

LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES

JERRY C. CIRINO, COMMISSIONER	JASON W. BOYD, ADMINISTRATOR
JOHN R HAMERCHECK, COMMISSIONER	LEGAL COUNSEL
RON YOUNG, COMMISSIONER	MIKE MATAS, BUDGET DIRECTOR
JENNIFER BELL, CLERK	NEWS MEDIA

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(Tape 2020-0723)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Hamercheck called the Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, July 23, 2020.

ROLL CALL: Upon roll being called, Commissioners Cirino, Young and Hamercheck were present. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that Commissioner Young is joining by telephone which is fully compliant with the COVID-19 regulations that the County is currently operating under.

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

Ms. Lisa Miller, from the Ohio State Extension, introduced several 4-H members that will be participating in the new Lake County Fair Carcass Program. Each member introduced themselves, (Izabelle Bowman, Paige Lucic, Trent Taylor, and Emma Taylor) and stated their 4-H program activities and the animals that they will have judged throughout the Fair week. The livestock auction will take place on Saturday, August 1, 2020 at 4:00 P.M. The Commissioners were given more information and buyer packets from the kids about the particular livestock they will auction online this year.

The participants and the Commissioners expressed their disappointment in not having the fair this year due to COVID-19, but they are glad that judging and the livestock auction is still taking place.

Commissioner Hamercheck stated that it is good to see them making the best out of a bad situation and it is commendable to see our youth being so flexible.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR THE LAKE COUNTY ROADS PAVEMENT MARKINGS – 2020 PROJECT FOR THE LAKE COUNTY ENGINEER'S ROAD DEPARTMENT, LCE PROJECT NO. 2020-006 (BID OPENING: August 12, 2020) (20200723\E02)(E-2)

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Cirino. Mr. Gills explained that this resolution approves the annual striping program. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE LAKE COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT SALT-2020 (UNTREATED BULK ROCK SALT) CONTRACT WITH COMPASS MINERALS AMERICA, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$252,300.00, LCE PROJECT NO. 2020-005 (20200723\E03)(E-3)

On a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Young. County Engineer, Mr. Jim Gills, explained that this resolution amends the salt contract that was previously adopted by the Commissioners a few weeks ago because the price was very favorable. This would be expanding the contract for up to 5,000 more tons. Most of the salt will be used on SR2. This is half the price of treated salt.

Commissioner Hamercheck asked what the difference between treated and untreated salt is.

Mr. Gills replied that beet juice or something similar is put into treated salt to make it stickier to adhere to the ground and it lasts longer. He stated that it is not as good as it used to be.

The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

3. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN ENGINEERING AGREEMENT WITH BROWN AND CALDWELL FOR TWILIGHT LIFT STATION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT 439-S FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES (20200723\U01)(UT-4)

On a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Young. Sanitary Engineer, Mr. Randy Rothlisberger explained that this project is part on the Utilities Capital Improvement Project Improvement list. It's for a small lift station in Mentor-on-the-Lake on Andrews Road.

The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

4. RESOLUTION AWARDDING THE LANDFILL GAS COLLECTION AND CONTROL SYSTEM AND OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE SERVICE TO STEARNS, CONRAD AND SCHMIDT CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC. FOR THE LAKE COUNTY SOLID WASTE FACILITY (20200723\U02)(UT-4)

On a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Young. Mr. Rothlisberger explained that the Lake County Department of Utilities is taking over operation of the gas collection system at the landfill. This contract is for the monitoring, operations and maintenance of the system. Commissioner Cirino stated that this is part of the recommendation from the consultant that will address the odor issues in Painesville Township.

