

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 2024-1010)

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

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

Commissioner Plecnik made the following statement before beginning the meeting: "I just want to remind all participants, members of the public, staff and elected officials, these are public meetings. We are called to be respectful of one another as we do the business of Lake County and while it is very rare, it's unfortunate that we've had to call two individuals this year out of order. I just want to remind folks under Section 2917.12 that disturbing a lawful meeting is a misdemeanor crime to disrupt a public meeting such as this. Let's try to do our best to approach one another with respect even when handling difficult issues."

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Commissioner Plecnik asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board. Mr. Joseph Busher, Director of the Emergency Management Agency was present to update the Board on the recent Full-Scale Evaluated Exercise for the Perry Nuclear Power Plant. Lake County, along with Ashtabula and Geauga Counties and representatives from the State, were evaluated on 16 out of sequence scenarios. Mr. Busher was happy to report that they received a letter and draft report which stated the exercise resulted in no Level 1 findings, no Level 2 findings, and no Plan Issues. The letter also stated that it was apparent that a great deal of preparation and training was conducted by offsite response organizations to successfully demonstrate the ability to protect the health and safety of the public and that we have the necessary support and resources to respond to an incident at the Perry Nuclear Power Plant. He thanked all of the County stakeholders, offsite response agencies, the Board of Commissioners, Mr. Boyd, Mr. DiMare and Mr. Rothlisberger for all of the work in preparation for this evaluation.

Ms. Faith Andrews, Clerk of Courts and also resident of Concord stated that she wanted to make an announcement and bring some information to the people's attention. She stated that she received this information three weeks ago at the Clerks State Association meeting. During the Clerks State Association meeting, it was stated that most likely nothing they have pending will be passed in the lame duck session with the exception of a salary increase for every elected official at the county level and also the State Representatives. She stated that as the Clerk of Courts, she doesn't see the need for a raise as she is a public servant in an elected position serving the people. Ms. Andrews reviewed the proposed salary increases and urged people to call their elected officials both locally and at the state level to discuss it, especially on the cusp of the biggest property tax increase in history, and also all of the cities and townships that will be putting levies on the ballot.

Mr. Michael Archdeacano of Kirtland and also the Supervisor Inspector for the City of Willoughby Storm Water/Sanitary Division presented his concerns regarding the sanitary project in Old Town Kirtland. He stated that sanitary sewers are necessary but the costs associated with them are a burden to the residents. He addressed the Utilities Director asking why the residents are being charged almost \$5,700 for the tie-in inspection fee. He explained that if his calculations are correct, \$695,000 will be collected for the inspection fees. He also asked what upgrades were being made to the lift station on 306 or the Wastewater Plant to justify this cost to taxpayers. He referred to the same type project in Geauga County where the County waived the fee for the residents and he asked that Lake County do the same.

Ms. Denise(last name inaudible) of Kirtland, also expressed her concerns regarding the high tie-in fees, additional assessment fees and the cost to disconnect the current septic system. She stressed the heavy burden the 15,000+ in additional fees they are expecting would be.

Rev. Chris Bihary of Painesville asked for a moment of prayer for the victims of Hurricane Milton.

Mr. Chris Weiss of Leroy, discussed a recent Lake County Republican Party Executive Committee Meeting and a letter written by Mr. Troy Elam. Mr. Weiss used a derogatory word towards Commissioner Regovich. Commissioner Plecnik ruled Mr. Weiss out of order for the use of the word. Mr. Weiss continued to speak and Commissioner Plecnik ruled him out of order a second and final time.

Mr. Carlos Mickler of Willowick, stated that he spoke at the Commissioners meeting in mid-June and again in July regarding property taxes, utility bills and the employer contribution rate for Ohio Public Employees (OPERS). At one of those meetings he asked that the Commissioners be amenable to the possibility of encouraging OPERS for a rate increase and that he is asking that again today. He has been advocating for a rate increase since 2022. Mr. Mickler thanked the Board for listening and asked to submit his statement to the Clerk.

Mr. Matt Hebebrand of Mentor, stated that as a Central Committee member for the Republican Party, he is always working on behalf of his constituents and to protect the Party. He spoke of an alleged May 4, 2021 incident and asked Commissioner Hamercheck to address the questions that have been posed before regarding the incident.

Mr. Reginald Black of Painesville asked for a moment of silence for the people who are suffering from Hurricane Milton directly after Hurricane Helene and to pray for their safety and a place of shelter and unification. He also asked to pray for the Board of Commissioners and our government and for focus on what they are trying to do today.

Ms. Lyndsie Wall of Mentor, addressed Commissioner Hamercheck regarding May, 2021 and asked for answers to previously asked questions.

