

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 2024-1126)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Plecnik called the Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 26, 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. Clerk of Court Faith Andrews was present to review projects and items that she has been able to fund over her tenure with the County. She stated that \$1.8 million will be declared surplus and transferred to the Commissioners as well as some surplus made available to the incoming clerk for 2025. Ms. Andrews stated that she made a promise that at least a million dollars would be given back to the community every year and over the course of her years as clerk, she has been able to give \$7 million dollars back to Lake County residents. She outlined the following information of what has been provided: Public Defenders Project \$52,150 (request of Commissioner Hamercheck and Public Defender Clapp), \$20,000 to Auburn Career Center Telecommunicators Program (request of Commissioner Hamercheck), \$2,640,710 for the COPS Grant for additional Sheriff deputies for the Townships (request of Commissioner Hamercheck), \$247,000 for the Grand River Winery Archway (Commissioner Plecnik request), \$300,000 to the Sheriff’s Department for their Gun Range Phase Two Project (Commissioner Hamercheck and Sheriff Leonbruno request) \$214,000 for Prosecutor’s Office software (request from Prosecutor Coulson), \$600,000 for Juvenile Court software upgrade (Judge DeLeone request), and \$500,000 for roads and bridges (Commissioner Regovich request). Ms. Andrews also stated that over the course of her term she has provided excess title surplus funds in the amount of \$800,000 to fund upgrades to technology infrastructure hardware which included servers for her own operations, costs associated with a digitization operation of Victoria Place and annual license support costs associated with the court management system and its many third-party applications. She explained that she has been able to do this because of the hard work and dedication of her title staff and innovative revenue generating projects such as the *Title Runner Program* (which enables her office to collect \$1.5 million a year) and a watercraft registration, and most recently, out of state inspections. She stated that it has been a distinct pleasure working with the Commissioners to fund these projects that benefit all of Lake County.

Ms. Bernadette Blumel of River Road in Willoughby Hills, had some follow-up questions that she addressed to Commissioner Plecnik regarding an ethics class and an invoice for the Dog Shelter dog park. She wished everyone a great Thanksgiving.

Mr. Chris Bihary of Painesville spoke of thanks and giving and asked for a moment of silence for thanks and giving.

Mr. Brian Massie of Rainbow Drive in Painesville, agreed with Mr. Bihary that this is a time of thanks and thanked the Board for their hard work. He stated that it is not easy for this Board to listen to the vitriol week after week and he asked that it stop. Mr. Massie asked for additional information on item#12 on today’s agenda.

Mr. Chris Weiss of Leroy, offered his thoughts on Ms. Andrews report and regarding an invoice for a dog shelter commercial. He also referred to a recent complaint he filed with the State Auditor’s office.

Mr. Mike Scolopini of Timberlake, shared that he attends many public meetings and he has never seen such individual attacks on public officials. He explained that he agrees with the concerns regarding property taxes and retired people on fixed incomes and how a 20% -30% increase on their property taxes may force them to have to leave their home.

Mr. Brian Kolkowski of Leroy Township, also spoke of the personal attacks of members of the Board of Commissioners. He asked for information on an alleged hacking incident of the Lake County computer servers in May of 2021. Mr. Kolkowski stated that at a previous meeting, Auditor Galloway committed to working with his employees to document the timeline and evidence related to this matter and asked whether this information has been provided. He reviewed a public record request and asked that additional information be provided.

RESOLUTIONS:

1.RESOLUTION BESTOWING THE KEY TO LAKE COUNTY AS OUR COMMUNITY’S HIGHEST HONOR TO THE LAKE COUNTY CAPTAINS AS THE MIDWEST LEAGUE CHAMPIONS FOR THEIR 2024 SEASON IN LAKE COUNTY, OHIO (20241126\F01)(C-126)

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. Present today was Jen Yorke, Allison Howard, Morgan Mattimore, Andris Kampe, Joey Blair, and Jacob Mostoller (AKA: Horatio). Commissioner Plecnik stated that this is a historic moment for Lake County because the Captains have won their equivalent of the World Series for the second time and that he and Commissioner Regovich were privileged to attend the winning championship game. The team’s success is only possible because of the dedication of the owners, John and Allen, past and present managers, and some of the best mascots in minor league baseball. He explained that the County is recognizing this historic moment by lighting the Courthouse Clocktower blue and that the Lake County Captains are the second recipient and first organization to receive the Key to Lake County. Commissioner Regovich shared how exciting it was to be able to witness this championship. Commissioner Hamercheck thanked the Captains for making the effort to maintain a family friendly environment. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Hamercheck, Regovich and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

