

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES

JOHN R HAMERCHECK, COMMISSIONER JASON W. BOYD, ADMINISTRATOR
JOHN PLECNIK, COMMISSIONER LEGAL COUNSEL
RICHARD J. REGOVICH, COMMISSIONER MIKE MATAS, BUDGET DIRECTOR
JENNIFER BELL, CLERK NEWS MEDIA

.....
(Tape 2023-0921)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Hamercheck called the Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, September 21, 2023.

Upon roll being called Commissioners Plecnik, Regovich and Hamercheck present.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Commissioner Hamercheck asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board. Commissioner Hamercheck and the Board presented a Special Certificate to Council on Aging Social Work Manager Tim Reider, Lifeline Executive Director Carrie Dotson and Director of Job and Family Services Ms. Suzanne Casar in honor of Grandparents/Kinship Month.

Ms. Raelene Campbell, Meteorologist from the National Weather Service-Cleveland presented EMA Director Joe Busher and the Lake County EMA with the Stormready Award which is awarded to communities that establish a 24-hour warning point and an emergency operations center, have more than one way to receive severe weather warnings and forecasts to alert the public and promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars to name a few of the requirements.

Ms. Mandy Nagle, Energy Harbor’s Senior Communications representative for the Perry Nuclear Power Plant gave a brief update and was present to answer any questions regarding the Perry Plant. The Board thanked her for the update.

Senior Services Manager Ms. Alyea Barajas gave a brief update on the upcoming 2nd annual Lake County Caregiver Forum that is being held on Thursday, October 5th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at University Hospitals TriPoint Medical Center Physicians Pavilion. The event is free but registration is required. This year’s keynote speaker is Ms. Katie Kurtz who specializes in integrative and inclusive trauma-informed care and is a licensed social worker. There will be two additional speakers as well, Supervising Attorney, Ms. Karla Perry from The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland and Ms. Martha Gillespie who is an Alzheimer’s Community Educator and Support Group Facilitator with the Alzheimer’s Association.

Mrs. Bushman of Ford Road in Madison, spoke on the road closures and stated that Ford road has been closed 391 days and Paine Road has been closed 407 days. Mrs. Bushman stated that beginning construction in Spring 2024 is not acceptable.

RESOLUTIONS:

1.RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS IN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES WATER FUND (20230921\U01)(UT-2)

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

2.RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERRING CASH WITHIN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES SEWER FUND AND PROJECT FUND 554, RED CREEK SEWER PROJECT 280-S(20230921\U02)(UT-2)

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

3.RESOLUTION CERTIFYING UNPAID WATER SUMS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES TO THE LAKE COUNTY AUDITOR(20230921\U03)(UT-7)

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

4.RESOLUTION TO DELETE A WATER SUM CERTIFIED TO THE LAKE COUNTY AUDITOR(20230921\U04)(UT-7)

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

5.RESOLUTION CERTIFYING COMPLIANCE WITH CHAPTER 5108 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE IN ADOPTING THE LAKE COUNTY PREVENTION, RETENTION, AND CONTINGENCY PLAN BIENNIAL RENEWAL FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2023 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2025(20230921\JFS01)(JFS-16)

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

6.RESOLUTION DECLARING THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS’ REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE BEGINNING OCTOBER 17, 2023(20230921\C01)(C-107)

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

7.RESOLUTION APPROVING THE LAKE COUNTY RECORDER’S TECHNOLOGY FUND PROPOSAL AS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO R.C. 317.321(20230921\C02)(C-36)

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that they are narrowly tailoring the discussion only to the \$1.00. The language associated with additionally requesting salaries and benefits is not being considered at this time and the Board is acting in accordance with the appropriate Ohio Revised Code. Assistant Prosecutor, Ms. Nina Germano stated that Commissioner Hamercheck's statement was correct. She added that, according to the Ohio Revised Code, that provides for the increase of the Recorder's Technology Fund fees needs to be within a certain timeframe and that this Board is required to approve such an increase. She clarified that it is limited only to the \$1.00 at this time and only for fiscal year 2024. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Regovich and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

8.RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE LAKE COUNTY AUDITOR (20230921\C03)(C-9)

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

9.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250,000.00 FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ON BEHALF OF THE LAKE COUNTY CRIME LABORATORY, EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2023 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2025(20230921\C04)(CT-18)

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

10.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND EXTENDED HOUSING, INC. FOR THE FY-2022 YEAR HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM FUNDS(20230921\C05)(C-34B)

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

11.RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FUNDING FOR REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO PAINE ROAD AS DESCRIBED BY THE LAKE COUNTY ENGINEER(20230921\C06)(C-107)

