

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 2024-0910)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Plecnik called the Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 10, 2024.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the minutes of the Regular Meeting of: August 15 and August 22, 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. Matt Hebebrand of Mentor, stated to Commissioner Hamercheck that he still had several questions pertaining to an alleged incident in 2021 and spoke of a clerk in Mesa County Colorado.

Rev. Chris Bihary of Painesville, asked for a moment of silent reflection for Lake County and wants everyone to be happy and joyful.

Mr. Chris Weiss of Leroy, discussed his public records request and played an audio recording between Commissioner Plecnik and the Lake County Dog Warden.

Mr. Brian Kolkowski of Painesville, spoke of old business from last week's meeting pertaining to the 2021 incident. He stated that he asked the Prosecutor's Office for information and he was informed the Lake County Prosecutors Office recused themselves. He read a prepared statement sharing his thoughts on this matter as well as the Mesa County Colorado incident. He asked Commissioner Hamercheck to respond to the questions regarding this matter.

RESOLUTIONS:

1.RESOLUTION APPROVING FINAL ESTIMATE NO. 3 (RELEASE OF RETAINAGE) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,590.00 WITH DAVIS DIGGERS, INC. AND ACCEPTING A THREE-YEAR MAINTENANCE BOND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$28,939.78 FOR INDUSTRIAL PARK SANITARY SEWER-CONTRACT 2 PROJECT 415-S-2018 FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES(20240910\U01)(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.

2.RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS AND CASH WITHIN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES PROJECT FUND 595, WALNUT STREET WATERLINE PROJECT 449-W-2021 AND THE WATER FUND (20240910\U02)(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 LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES VOUCHERS DATE OF WARRANT SEPTEMBER 20, 2024 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$425,164.74(20240910\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.

4.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR DESIGN PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR SYSTEMS FURNITURE DESIGN, PROCUREMENT, AND INSTALLATION FOR THE PROPOSED LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY CENTER PROJECT(Request for Qualifications: October 11, 2024)(20240910\C01)(207-N)

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 ESTABLISHING HOLIDAYS FOR WHICH THE COUNTY OFFICES CLOSE DURING THE YEAR 2025(20240910\C02)(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.

6.RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,991,546.56 (20240910\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.

7.RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$663,239.88(20240910\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.

8.RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS IN VARIOUS NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20240910\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.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

UTILITIES – none.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – none.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – County Administrator, Mr. Jason Boyd, stated that he is working on the last of the ARPA Projects and will have them before the Board over the next 14-20 days.

CLERK – Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 10:00 am

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: Commissioner Hamercheck addressed comments made during the public portion of the meeting. He stated that “nothing came of this foolishness because there was nothing to this foolishness; it’s just that simple. As a prosecutor, as an attorney admitted to the state of Ohio, I’ve said this before and I’ll say it again for the record. If you believe a crime has been committed you have a duty to report it to the proper authorities. As an attorney however, you understand there are consequences for filing false reports with authorities, so here you come as a vigilante and I have to sit here and listen to ‘we’re asking reasonable questions not accusing you of a crime.’ Yet you start the conversation with the greatest unsolved crime in the history of Lake County. I’m not educated to the level of being an attorney, but I understand the plain meaning of words. You can’t start a conversation off with, when did you stop beating your wife and then claim being reasonable, you can’t start a conversation with the greatest unsolved crime in the history of Lake County. As a prosecutor, I find it repugnant that you say something like that, knowing the responsibilities that you have. It is beneath you sir, and not very judicial in your approach, something that I’m sure will be a stain on your future. You’ve been dealt a set of cards that are not good to be playing and you continue to play them. Your choice, not mine and this needs to stop before somebody gets hurt. This is getting out of control this is absolute foolishness. Again, if you believe a crime has been committed you have a duty to report it to proper legal authorities. Your frustration that you can’t find anything is representative of the fact that there isn’t anything, just that simple.”

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Plecnik read the following statement: Heaven got a four-legged angel, because God took Bimmer home. Bimmer was born in 2012, named after my BMW motorcycle, and came to be known as the first dog of Lake County. In his 12 years of life, Bimmer gave so much love and joy to everyone he met. From playing Santa for the kids to marching in parades, from pet food distributions to surprising Governor DeWine with his cuteness on live TV, Bimmer was the plucky hero of so many adventures. In the midst of COVID and lockdowns, my students at Cleveland State University loved seeing Bimmer hanging over my shoulder every class on Zoom. To my knowledge, Bimmer was the first dog in history to attend the Ohio State University Public Leadership Academy, because I refused to go without him, and they said OK. Bimmer starred as “the goodest boy” in our John Wick parody, and we took down the “Fake News” together. Thousands looked forward to Bimmer’s Christmas and Hanukkah card every year. Just about everyone loved his Christmas radio ad too! And polka fans will always remember Bimmer’s name in “The Puppy Polka,” which I wrote for Bimmer. Anyone who met Bimmer realized the myth of vicious pit bulls is just a vicious lie. When I served as Councilman and voted to abolish BSL or breed specific legislation against pit bulls in Willoughby Hills, we rightly called it, Bimmer’s Law. Bimmer did not have a mean bone in his body, and he tried to slurp everyone just to prove it. But more than anything, Bimmer was my best friend. From Councilman to Commissioner, Bimmer was my campaigner-in-chief, and I am not too proud to admit that I never would have won a single election without him. Those of you who really knew Bimmer and me, also know how hard the last decade has been. Politics today is an unholy bloodsport, and I honestly couldn’t have made it through without Bimmer. Win, lose or draw, good day or bad, Bimmer was there with his smiling face. When I was overwhelmed or depressed, Bimmer was glued to my side. When I was glad, Bimmer jumped (literally) for joy! I don’t know how I will manage without him. But I thank God for giving me the best puppy and best friend anyone ever had. I never could have deserved a friend like Bimmer, but Bimmer didn’t think that way, he just loved me all the same. I love you, Bimmer...rest in peace, my best friend.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:26 a.m. with the vote as follows: AYES": Commissioners Regovich, Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

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

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JOHN PLECNIK, PRESIDENT

JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, COMMISSIONER

RICHARD J. REGOVICH, COMMISSIONER

JENNIFER BELL, CLERK