

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 2024-0815)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Plecnik called the Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, August 15, 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. Commissioner Plecnik congratulated Ms. Lisa Manning, 4-H and Family Consumer Science Educator for the Ohio State University Extension on their hard work. He also congratulated Elijah Sullivan for his great success at the Lake County Fair this year. Eli won the Grand Champion Market and 4th place in Market Chicken. He also won 1st place in Showmanship with his lamb which is quite an accomplishment for his first year as a 4-H youth. Commissioner Plecnik purchased Eli's grant champion market chickens. Commissioner Plecnik provided several attendance statistics for this year's fair. The Board presented Eli with a special certificate in honor of his 4-H accomplishments.

Bishop Mirbel of Painesville, thanked the Board for all they do for Lake County and shared that he is honored to serve as the 1st Vice President of the Lake County NAACP and also to be named Ambassador of Good Will for the NAACP. He invited the Board to attend the NAACP Annual Meeting being held on October 19th.

Mr. Brian Massie of Rainbow Drive in Painesville, had several questions pertaining to the financing of the Public Safety Center and also mentioned that he heard the inmates are provided tablets.

Ms. Gilda Spencer of Madison, discussed the services she still does not have due to road closures, including police services and also stated that she saw several people being ticketed by the Sheriff's Department earlier this week.

Sheriff Leonbruno addressed Mr. Massie, explaining that the jail has 6 tablets per housing area and that inmates are provided the tablets only in order to receive their incoming mail. They no longer permit the inmates to receive paper letters as a precaution due to the possibility of drugs or contraband being hidden within the letter or on the paper. He explained to Ms. Spencer that townships in Lake County have the option to pay for additional deputies. Perry and Leroy opted out of additional coverage but they do respond in emergencies. Sheriff Leonbruno commended Mr. Boyd, Mr. Underwood and Mr. DiMare for their phenomenal presentation during the call with Moody's. He stressed that they have done an amazing job to ensure the County maintains the highest bond rating possible.

Mr. John Muzik of Painesville thanked the Sheriff for providing information on how drivers should handle a traffic light that is not working. He also thanked law enforcement.

Rev. Chris Bihary of Painesville, asked for a moment for Lake County and for all those that helped people after the recent storm.

Sheriff Leonbruno thanked and acknowledged former Budget Director, Mr. Michael Matas, for the work he put in when a new jail was proposed in 2013. He made a major impact on this County in not only maintaining the highest bond rating but putting the County in a good position moving forward to this point.

Mr. Chris Weiss of Leroy, read a prepared statement and discussed his public records request.

Mr. Matt Hebebrand of Mentor, stated to Commissioner Hamercheck that he was not aware of a letter from the Ohio Attorney General's Office and asked several questions pertaining to an alleged incident in 2021.

Mr. Brian Kolkowski of Painesville, spoke of an article that was published in the Washington Post in 2021 and how he is still waiting for his public records request to be completed.

RESOLUTIONS:

1.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR THE LAK-MIDDLE RIDGE ROAD (CR 22) RESURFACING PROJECT WITH RONYAK PAVING, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$83,689.50, FEDERAL AID NO. FAN E240101, PID NO. 119690 AND LCE PROJECT NO. 2023-012(20240815\E01)(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.

2.RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CASH WITHIN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES PROJECT FUND 597 AND SOLID WASTE FUND(20240815\U01)(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 APPROVING FINAL ESTIMATE NO. 11 (RELEASE OF RETAINAGE) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$78,044.40 WITH NERONE & SONS, INC. AND ACCEPTING A THREE-YEAR MAINTENANCE BOND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$179,044.31 FOR ADAMS COURT, INDUSTRIAL PARK AND MELRIDGE PUMP STATION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT 415-S-2018 FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES(20240815\U02)(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.

4.RESOLUTION AWARDING A BID CONTRACT TO CORE & MAIN LP FOR FITTINGS, REPAIR PARTS, SERVICE EQUIPMENT AND TOOLS (Exhibit A) FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES(20240815\U03)(UT4)

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 AWARDING A BID CONTRACT TO WINWATER OF AKRON FOR FITTINGS, REPAIR PARTS, SERVICE EQUIPMENT AND TOOLS (Exhibit B) FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES(20240815\U04)(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.

6. RESOLUTION APPROVING LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES VOUCHERS DATE OF WARRANT AUGUST 23, 2024 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$663,649.14(20240815\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.

7.RESOLUTION DESIGNATING DAVID RADACHY AS CERTIFYING OFFICER AND RHEA BENTON, ALANNA CIANCIBELLO, AND CHRISTIAN BLAKE AS ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT RULES GOVERNING THE USE OF FUNDS UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AND HOME PROGRAMS(20240815\C01)(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.

8.RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE CITY OF WILLOWICK MAYOR MICHAEL J. VANNI AS A MEMBER OF THE LAKE COUNTY NARCOTICS EXECUTIVE BOARD TO COMPLETE THE REMAINDER OF A THREE-YEAR TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2026(20240815\C02)(B-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.