Ms. Jan Clair of Painesville, explained that she attended the Commissioners meeting last week and would like to offer her comments. She stated that each meeting offers the opportunity for the public to comment and that there are public comments being directed toward individual Commissioners that have absolutely nothing to do with the current county business to be conducted. There have been comments regarding the 2020 presidential election cycle that she helped conduct and if there's one takeaway that she wants the public to remember, it's that there was never any breach that occurred. There are voting safeguards that are in place in Lake County and the State of Ohio that prevent that from occurring. Voting is now underway for the 2024 presidential election and the voters in Lake County should feel confident that securities are in place to protect the process and that the votes they cast will be counted properly while being witnessed in a bipartisan manner. She stated that last week after the completion of County business, the meeting took a drastically different direction when it came to Old Business and addressed the behavior of members of the Board and how it is impacting the Lake County Republican party. She agreed with Commissioner Regovich's request to focus on the work of the County.

Mr. Brian Kolkowski of Leroy, spoke of a public record request he made, its results and some of the information.

RESOLUTIONS:

1.RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAIR HOUSING RESOURCE CENTER (20241010\F01)(C-126)

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. Present today were Housing Resource Center Executive Director Patricia Kidd and Cindy Brewster, Board President. They thanked the Board for this recognition. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Regovich, Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

2.RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CASH FROM LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES PROJECT FUND 596, PROJECT 438-S-2020, TRUNK SEWER REHABILITATION PHASE 1 TO THE SEWER FUND. THE PROJECT IS COMPLETE. REMAINING CASH IN PROJECT FUND IS TRANSFERRED TO THE SEWER FUND(20241010\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 TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS AND CASH WITHIN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES PROJECT FUND 595, VINE STREET WATERLINE REPLACEMENT-LAKESHORE TO WILLOWICK DRIVE 430-W-2020 AND THE WATER FUND(20241010\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.

4.RESOLUTION AWARDING A BID CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,356,500.00 TO ZENITH SYSTEMS FOR AQUARIUS WATER TREATMENT PLANT MOTOR CONTROL CENTER REPLACEMENTS PROJECT 451-W-2021 (20241010\U03)(UT-4)

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Hamercheck and Plecnik "ABSTAIN": Commissioner Regovich "NAYS": None.

5.RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING ERIC FINK TO THE NORTHEAST OHIO COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM FACILITY GOVERNING BOARD FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 9, 2027(20241010\C01)(B-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.

6.RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,992,153.07 (20241010\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 \$418,449.74 (20241010\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 INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20241010\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.

9.RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CASH AND APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20241010\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—Commissioner Plecnik addressed Sanitary Engineer, Mr. Randy Rothlisberger, asking that he try to address some of the public comments with respect to Old Towne Kirtland and its expenses. Mr. Rothlisberger stated that the Kirtland Old Town Sanitary Sewer Project actually began in 2014 or 2015 after there were complaints about odors

from the storm drainage areas. The Health Department then became involved and eventually turned it over to the EPA. There were orders issued to the City of Kirtland to mitigate those odors by installing sanitary sewers in this area. Essentially, the cost for that mitigation or to install these sanitary sewers was nearly \$4 million and is an assessment project. The Department went through the assessment procedure and had a public hearing in 2022. Construction is now complete except for some restoration that is currently in progress but the sanitary sewer is now live and able to take on connections. Mr. Rothlisberger explained that as part of the project, the Commissioners granted \$1 million dollars of ARPA money towards the project to reduce the cost, the City of Kirtland obtained a grant from OPWC for \$250,000 to reduce some of the cost and there was a grant from Ohio Department of Development of approximately \$870,000 to reduce the cost to the residents in that area. In addition to those dollars, there is some CDBG money available which was provided by the Commissioners for low to moderate income properties within the project area to reduce the cost of the connection. We don't have the final cost yet and we won't have those for a few months. They are waiting for the contractor to submit the final invoices. He also explained that the original tentative assessment was nearly \$20,000 and they have been able to reduce that by approximately \$4,000 per property owner. Mr. Rothlisberger stated that he would be happy to answer any questions after the meeting.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – none.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – none.

CLERK – Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 17, 2024 at 10:00 am.

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: none.

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Regovich complimented EMA Director, Mr. Joe Busher, his staff and everyone involved in the drill. Commissioner Hamercheck also complimented Mr. Busher, stating that he has brought the Lake County EMA up to new highs with a strong foundation and how the exercise exhibited the importance of working together.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:46 a.m. with the vote as follows: AYES": Commissioners Regovich, Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

Minutes approved this thirtieth day of December, 2024.

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JOHN PLECNIK, PRESIDENT

JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, COMMISSIONER

RICHARD J. REGOVICH, COMMISSIONER

JENNIFER BELL, CLERK