

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 2024-0905)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Plecnik called the Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 5, 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. Bishop Mirbel of Painesville, shared a story of Leila Ali, daughter of Muhammad Ali, and stated that the Board of Commissioners are winners.

Mr. Chris Weiss of Leroy, spoke of impropriety and ethics and discussed his public records request.

Mr. John Marra of Timberlake stated that 3 minutes is not enough time for the public to speak, how public participation should not be used for personal attacks and how most comments do not have to do with actual County matters. He asked the Board to consider setting some guidelines as well as a time for the Board to respond to questions asked by the public.

Mr. Brian Massie of Painesville, a Lake County resident, shared an op-ed article he recently saw and read it in its entirety.

Mr. Chris Bihary of Painesville, asked for a moment of silent reflection for teachers, parents and children as they begin the school year.

Mr. Brian Kolkowski of Leroy, asked for transparency and accountability. He addressed the results of his public records request and asked that Commissioner Hamercheck provide more answers.

RESOLUTIONS:

**1.RESOLUTION APPROVING FINAL ESTIMATE NO.10 (RELEASE OF RETAINAGE) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$21,400.00 WITH NERONE & SONS, INC. AND ACCEPTING A THREE-YEAR MAINTENANCE BOND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$57,437.98 FOR TALL TREE BOOSTER STATION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT 414-W-2018 FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES(20240905\U01)(UT-12)**

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.

**2.RESOLUTION CERTIFYING UNPAID WATER AND SEWER SUMS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES TO THE LAKE COUNTY AUDITOR(20240905\U02)(UT-7)**

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 ACKNOWLEDGING THE SELECTION OF CITY OF WILLOUGHBY COUNCIL PRESIDENT ROBERT E. CARR TO THE 9-1-1 PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE (20240905\C01)(407-B)**

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. Commissioner Plecnik thanked Mr. Carr for his willingness to serve and Commissioner Hamercheck stated that he looks forward to working with him on this Board. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Hamercheck, Regovich and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

**4.RESOLUTION APPOINTING GREGORY J. GIEGERICH TO THE LAKE COUNTY SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY PANEL TO COMPLETE THE REMAINDER OF A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025(20240905\C02)(B-20)**

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 APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$806,828.35 (20240905\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.

**6.RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,708,131.92 (20240905\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.

**7.RESOLUTION INCREASING AND DECREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS(20240905\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.

**8.RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CASH AND APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS(20240905\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, explained in detail the new Ohio Lead laws and how his department will be handling this very large undertaking.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – none.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – Mr. Jason Boyd stated that they will soon begin working on the 2025 Budget. The Board should expect a temporary budget for consideration sometime in early December.

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

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: Commissioner Plecnik explained to Mr. Marra that old business is the part of the meeting that is specifically structured for responses to the public and it’s within the discretion of all the Commissioners as to how they respond, who they respond to and that they speak for themselves.

Commissioner Hamercheck addressed several public comments made today. He read the definition of “vigilantism” and “vigilante”. He continued addressing the public comments by stating that as a prosecutor and as an attorney at law, you know the law and that if you believe a law has been broken, you have a duty to report it to the appropriate legal authorities. You also as an attorney admitted to practice law, you also know that filing a false report with the authorities is in and of itself a crime. Commissioner Hamercheck asked that these statements and questions stop.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Hamercheck stated that he and Commissioner Regovich attended a Virtual CCAO Metropolitan & Regional Affairs Committee meeting earlier this week. Topics included jail funding with an emphasis on mental health and addiction services, Youth crime and how to intervene to break the cycle, property taxes, and indigent defense. Other topics of discussion had to do with rehabilitating housing stock and affordable housing and Children’s services. Commissioner Regovich explained what CCAO (County Commissioners Association of Ohio) is all about. He stated that CCAO rather acts as our lobbyist to the State with the County’s concerns. Lake County is the eleventh most populous county in the state. It was decided the Committee will have another meeting before the annual meeting in December. Commissioner Plecnik added that the County continues to hear from countless residents about their grave concerns on the increase in property values and ultimate increase in property taxes. It’s not an exaggeration to say that seniors are being taxed out their homes and while some can manage and some can afford it can’t and even for those who can afford it. He shared that he has been and continues to support a 100% property tax cut for seniors aged 65 and older. The Board continued to discuss property taxes and levies.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m. with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Hamercheck, Regovich and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

Minutes approved this twenty-sixth day of September, 2024.

**BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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JOHN PLECNIK, PRESIDENT

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JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, COMMISSIONER

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RICHARD J. REGOVICH, COMMISSIONER

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JENNIFER BELL, CLERK