9.RESOLUTION DECLARING THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 5, 2024(20240815\C03)(C-107)

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 AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND VARIOUS ENTITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE LAKE COUNTY OPIOID GRANT PROGRAM(20240815\C04)(C-107B)

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. County Administrator, Mr. Jason Boyd, explained that this resolution is awarding 8-9 grant applications utilizing local opioid funds that the County has been receiving for the past 2-3 years. The Board created a taskforce committee to review these applications and make recommendations for outside counsel to review that the criteria meets the guidelines and make recommendations to this Board. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Regovich, Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

11. RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,832,894.57 (20240815\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.

12. RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,099,364.10 (20240815\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.

13.RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20240815\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.

14.RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CASH AND APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20240815\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– Sanitary Engineer, Mr. Randy Rothlisberger, thanked the Department of Utilities employees that recently worked all night to make sure the residents continued to have wastewater services and to ensure the generators were working properly to avoid any interruption of services. He spoke of a 'dead zone' incident that occurred during the recent storm and explained that there is a dead zone in Lake Erie. He explained that a dead zone is an area in the lake that has zero oxygen is normally at the bottom of the lake. Due to the storm it worked its way up to the intakes making it a challenge for the department to treat the water.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – Director of Job and Family Services, Suzanne Casar, discussed this year's successful Back to School Bash and how planning for this wonderful event begins in January. She thanked the many sponsors and

volunteers for their hard work bringing this great event to Lake County families. Ms. Casar also recognized that August is Child Support Awareness Month and provided the Board with statistics.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – County Administrator, Mr. Jason Boyd, thanked the Auditor and his staff, the Treasurer and his staff, Meeder Investments and McDonalds Hopkins for all their hard work and time in preparation for yesterday’s call with Moody’s. He gave a detailed report on the subjects that were discussed during the one-hour call. Results from Moody’s are expected sometime in the next two weeks. He also provided an update on the Public Safety Center, explaining that HOK began the ‘handoff’ to the design-build firm, Gilbane who will now be more involved along with K2M and Lakeland Management and consultants. Design-Development documents have been submitted to the Ohio Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for their review. If all goes as planned, construction may begin sometime after Thanksgiving.

CLERK – Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 22, 2024 at 10:00 am.

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: Auditor Galloway was present and stated that residents would soon be receiving their property revaluations in the mail. He also explained that if a resident sustained substantial damage to their home they should visit the Auditor’s website to fill out an application for review to possibly temporarily reduce their property value. Mr. Galloway acknowledged and thanked his staff for their hard work gathering data for the bond meeting for the public safety center.

Commissioner Hamercheck thanked Bishop Mirbel for all he does to support people in need. He spoke of his true Christian nature that is recognized both locally and internationally and spoke of the vital role he played in working to get offshore hostages for profit and kidnap victims safely released. Commissioner Hamercheck acknowledged Mr. Matas and his 17 years of service to Lake County along with his vast knowledge and guidance during the building of the new Administration Center and in preparation of the proposed new jail. Commissioner Hamercheck addressed Mr. Hebebrand, by stating that he has all the evidence but chooses to recycle old information and he asked him to stop speaking of such things. Commissioner Plecnik discussed the quarterly newsletter and the recent public records request regarding the costs. He stated that over the past 4 years, the cost of the newsletter breaks down to approximately \$1.00 for every Lake County resident to send 4-7 mailings each year. He shared an email he received that referred to an article in one of the newsletters. He thanked Ms. Natalie Lynce for the hard work she puts in compiling the newsletter. He also explained that not every resident has access to a computer and the mailings are the best way to reach each resident. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that he has been a reluctant supporter of the newsletter. At a cost of more than \$750,000, there are less expensive means of getting information out to the Lake County residents.

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Hamercheck stated he recently attended a Region 13 meeting where they have begun to review proposals. He was able to attend a meeting with the County Engineer, NOACA and several others for a discussion on several projects. He stated that there is an important NOACA meeting coming up and if Commissioners Plecnik and Regovich are unable to attend, they should send their alternate. Topics of discussion are funding for the Metroparks lakefront phases 2 and 3 and significant capital investments for Interstate 90. Commissioner Regovich thanked Mr. Boyd and everyone that it took to get to the Moody’s meeting. He stressed his appreciation for the teamwork in each department. Commissioner Regovich discussed the recent Lake County Development Meeting he attended where Sheriff Leonbruno and a panel discussed Marijuana in the Workplace.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: On a motion by Commissioner Hamercheck, seconded by Commissioner Regovich, the Board convened an Executive Session at 11:16 a.m. to discuss Legal-Imminent Litigation with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Regovich, Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

The Lake County Board of Commissioners adjourned to Executive Session at 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:56 a.m. with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners Regovich, Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

Minutes approved this tenth day of September, 2024.

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JOHN PLECNIK, PRESIDENT

JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, COMMISSIONER

RICHARD J. REGOVICH, COMMISSIONER

JENNIFER BELL, CLERK