

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 2024-0516)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Plecnik called the Meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Thursday, May 16, 2024.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the minutes of the Regular Meetings of April 26, May 2 and May 9, 2024 were approved with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners Hamercheck, Regovich and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Commissioner Plecnik asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board. Mr. Reginald Black of Painesville, commended the Board for all they do.

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

Mr. John Marra of Timberlake, spoke on the Local Government Fund (LGF) meetings and how he feels everyone worked very hard to come up with a plan that will be fair and equitable to all communities. He also discussed his concerns for the ever-increasing property taxes in Lake County. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that any unpaid taxes that lead to someone being homeless is immoral.

Mr. John Muzik of Painesville offered his support to all law enforcement and reminded the Commissioners to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars. He also discussed his concerns about increasing property taxes in Lake County and how seniors are being priced out of their homes and at times cannot afford even basic necessities.

Mr. Chris Weiss of Leroy, discussed several topics he had regarding a Commissioner.

RESOLUTIONS:

1.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN ENGINEERING AGREEMENT WITH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN GROUP, LLC FOR THE HEATHERSTONE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT GENERAL PLAN- FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES(20240516\U01)(UT-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.

2.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN ENGINEERING AGREEMENT WITH EUTHENICS, INC. FOR THE REGENT ROAD WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT 478-W-2024 FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES(20240516\U02)(UT-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.

3.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN ENGINEERING AGREEMENT WITH STEPHEN HOVANCSEK & ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR THE BRYN MAWR WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT 476W-2024 FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES (20240516\U03)(UT-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.

4.RESOLUTION APPROVING LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES VOUCHERS DATE OF WARRANT MAY 24, 2024, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$694,705.06(20240516\JFS01)(JFS-14)

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 ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR PURCHASE AND SALE FOR REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 197 N. ST. CLAIR STREET IN THE CITY OF PAINESVILLE, OHIO (20240516\C01)(209-z-48)

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 THE EXECUTION BY THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OF A NOTICE OF PERFORMANCE AUDIT BY THE OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE OF THE LAKE COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE (20240516\C02)(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.

7.RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE LAKE COUNTY HEALTH COMMISSIONER TO ESTABLISH A HYBRID DRUG OVERDOSE FATALITY AND SUICIDE FATALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE(20240516\C03)(C-30)

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 APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,968,613.68(20240516\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.

9.RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,155,451.49(20240516\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 and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

10.RESOLUTION INCREASING AND DECREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS(20240516\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.

11.RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CASH AND APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS(20240516\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 – none.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – none.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – Mr. Boyd read the following statement: "Pursuant to House Bill 33 (passed in October 2023), I attended the ADAMHS Board meeting on April 15, 2024 to solicit feedback on the potential expansion of Board (ADAMHS). I want to thank Executive Director Frasier and the Board for the invitation and professional dialogue. Currently, the board consists of 14 members, with 8 appointed by the County Commissioners and 6 from the State of Ohio. House Bill 33 allows boards to be composed of 9, 12, 14, 15 or 18 members. HB 33 notes that the County will appoint two-thirds (2/3) of the Board and the remaining one-third (1/3) to be appointed by the Director of Mental Health and Addiction Services for four-year terms. The overall discussion points were as follows: the ADAMHS Board went to 14 members in 2013 which is down from 18 members and there was a review of other county agency boards and their sizes (Planning Commission, Health District, Laketrans, Visitors Bureau and Lake Development Authority to name a few). He reviewed the data below from the ADAMHS Board:

- Of the 49 other ADAMHS Boards:
 - ❖ 7 ADAMHS Boards have reduced in size (4 from 14 to 12 or 9 and 3 from 18 to 15 or 12)
 - ❖ 5 more ADAMHS Boards are moving toward reducing in size
 - ❖ 10 plan to remain at their current level
 - ❖ 27 are undecided
 - ❖ Lake is the only county considering increasing in size the size of the ADAMHS Board

In general, the ADAMHS Board is comfortable at 14, but should the Commissioners decide to increase the size, the (ADAMHS) Board would advocate for more diversity amongst the membership.

Other information provided was the following:

Since 1989 ADAMHS Boards have been required to have specific categorical members. They include (1) a mental health client (individual receiving or who has received mental health services), (2) drug/alcohol client (individual receiving or who has received drug/alcohol treatment), (3) mental health family member, (4) drug/alcohol family member, (5) mental health professional (not currently employed by a contract agency of the Board), and (6) drug/alcohol professional (not currently employed by a contract agency of the Board). The only individual permitted to fulfill 2 categorical requirements is a combined mental health and drug/alcohol professional. Boards are also required to maintain a board member composition that reflects the demographics of the county (age, race, ethnicity, gender). In 2013 the law changed to allow boards to elect to decrease from 18 to 14 board members (8 commissioner appointments and 6 OhioMHAS appointments), based on feedback from county boards regarding challenges at operating with the large number of 18 members. At that time 24 boards elected to remain at 18, and 26 boards (including Lake) elected to reduce to 14 members. In 2022 Representative Swearingen (Erie/Ottawa) introduced House Bill 523, that proposed some changes to ADAMHS Boards. The stated purpose of the change was to allow boards to decrease in size (to 15, 12, 9 or 6 board members). The Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) worked with Rep. Swearingen and advocated to allow Boards who were operating well with their current composition to remain at 18 or 14.

Commissioner Plecnik asked Assistant Prosecutor, Mr. David Hackman, if the County has met their requirement with the ADAMHS Board to move forward if they choose to. Mr. Hackman stated that the County did meet this requirement.

Mr. Boyd also updated the Board on the 6-hour Public Safety Center meeting held yesterday and the progress that was made. He stated that they spent a lot of time on valued engineering. He explained that valued engineering means taking a look at every corner for possible cost savings without compromising the integrity of the building. Mr. Boyd stated that his hope would be a formal presentation to the Board sometime in the next 30 days. He thanked Treasurer Zuren, Eileen Stanek from Meeder Investments, and Auditor Galloway for their assistance in finding the best funding path for the County.

CLERK – Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 10:00 am.

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: none.

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Regovich, on behalf of the Board, offered condolences to the family of Euclid Police Officer Jacob Derbin.

County Administrator, Mr. Jason Boyd, wanted to remind everyone of the Public Meeting being held tonight at Auburn Career Center for a Budget Commission discussion of the State statute formula and for creating a new alternative formula. He stated that Eastlake Mayor Morley would be proud of how all communities came together to work on the best solution for all. He thanked Commissioner Hamercheck for all of his hard work and the many hours working on this.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m. with the vote as follows: AYES": Commissioners Regovich, Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

Minutes approved this eighteenth day of June, 2024.

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JOHN PLECNIK, PRESIDENT

JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, COMMISSIONER

RICHARD J. REGOVICH, COMMISSIONER

JENNIFER BELL, CLERK