2.RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING DECEMBER “BE A SANTA TO A SENIOR MONTH” IN LAKE COUNTY, OHIO(20241126\F02)(C-126)

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. Ms. Therese Zdesar, from Home Instead thanked the Board of Commissioners for hosting a Be a Santa to a Senior tree and for the recognition. She thanked all of the County employees that were kind enough to take an ornament from the tree and explained the importance of this program and how these gifts may be the only gift a senior receives during the holiday season. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Hamercheck, Regovich and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

3.RESOLUTION APPROVING FINAL CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 WITH CHIVERS CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. FOR THE OLD TOWN SANITARY SEWERS-PHASE 2 PROJECT NO 445-S-2021 INCREASING THE TOTAL CONTRACT AMOUNT BY \$120,827.90(20241126\U01)(UT-4)

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. Commissioner Hamercheck asked for additional information on this project. Sanitary Engineer, Mr. Randy Rothlisberger explained that the County has been working with the City of Kirtland on this project for a couple of years and has been trying very hard to reduce the cost. He further explained that the Commissioners committed \$1 million of ARPA funds to the project and the City of Kirtland obtained two grants in the amount of \$850,000 and \$250,000. Mr. Rothlisberger provided a detailed history of this area and how most of this subdivision was platted between 1904 and 1917. A subdivision this old makes it difficult to determine what is underground and the exact location of waterlines. This final change order is about 4% of the project cost and will wrap up the project and allow the Department to move forward with finalizing the costs. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Hamercheck, Regovich and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

4.RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS IN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES WATER, SEWER AND SOLID WASTE FUNDS FOR ADDITIONAL 2024 EXPENSES(20241126\U02)(UT-2)

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 LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES VOUCHERS DATE OF WARRANT DECEMBER 6, 2024 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$140,298.46 (20241126\JFS01)(JFS-14)

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 AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND LAKE COUNTY JUVENILE COURT FOR FUNDS FROM THE LAKE COUNTY OPIOID GRANT PROGRAM(20241126\C01)(C-107B)

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. Commissioner Hamercheck asked for additional information on this resolution. Director of Administrative Services, Mr. Joel DiMare explained that on the initial request from the Juvenile Court, only the salary portion was requested for the mediator from them. When putting the budget together for 2025, he and Finance/Budget Manager, Mr. Underwood wanted to make sure benefit costs were included and applicable out of the opioid funding. Commissioner Hamercheck asked for clarification that \$42,000 is from opioid funding and that there be would an additional \$51,000 over the life of the project that will come out of the general fund to cover benefits.

Mr. DiMare stated that there was always going to be a pledge from the general fund for a portion of this position and the County will be in good shape as far as the budget goes. Commissioner Hamercheck spoke of Lake County being a participant as a bellwether county in a landmark \$650 million opioid verdict as well as also Region 13 which includes Lake County and how instrumental they were through this entire process. He voiced his concerns that if we are going to be departing from the 80/20 grant split, there should probably be a request that the language be amended that the 80/20 is aspirational, not actual. Mr. Boyd stated that the resolution in front of the Board amends the opioid funding portion from the OneOhio solution and that the general fund grant has not been modified but he will look into this. Commissioner Hamercheck referred to several pages of information from the document and he, Mr. Boyd and Mr. DiMare continued to discuss the amounts and funding sources. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Hamercheck, Regovich and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

7.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES-DIVISION OF WATERCRAFT TO OBTAIN MATCHING FUNDS OF UP TO \$35,000.00 FOR MARINE PATROL FOR THE YEAR 2025(20241126\C02)(CT-10a)

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 AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WILLOUGHBY UNION REALTY, LLC, FOR FUNDS RECEIVED FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY UNDER THE CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS KNOWN AS THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021(20241126\C03)(C-107)

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.

9.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND THE LAKE COUNTY VISITORS BUREAU FOR FUNDS RECEIVED FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY UNDER THE CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS KNOWN AS THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021(20241126\C04)(C-107)

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. Mr. Neil Stein was present and explained how these funds came to the Visitors Bureau and that they ultimately provide funds to applicants that meet the criteria of the ARPA funding. He thanked the Board for their support and stated past dollars have been used to help over 60 different organizations to thrive and grow with different events that struggled mightily because of COVID. He stated that these particular dollars will help expand the Grand River Valley brand by growing social media and websites. Additionally, part of this is investing in local museums which also took a massive hit during COVID anywhere from attendance and revenue to staffing volunteers and inflation. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Hamercheck, Regovich and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

10. RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE STAFF TO FULFILL THE STAFF DUTIES OF THE LAKE COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (AREA 5)(20241126\C06)(C-24)

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.

11. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE LAKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WITH LAKE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO ASSIST WITH FUNCTIONS OF THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD(20241126\C06)(C-24)

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.

12. RESOLUTION APPROVING, SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF SECTION 147(F) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986, THE REISSUANCE BY LAKE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT (LAKELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE) OF NOT TO EXCEED \$17,775,000 GENERAL RECEIPTS REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES 2019 (20241126\C07)(C-197)

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. Present today were Lakeland Community College President, Dr. Ahuja, and two of the Vice Presidents. Municipal Advisor to Lakeland Community College, Mr. Austin McGuan from the firm of Piper-Sandler, thanked the Board for their time. He stated that this resolution is related to the sale of the Holden University Center, explaining that Holden University Center was originally financed with taxes and governmental use bonds in 2014 and then refinanced in 2019 again with governmental use bonds. The bonds are being sold due to the facility being sold by Lakeland to a 501c3 entity. They must re-qualify those bonds or reissue those bonds as 501c3 bonds. For clarification, Commissioner Hamercheck stated that it is his understanding that the carrying cost alone is about \$80,000 a month and how by moving forward with this, it relieves Lakeland of no less than 80,000 a month. He continued by stating he believes there was probably some sort of a down payment made so there's some cash or some investment recovery. Treasurer for Lakeland Community College, Mr. David Cummins explained that this will be a lease-purchase. For the first several years, the purchaser will pay a lease amount and there are costs that they will no longer incur because it's a triple net lease arrangement which will cover the total cost of the current annual cost of the facility to the college. Mr. McGuan added that the installment lease proceeds which are being received by the college are going to be deposited into an escrow fund and applied to the debt service on the Series 2019 bonds. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners Hamercheck, Regovich and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

13. RESOLUTION APPROVING FINAL APPLICATION #6 (RELEASE OF RETAINAGE) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$44,371.05 WITH GARLAND/DBS, INC. FOR THE ARPA LAKE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS ROOFS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (20241126\C08)(C-107)

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.

14. RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,930,739.83(20241126\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 and Plecnik "ABSTAIN": Commissioner Regovich "NAYS": None.

15. RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$188,332,497.93(20241126\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.

16. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20241126\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.

17. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CASH AND APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS(20241126\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 shared that 20 years ago, the Utilities Department met with Madison Village to talk about the Lake County Department of Utilities maintaining and operating their water and sewer utilities. He stated that Commissioner Hamercheck was very involved early on. Mr. Rothlisberger was happy to announce that the transfer of these services will officially happen this coming Monday and how he looks forward to serving Madison Village in the future.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – Ms. Suzanne Casar, Director of Job and Family Services, wished everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving and also wanted to thank those staff members who will be working over the Thanksgiving holiday. They will be on-call and still responding to our 24/7 Child and Elder Abuse Hotline. Ms. Casar also offered a very special thank you to her employees that are working at our group home and that they're preparing a really nice Thanksgiving for the kids as they will be away from their own loved ones over the holidays to care for someone else's loved ones.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – Mr. Boyd wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

CLERK – Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that County offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving holiday and that there not be a Commissioner Meeting next week but the following week there will be a meeting on Tuesday, December 10th and Thursday December 12th both at 10:00 a.m.

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: Commissioner Hamercheck addressed Mr. Neil Stein pointing out, that from a marketing perspective, Madison is the East side's front door to Lake County and for almost 100 years people have seen the historic Carousel Water Tower. He shared his thoughts and ideas about the Visitors Bureau partnering with Madison Village to restore this landmark as a piece of Lake County's history. Commissioner Plecnik spoke of the recent groundbreaking for the Public Safety Center and how conversation about financing has taken place for over 10 years and that former commissioners and staff started to save millions of dollars in advance of this significant project . The County would not have been capable of this heavy lift without that early planning and preparation and not having to raise taxes. He shared his gratitude to his colleagues, the Sheriff's Office and the public that we were able to come together to do this without raising taxes.

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Regovich wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving

EXECUTIVE SESSION: On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the Board convened an Executive Session at 11:22 a.m. to discuss Legal-Pending 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 11:24 a.m.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the Board adjourned the meeting at 11:49 a.m. with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Hamercheck, Regovich and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

Minutes approved this ninth day of January, 2025.

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JOHN PLECNIK, PRESIDENT

JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, COMMISSIONER

RICHARD J. REGOVICH, COMMISSIONER

JENNIFER BELL, CLERK