The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

5. RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES OF COST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$457,600.00 FOR CELL C4 PHASE VI EXPANSION-PART B ELECTRICAL RELOCATION PROJECT NO. 421-L, AND ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR SAME (Bid Opening August 26, 2020)(20200723\U03)(UT-8)

On a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Young. Mr. Rothlisberger stated that this resolution is for electric relocation for the landfill expansion. There will be a few more contracts coming for the

construction of the new cell. This will give the County 25 more years of capacity. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

6. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERRING CASH WITHIN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES WATER OPERATING FUND AND PROJECT FUND 595, SOUTH RIDGE ROAD WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT 425-W (20200723\U04)(UT-2)

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

7. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERRING CASH WITHIN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES SEWER OPERATING FUND AND PROJECT FUND 596, MENTOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY VFD REPLACEMENT PROJECT 440-S (20200723\U05)(UT-2)

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

8. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS IN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES WATER AND SEWER OPERATING FUNDS EQUIPMENT ACCOUNTS 50000811-812 AND 51000811-812 (20200723\U06)(UT-2)

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

9. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF UNIFORM SERVICE FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES (Bid Opening: August 12, 2020)(20200723\U08)(UT-8)

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

10. RESOLUTION APPROVING LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES VOUCHERS DATE OF WARRANT JULY 27, 2020 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$545,952.38 (20200723\JFS01)(JFS-14)

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

11. RESOLUTION RE-APPOINTING AMY L. COSSICK TO THE LAKE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 14, 2023 (20200723\C01)(B-34)

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

12. RESOLUTION RE-APPOINTING WALTER R. SIEGEL TO THE LAKE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 14, 2023 (20200723\C02)(B-34)

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

13. RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,603,960.28 (20200723\BC01)(C-4)

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

14. RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,116,746.44 (20200723\BC02)(C-17)

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

15. RESOLUTION INCREASING AND DECREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20200723\BC03)(C-111)

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

16. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CASH AND APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS(20200723\BC04)(C-111)

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

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

UTILITIES – none.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – none.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – Mr. Jason Boyd stated that the Small Business Grant/Loan Committee recently met and to date, \$167,000 in grants and loans are being awarded through this program. Mr. Boyd also stated that, beginning tomorrow, the new mask protocol from the Governor's orders will be put in place for County buildings and people will be required to don masks when entering County buildings.

FINANCE – none.

CLERK – Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the next regular Commissioners Meeting will be Thursday, July 30, 2020 at 10:00 am.

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: - none.

NEW BUSINESS: - Commissioner Hamercheck reported that CCAO's JEDI Committee (Jobs, Economic Development and Infrastructure) recently met and the major topic they discussed was restructuring Boards of Health in the State of Ohio to allow for more transparency and input from elected leadership. The general consensus was not to abolish the current Board structure but to add to it with an emphasis on adding medical professionals to the Board. The regulations and statutes currently being operated under are from 1918-1919.

Commissioner Young reported that he recently met with ODNR, the Port Authority and Fairport regarding funding for the expansion of the marina in Fairport Harbor and he thinks that the project will be moving forward and he is very excited about the project.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Commissioner Hamercheck asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board.

Lake County Administrator, Jason Boyd, read a statement submitted by email from Mr. David Lima, of 7774 Litchfield Drive in Mentor, "I am requesting that the Lake County Commissioners reconsider the application from the Fair Housing Resource Center for the Landlord/Tenant Mediation Program. This hotline provides a valuable service to the residents of Lake County when confronted with housing concerns, evictions and difficult issues that arise between property owners and those who rent from them. In the last two weeks, the Fair Housing Resource Center has received 60 phone calls on the hotline. Landlords and tenants rely on this service as do the Courts, local non-profits, local governments, building departments and our own Health Department. Reconsider the application from the Fair Housing Resource Center and continue funding for this valuable service."

Mr. Lima also requested that a second comment be read into the record, "The success at engineering the bailout of Ohio's two nuclear plants has recently come to light through the work of the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Ohio. What it reveals, in addition to the alleged corruption of Ohio politicians, is a system that allowed Generation Now, a 501(c)4 organization, to conceal the names of contributors and the amount of their contributions monies that were used to influence the passage of HB6. Dark money used to influence and deceive the electorate must be cast aside in favor of transparency. Transparency may have resulted in our lawmakers voting to reject HB6. Now the taxpayer is paying the price and has the right to know who and how much was contributed to Generation Now. Hopefully, as the US attorney's office continues the investigation, those who were complicit in this travesty will be revealed."

