioners and Clerk of Courts, Ms. Faith Andrews. He also explained the very long and detailed process they went through to choose the best platform for the Court. Clerk of Courts Ms. Faith Andrews stated that the proposed new case management system benefits the Court's system via improved electronic case flow, increased access to the public, and eventual e-filing capabilities. Ms. Andrews stated that she was able to assist in the purchase of this software through title surplus funds made possible by the hard work of her staff at the title agencies. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Regovich, Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

7.RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING DISCOUNTED RATES OR CHARGES IN THE AMOUNT OF 30% FOR PERSONS SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OR OLDER THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION FOR WATER AND SANITARY SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES (20240222\C03)(UT-19)

On a motion by Commissioner Hamercheck, seconded by Commissioner Regovich. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that when the Board first began to look into how to provide help for Lake County seniors, discounted water and sewer rates of 25% was a significant step forward in showing respect, regard and due consideration for our seniors.

Commissioner Hamercheck proposed amending the resolution from a 30% discount to 50% because the debt service for this building will be coming off so there will be no negative impact to the Utilities Department budget. He added that this discount would make Lake County among the top counties in Ohio for showing due regard in this manner to Lake County seniors. This opportunity makes a strong stand for seniors. Commissioner Hamercheck respectfully requested the Board amend the resolution but no further discussion was had on amending the resolution at this time.

Commissioner Regovich acknowledged that Commissioner Plecnik has been working with Sanitary Engineer, Mr. Randy Rothlisberger, to reach 30% but he would not be opposed to seeing more information in the Commissioners signature/review file regarding a 50% discount. He does not feel that he can vote on this amendment at this time without further review and discussion. Commissioner Plecnik stated that the first step in any proposed discount begins with Sanitary Engineer, Mr. Randy Rothlisberger. The goal for this is to provide a discount to seniors without placing any further burden on the Lake County rate payers with an increase in their fees. Commissioner Plecnik stated that he previously proposed a 25% discounted rate for seniors and he pushed hard to make that happen. He stated that any discount would not be enough for seniors. Commissioner Plecnik explained that the Board and the Lake County Utilities Department can only authorize this discount to seniors that are served by the Lake County Utilities Department. He stated that the Board of Commissioners encourages all political subdivisions and water supply companies that do business in Lake County to also offer and match these discounted water and sewer rates to this vulnerable population. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Regovich, Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

8.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND WESTERN RESERVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR THE FY 2023 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS(20240222\C04)(C-46)

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.

9.RESOLUTION APPOINTING EMILY R. KOENIG TO THE LAKE COUNTY SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY PANEL FOR A TERM BEGINNING MARCH 1, 2024 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, AND AMENDING THE PANEL OPERATING PROCEDURES (20240222\C05)(B-20)

On a motion by Commissioner Hamercheck, seconded by Commissioner Regovich. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that Commissioner Regovich as well as himself had the opportunity to speak with Ms. Koenig and were extremely impressed with her vision for the Panel and her grasp of the concept of what the Senior Advisory Panel stands for. Commissioner Regovich stated how he was impressed with both Ms. Koenig and Mr. Sterk. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Regovich, Hamercheck, Plecnik "NAYS": None.

10. RESOLUTION APPOINTING LAWRENCE W. STERK TO THE LAKE COUNTY SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY PANEL FOR A TERM BEGINNING MARCH 1, 2024 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027 (20240222\C06)(B-20)

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that he was impressed with Mr. Sterk's keen awareness for fiscal responsibility. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Regovich, Hamercheck, Plecnik "NAYS": None.

11. RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$975,665.22(20240222\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, Plecnik "NAYS": None.

12. RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,516,302.04(20240222\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.

13. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS(20240222\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, Plecnik "NAYS": None.

14. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20240222\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, Plecnik "NAYS": None.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

UTILITIES – Sanitary Engineer, Mr. Randy Rothlisberger, stated that the dates have been established for the 2024 Special Household Hazardous Waste Collections. These dates are in addition to the year-round opportunities for residents to drop off items at the Landfill.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – none.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – none.

CLERK – Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 29, 2024 at 10:00 am

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: Commissioner Hamercheck encouraged the Board to discuss the looming increase to property valuation and the Boards ability as the taxing authority to roll back inside millage. He explained the impact on residents and businesses and how this is an opportunity to work other leaders.

NEW BUSINESS: none.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, 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 seventh day of March, 2024.

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JOHN PLECNIK, PRESIDENT

JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, COMMISSIONER

RICHARD J. REGOVICH, COMMISSIONER

JENNIFER BELL, CLERK