

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 2024-0509)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Plecnik called the Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, May 9, 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.

Mr. Leonard Gilbert of Mentor, read a statement regarding the elimination of property taxes that he is working on with Mr. Brian Massie. He thanked Commissioners Hamercheck and Plecnik for supplying his requested information.

Mr. Brian Massie of Rainbow Drive in Painesville, also provided a handout to the Board entitled "Save our Seniors".

Mrs. Spencer of Madison shared with the Board that she noticed that some things seem to be moving along however, it still takes safety forces more than half hour to get to her area.

Rev. Chris Bihary of Painesville wished all mothers a Happy Mother's Day.

Mr. Chris Weiss of Leroy, discussed some concerns he had regarding a Commissioner and his dog appearing in an advertisement for the dog shelter.

Bishop Mirbel of Painesville, stated he was thankful for all City and County officials.

RESOLUTIONS:

1.RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF MAY 2024 MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH IN LAKE COUNTY, OHIO(20240509\F01)(C-126)

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. Commissioner Plecnik read the resolution in its entirety. Commissioner Plecnik introduced Ms. Kim Fraser, Executive Director of ADAMHS to speak on the importance of Mental Health Awareness. She expressed her thanks to the Board for this recognition to help raise awareness and hopes to stamp out the stigma associated with mental health issues. She stated that mental health issues are as treatable as diabetes and high blood pressure and provided some statistics from across the country. Ms. Fraser provided their anonymous 24-hour Compass crisis line for anyone needing assistance. The number is 440-350-2000. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that for most, this is just something on your tax bill but it is so much more than this. He stressed how instrumental Ms. Fraser was in the success of the opioid trial and that her knowledge, passion and professionalism assisted Lake and Trumbull in a positive outcome in the trial. Acknowledging mental health as part of a bigger issue is of the utmost importance and ADAMHS and its partner agencies serve more than mental health. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Hamercheck, Regovich and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

2.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN EUTHENICS, INC AND THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$190,940.00 FOR THE BLAIR ROAD RETAINING WALL REPLACEMENT PROJECT(20240509\E01)(E-3)

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 INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS IN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES SEWER FUND FOR ADDITIONAL 2024 EXPENSES(20240509\U01)(20240509\U01)(UT-2)

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 INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERRING CASH WITHIN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES WATER FUND AND PROJECT FUND 595, BRYN MAWR WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT 476-W-2024(20240509\U02)(UT-2)

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 AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN ENGINEERING AGREEMENT WITH VERDANTAS, LLC FOR THE LCSWF WHEEL WASH FACILITY- PROJECT 481-L-2024 FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES (20240509\U03)(UT-4)

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. Sanitary Engineer, Mr. Randy Rothlisberger, explained that the installation of the wheel wash will alleviate most, if not all, mud and dust from trash hauling vehicles being tracked onto the haul road and Blasé Nemeth Road. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Hamercheck, Regovich and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

6.RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 WITH CHIVERS CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. FOR THE ARCOLA CREEK TRUNK SEWER PROJECT NO 454-S-2021 INCREASING THE TOTAL CONTRACT AMOUNT BY \$146,020.00 (20240509\U04)(UT-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.

7.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE DATA SHARING AND CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES AND LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREA 5(20240509\JFS01)(JFS-2)

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 REVISING THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE BEGINNING MAY 2, 2024(20240509\C01)(C-107)

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 DETERMINING THAT THE AMOUNT OF TAXES WHICH MAY BE RAISED WITHIN THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION WILL BE INSUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE FOR THE NECESSARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAKE COUNTY ALCOHOL, DRUG ADDICTION, AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES DISTRICT, AND DETERMINING THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO LEVY A RENEWAL TAX OF .9 MILLS FOR A PERIOD OF TEN (10) YEARS IN EXCESS OF THE LIMITATION FOR THE OPERATION OF COMMUNITY ADDICTION SERVICES PROVIDERS AND COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDERS AND THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION, FINANCING, MAINTENANCE, AND OPERATION OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION FACILITIES AND MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES IN LAKE COUNTY AND REQUESTING THAT THE COUNTY AUDITOR CERTIFY THE TOTAL CURRENT TAX VALUATION OF LAKE COUNTY AND THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF REVENUE THAT WOULD BE GENERATED BY SAID RENEWAL TAX LEVY(20240509\C02)(C-50)

