

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 2024-1121)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Plecnik called the Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, November 21, 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. Ms. Lori Robinson, Assistant to Bishop Mirbel of Painesville, read a statement inviting everyone to enjoy Thanksgiving with their church.

Bishop Mirbel of Painesville thanked the Board for their commitment and offered blessings for them as they do their work throughout the community.

Rev. Chris Bihary of Painesville, asked for a moment of silent reflection and to give thanks.

Mr. Brian Massie of Rainbow Drive in Painesville stated that he and Mr. Leonard Gilbert went to Columbus to speak to Representatives from the state and to hold a rally at the State House against property taxes. Mr. Massie read the following email pinned by Mr. Gilbert into the record: "It was our pleasure meeting with Mr. Brian Stewart and his aide (name inaudible). First of all, we want to personally thank them for their time. We had a good exchange of information and it helped us to prioritize our path forward. We were talking to Representative Stewart about the Budget Commission and the property taxes that are unsustainable. We also know that there are many initiatives that are in discussion, but understand that they will only serve as temporary stop gaps for the property taxes. Mr. Stewart also provided some suggestions that may provide immediate relief on the current state. The key takeaway from our discussion about property tax is the reality that this system cannot be sustained. With that in mind, it is critical that we do not lose sight of the long-term, to come up with a permanent solution which will also require taking more than just a cursory look at the areas of our local governments, and to define essential versus non-essential services. It goes back to the fundamental question; what is the role of government? The current situation is that the local government has outgrown the ability of the private sector to support it. This is not a Republican versus Democrat issue, this is a right versus wrong issue. I want to say that Brian and I find that having Mr. Stewart as a State Representative is a blessing to the State of Ohio. He is willing to seek tangible and realistic solutions to improve the effective efficiency of our state and local governments. This requires vision that exhibits out of the box thinking. I hope that our fellow citizens and his colleagues take the time to get to know him. As citizen activists, Brian and I so find it a privilege to support him in his efforts as well, but this offer also extends to all leaders that are willing to help or provide guidance as we move forward with our mission. That is why we still have the desire to meet with others, so please consider the taking the time to do so. I look forward to hearing from you. We sent this email to all State Senators and Representatives. I'm hoping to meet with Lake County Auditor Chris Galloway because I do have a mission that Representative Stewart has given to try to get some information that will help him help us. Thank you very much."

RESOLUTIONS:

1.RESOLUTION CERTIFYING UNPAID WATER AND SEWER SUMS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES TO THE LAKE COUNTY AUDITOR(20241121\U01)(UT-7)

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 AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND VARIOUS ENTITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE FY-2024 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS(20241121\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.

3.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND VARIOUS ENTITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE FY-2024 HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM FUNDS(20241121\C02)(C-34B)

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 ENTER INTO AN AMENDMENT TO THE DESIGN-BUILD AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND THE GILBANE BUILDING COMPANY TO PERFORM DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY CENTER IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$170,315,997(20241121\C03)(207-N)

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. Commissioner Plecnik stated that the Lake County Public Safety Center Review Committee met this morning at 9:00 a.m. The Committee is comprised of Judge O'Donnell, Judge Bartolotta Sheriff Leonbruno, Clerk of Courts, Faith Andrews and the three Commissioners. The committee voted to approve a maximum price for the jail. He asked County Administrator, Jason Boyd to say a few words explaining the meeting. Mr. Boyd reiterated that the Courthouse Committee Meeting took place this morning pursuant to Ohio Revised Code (O.R.C. 153.36)and was held to explain the

construction delivery method which is bridging design build. In addition to the previously mentioned individuals, also in attendance were Jeff Applebaum and Ellis Katz from PMC who joined to explain the legal side of the requirements of the law and how things have changed due to construction reform in 2011 as well as why the method being followed is a much better, quicker and fiscally prudent method. Mr. Boyd stated that there was a good dialogue and questions from the committee which ultimately met their approval. He shared how he is almost speechless thinking about the first new jail meeting which was in 2012 and spoke of previous boards, which he believes was 12 different Commissioners. He stated that without a doubt, there has always been one constant and that is the need to do something with the jail. The result over the years have been multiple study analysis with the conclusion that there should be a new future-proof public safety center. It's been a long road with hundreds upon hundreds of meetings and calls and due diligence from zoning to fiscal to legal. He thanked everybody who has been involved and looks forward to the next steps. Commissioner Plecnik acknowledged the expertise of Mr. Katz and Mr. Applebaum and how they have been a great partner in this process. He also stated that the groundbreaking set for tomorrow is going to be historic as this is the single largest Capital project in the history of Lake County and he invited the public to join. He explained that the guaranteed maximum price is about \$170 million. With the help and hard work of our staff, consultants, Mr. Boyd and our colleagues on the commission both past and present we are building the jail without raising taxes. The Public Safety Center will be the largest building in the county and will ensuring our safety forces have the support they need without raising taxes is a very significant accomplishment and he couldn't be more grateful to his colleagues sitting here today as well as past colleagues who had the foresight to create the jail fund and to save many millions of dollars. Commissioners like Judy Moran saved money in advance and the County couldn't have done this without the foresight and support of those Commissioners. He also thanked Sheriff Leonbruno and his entire team. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Regovich, Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

5.RESOLUTION DECLARING THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE BEGINNING JANUARY 9, 2025(20241121\C04)(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 AUTHORIZING PAYMENT TO VARIOUS LAKE COUNTY POLICE PROSECUTORS FOR THE SECOND HALF OF 2024(20241121\C05)(CT-8)

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 PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,619,175.16(20241121\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.

8.RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$547,851.16(20241121\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.

9.RESOLUTION INCREASING AND DECREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS(20241121\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.

10. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS(20241121\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, stated that they recently had a bid opening and bids came in between 10%-20% over the engineers estimate, adding that this unpredictable bid climate continues. They will ask the consultant to evaluate the bids and offer a recommendation to move forward.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – none.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – County Administrator, Mr. Jason Boyd, stated that Mr. Underwood and Mr. DiMare are preparing the Temporary General Fund Budget and the Temporary Outside General Fund Budget and those resolutions should be ready for approval on December 12th for the General Fund and December 30th for the Outside General Fund. He gave a brief update on the final ARPA projects and the 911 Next Gen Committee.

CLERK – Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 26, 2024 at 10:00 am and that County Offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 28 and 29, 2024 in observance of Thanksgiving.

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: Commissioner Plecnik thanked Mr. Massie and Mr. Gilbert for traveling to Columbus to talk to our State Representatives and Senators and to testify in front of committees as they have done. Unfortunately, there

are rumors abounding that there is very little intent to address property tax reform in the lame duck session. He stated that the Ohio General Assembly moves a lot of legislation through at the end of the year and he thinks that number one on their agenda should be looking at the inflationary gains that are being imposed on all Lake County residents. He continues to encourage this Board to ask the state legislature to, freeze or at the very least cap, property tax values and to address what Mayor Marra has referred to as inflationary gains as well as a 100% property tax exemption for seniors.

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Regovich wished the local sports team’s good luck as they face their state championships.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:28 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