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Commissioner Hamercheck referred to the following paragraph in the resolution: "*WHEREAS, the Lake County Engineer has agreed to cooperate in a Performance Audit conducted by the Auditor of State, Keith Faber*" and asked who would be paying for the performance audit. Engineer Gills stated that his office is not prepared to pay for this audit. Commissioner Plecnik stated his belief was that they are free unless/if they cannot find savings that exceed the amount. Commissioner Regovich stated that if need be, we (the County) would need to pay for the audit but he is hopeful that there will be savings found. The Board continued to discuss who would be paying for the performance audit, the benefits of the audit or any other helpful information or savings they hope would be found. Commissioner Regovich responded it makes sense to have a third party look at everything and make objective suggestions. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that both he and County Administrator Boyd have been in contact with the State Auditor's Office and while they cannot provide a cost estimate now, he gave some cost examples of other audits throughout the State. Some recent examples given was a township (not a County) at a cost of \$110,000 and a Job and Family Services (not Lake County) that was \$95,500. The Board continued to discuss the performance audit and potential cuts that the State may suggest. Commissioner Plecnik listed several scenarios where the audit may find cost savings. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Regovich and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

12.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS 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(20230921\C07)(C-107)

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Telecommunications Director, Mr. Paul Stefanko, explained that this will provide for an upgrade to the Fire Alert System, replace obsolete recording system for the 911 call center and increase channel capacity by 10% which is crucial to the county. He also stated that the software and firmware is past its useful life. There is a trade in value of \$400,000 for the radios. Commissioner Hamercheck provided a handout to the Board regarding double authentication and explained that double authentication prevents hacking. Mr. Stefanko reviewed the handout in detail with the Board. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Regovich and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

13.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND THE LAKE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY BOARD 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(20230921\C08)(C-107)

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Regovich. The Board discussed the roof replacement at the fairgrounds with regards to restrictions of using ARPA funds and whether this was a good use of ARPA funds. Commissioner Plecnik stated that the County owns the fairgrounds and is directly responsible for their maintenance and we cannot risk a roof collapse. Commissioner Hamercheck pointed out that the buildings are precast concrete structures and it is the roof seams that are leaking. He also added that the Fair Board owns the buildings at the fairgrounds and the Board of Commissioners maintains them as a courtesy. Commissioner Hamercheck proposed tabling the resolution until the board has had an opportunity to speak with the Fair Board.

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

Commissioner Hamercheck stated that the County should give the fair board less restrictive General Funds so that they could do more of what is needed. Such as addition, lights and the race track for less money. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik and Regovich "NAYS": Commissioner Hamercheck

14.RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,970,228.85(20230921\BC01)(C-4)

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

15.RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$708,118.18(20230921\BC02)(C-17)

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

16. RESOLUTION INCREASING AND DECREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS(20230921\BC03)(C-111)

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

17. RESOLUTION ADVANCING AND TRANSFERRING CASH AND APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS(20230921\BC04)(C-111)

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

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

UTILITIES – none.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES- Job and Family Services Director, Ms. Suzanne Casar, gave an update on the unwinding of the Medicaid Programs from the pandemic. She thanked her staff for their hard work meeting all the deadlines for the State.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – Jason Boyd discussed the Public Safety Center and stated that everything is progressing very well. A trip to Wayne County Michigan is planned for next week to tour their new jail facility. October 10th is the tentative date for interviewing the two design/build firms.

FINANCE – none.

CLERK – Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 28, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

LEGAL – none.

ENGINEER Mr. Gills provided an update on several projects which included the completion of negotiations with Great Lakes for Williams Road with work beginning the first or second week of October. Specifications are complete for Paine Road and should be ready to go out to bid by the end of October with work beginning in December. He pointed out that this job is able to be done in the winter. Commissioner Hamercheck gave an update on work that he, the Engineer and Director of Administrative Services, Mr. Joel DiMare have been working on with regard to cross training, repurposing, and reclassifying employees for cost savings.

OLD BUSINESS: Commissioner Hamercheck acknowledged that Williams Road and Paine Road are moving along but Ford and Blair are not. Funding for these (Ford and Blair) projects remains an issue. Mr. Gills stated that they do have engineers estimates for costs on Ford and Blair. Commissioner Hamercheck and Mr. Gills discussed many details about funding and projects. Blair Road is on schedule for July of 2024 because it received OPWC funding.

NEW BUSINESS: none.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Commissioner Hamercheck asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board. Ms. Gilda Spencer of Ford Road expressed her thoughts regarding the road closures and safety issues.

Mr. Ken Gauntner of Madison, was happy to see the adoption of the Paine Road resolution today. He agreed with Commissioner Hamercheck that the County does own the fairgrounds property but it is not the Commissioners responsibility to maintain the buildings such as the roof. He pointed out that the law is very specific that it is in fact the County Commissioners responsibility to maintain the roads and bridges in the County.

Mrs. Bushman of Ford Road, pleaded with the Board to begin these projects.

Mr. Chris Weiss of Leroy thanked the Engineer's Office for working on Blair Road and shared his thoughts on a performance audit. He also discussed the importance of providing up to date radios for all safety forces and pointed out that horses and livestock are kept in the buildings where the roof is to be replaced at the fairgrounds.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Regovich seconded by Commissioner Plecnik, the Board adjourned the meeting at 12:04 p.m. with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners Regovich, Plecnik and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

Minutes approved this second day of November, 2023.

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, PRESIDENT

JOHN PLECNIK, COMMISSIONER

RICHARD J. REGOVICH, COMMISSIONER

JENNIFER BELL, CLERK