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. Ms. Kim Fraser, Executive Director of the ADAMHS Board, explained the first time this levy was placed on the ballot was in 1976 and it has continuously been renewed. She is grateful for the taxpayer's support. The levy dollars are used for crisis intervention services for emergency departments, suicide prevention and depression awareness in schools and mental health services that help seniors remain in their homes and stabilized and she also listed many other programs. This levy generates \$5.4 million or 30.6% of their annual budget and their cash reserves are less than \$4 million; approximately 3 months of their operating budget. Ms. Roberta Kalb who serves as the ADAMHS Board President read a statement on behalf of the ADAMHS Board in support of this renewal levy. Commissioner Plecnik stated that the Commissioners are very discerning on tax levies acknowledging that taxes are too high and they want to protect seniors. The Board (of Commissioners) has done their due diligence before placing this resolution on the agenda. Commissioner Plecnik shared the story of a young person that had been volunteering with the group "Gang for Good" that showed no outward signs of mental issues but ultimately took their own life. This was a terrible loss and he wished that they could have reached out for help. Sheriff Leonbruno stated that he fully endorses the renewal of this levy and added how Lake County is fortunate enough to have an extremely good mental health and drug addiction program. He discussed the programs offered through the jail and how first responders encounter mental health issues on a daily basis. He also discussed the homeless population and their issues with mental health. Commissioner Regovich thanked Ms. Fraser for the programs ADAMHS and various other agencies provide. He also fully supports the renewal of this levy. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that he would echo and amplify everything that has been said in support of the levy. He spoke of the recent Corrections Board Meeting and commended Mentor Municipal Judge John Trebets for being so open minded and flexible with these programs and for his work with ADAMHS. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Hamercheck, Regovich and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

10. RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,647,459.88 (20240509\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.

11.RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,854,361.91(20240509\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.

12. RESOLUTION DECREASING AND INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS(20240509\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.

13. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CASH AND APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS(20240509\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– Sanitary Engineer, Mr. Randy Rothlisberger, stated that the first Household Hazardous Waste Collection of the year will be held on June 1st from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Fairgrounds. Commissioner Plecnik relayed to Mr. Rothlisberger a complaint he recently received pertaining to constant trash on Route 2 near the landfill and that he (Commissioner Plecnik) was pleased to hear how the wheel wash will help with mud and dirt. Mr. Rothlisberger stated that they require all truck haulers to have their trucks tarped to avoid having any trash flying out.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – none.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – none.

CLERK – Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 10:00 am. Ms. Bell wanted to thank Special Projects Manager, Mrs. Donna Tyson, for all that she has done and congratulated her on her upcoming retirement. Ms. Bell highlighted some of the projects Mrs. Tyson accomplished, a few of which included the signage throughout all of the buildings, the photographs by local photographers that has been placed in the new administration building, the name plates in chambers and the interactive map in the main lobby. Mrs. Tyson also created and updated the video boards that display meetings and events in our buildings. Commissioner Plecnik stated that Mrs. Tyson was responsible for the design and implementation of the Senior Water Discount Program pamphlet. He thanked Mrs. Tyson for stepping in to assist the Finance Department during budget preparation time and for also training of new employees. Commissioner Hamercheck expressed his gratitude to Donna and stated that she has a true servant’s heart and prefers to give than to receive. Commissioner Regovich congratulated Mrs. Tyson on her 28-year career and noted that she is always smiling and in a good mood. He mentioned her many talents and how she made the staff ‘eclipse survival bags’ filled with all things related to the sun and the moon. He also thanked her for all the training she has provided to new staff. Director of Administrative Services, Mr. Joel DiMare, shared that Donna was very welcoming on his first day, 13 years ago. He also thanked her for the 6 months of help to the Finance Department, on new staff training and how she is always willing to pitch in anywhere she is needed. He wished her well in retirement.

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: none.

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Regovich addressed Assistant Prosecutor, Mr. David Hackman, regarding several comments made by Mr. Weiss during public comment. Mr. Hackman addressed them by explaining that everyone’s First Amendment rights are iron clad but the Board could impose some time limits. He stated that he did speak to Mr. Weiss about last week’s comments but that they fall within his First Amendment rights. Mr. Hackman also addressed the dog shelter expenditure, stating that it was a legal and proper expenditure and served as a public service announcement. He also stated that former Commissioner Millie Teuscher appeared in a commercial for the dog shelter with her dog many, many years ago. Mr. Hackman stated that Mr. Weiss was within his bounds and rights, however there is a question of decorum. He added that the Board can consider doing away with public comment completely. Mr. Hackman further stated that if the Board has a public comment portion, and that it is a good idea to have a public comment portion, the Board members will be criticized, however, the members are public figures. Commissioner Plecnik stated that his feelings are of no importance during public comment but that he is focused on running the meetings. He thanked Commissioner Regovich for his concern and the Assistant Prosecutor for his advice. He stated that the Board would not violate anyone’s First Amendment rights. He also addressed Mr. Weiss’ comment about a certain Township Trustee and ensured everyone that he endorsed and supported her.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the Board adjourned the meeting at 11:03 a.m. with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Hamercheck, Regovich and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

Minutes approved this sixteenth day of May, 2024.

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JOHN PLECNIK, PRESIDENT

JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, COMMISSIONER

RICHARD J. REGOVICH, COMMISSIONER

JENNIFER BELL, CLERK