Commissioner Cirino commented on the statement regarding HB 6. He stated that he abhors the allegations against Ohio House Speaker Householder and others. He stated that HB 6 is now law and it is still a good law because it supports clean energy, employment, schools and senior citizens programs in Lake County. When the law comes into full effect, it will lower electric bills. He agrees with Mr. Lima regarding dark money management should get what they deserve. He stated that he is disappointed in what Speaker Householder allegedly did behind the scenes. Commissioner Cirino worked very hard and very long on HB 6. He did not vote for it because he is not in state legislature, but he did lobby for the bill because it was his responsibility as a Commissioner to lobby for the best interest of the community. He thought that if the law would need to be changed through debate he would be open to that if the voters elect him in the fall.

Commissioner Young stated that HB6 was a medium to accomplish needed goals. He also stated that leadership, lobbyists and special interests circle around bills and if people are open to accepting illegal contributions then it will happen, and he is happy the FBI stepped in. He never supported Representative Householder because of a similar scandalous incident that involved Householder back in 2004. Labeling HB6 as evil because some people made illegal contributions simply makes no sense.

Commissioner Cirino called publicly for Representative Householder's resignation from the State House. He stated that his activities are abhorrent to those who have worked so hard on this bill and those people should not be thrown under the bus. He asked that people remember what HB6 accomplished before there are any calls for HB6 to be eliminated. The impact on the community if the plant closes would be substantial especially in the age of COVID-19.

Ms. Ellen Chamberlin, of Willoughby, asked the Board to publicly make it clear regarding their position on absentee voting. She stated that it is incumbent upon the Board to reassure voters that absentee voting is safe, fair and useful, and that every vote will be counted.

Commissioner Cirino replied that absentee ballot voting occurs 30 days before voting day and he asked why Ms. Chamberlin would think there would be a change to absentee voting. He does not know of any reason to believe that anything will impact the maintaining of absentee ballots. If voters wish to vote absentee ballot, they have the right. He has concerns about going only to absentee voting.

Ms. Chamberlin stated that she had heard some comments from public officials expressing their concerns about the integrity of voting absentee.

Commissioner Hamercheck stated that the Lake County Board of Elections is beyond reproach. He has not heard of anyone who said votes are not being counted in Lake County. He does not believe that sending out blanket ballots is a good idea because the potential for fraud is extreme. A project is currently being worked on to possibly provide a satellite office as there may be an appetite for in-person voting this fall. The Lake County Board of Elections is going above and beyond. If a voter requests an absentee ballot, then they will receive an absentee ballot.

Ms. Chamberlin stated that she does not know of anyone who supports the mass mailing of ballots. She requested that the timeline for absentee voting be publicized.

Ms. Chamberlin asked about the public's input regarding budget revision related to the decrease of public funds.

Mr. Boyd replied that the tax budget public hearing was held a few weeks ago and the tax budget was adopted as is required by statute. Department Heads and Elected Officials were asked to reduce their budget by 5% in the General Fund. The April numbers were 15% below the anticipated budget.

Ms. Bell stated that the tax budget hearing was posted online and advertised in the News-Herald.

Ms. Chamberlin asked if there was any way the public could have input about the budget adjustments being made.

Commissioner Hamercheck stated that when the budgets for the year are being discussed they are open to the public. Modifications to those budgets throughout the year is the responsibility of the Elected Officials and Department Heads.

Commissioner Cirino replied that these were administrative adjustments that were given in order to keep a balanced budget.

Commissioner Young thanked the Elected Officials who voluntarily decreased their General Fund budgets by 5% and for providing great cooperation in order to not impact the services provided by the County.

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Hackman replied that Ms. Chamberlin is exercising her right today in the public process. All records are public, and there was great cooperation among the Elected Officials and Department Heads in Lake County.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Young, the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m. with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

Minutes approved this sixth day of August, 2020.

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, PRESIDENT

RON YOUNG, VICE PRESIDENT

JERRY C. CIRINO, COMMISSIONER

JENNIFER BELL, CLERK