

The Lorain County Association

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The December 15, 2022 LCTA meeting will be held in Camden Township at Camden Township Hall 42 Court Street, Kipton, Ohio 44049

Minutes of the November 17, 2022 meeting in Rochester Township

President, Amy Richards, called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Approve Minutes: President Amy Richards asked for a motion to approve the October 20, 2022 minutes. A motion was made by Fred Pitts and seconded by Carl Wesemeyer; motion carried.

Treasures Report: September ended with a checking balance of \$32,436.08

We had \$135 come in for dues

Our expenses were \$150.84 to Carl Wesemeyer for fair expenses [\$150.00 recorded by bank which I will get corrected]; \$78 to Lorain Farm Bureau for dues; \$144.60 to Rita Canfield for food & beverages for the ethics training; \$1,676.52 to Christie Homer-Miller for postage & gas cards; \$25 to the OTA for dues; \$318.40 to Mark Cunningham for office supplies & the third quarter secretary pay.

This leaves us with a checking balance of \$30,177.72

A motion was made by Matt Hignett and seconded by Fred Pitts; motion carried.

Officers Report:

President Amy Richards: Reminded everyone to get their OTARMA grants done. Also, townships will be receiving a OTARMA ballot to vote for candidates for the board of directors at OTARMA.

Vice President Jared Smith: Jared asked the association their thoughts on hosting a vendor fair and dinner at our April meeting. He gave the group information on how Tuscarawas County Association holds a Trade Show/Spring Banquet. A committee was formed to work on this project.

Secretary Mark Cunningham: The OTA conference reservation is now open. Discussion was held regarding sponsoring a spring semester scholarship at Lorain County Community College. After input from members, it was decided to only sponsor a scholarship for the fall semester.

Executive Committeeman Dick Heidecker: No report

Old business: Jed Lamb, Fred Pitts & Matt Hignett approached the LCTA membership with the idea that we would host the opening day breakfast at the 2023 Lorain County Fair. The LCTA would be responsible for providing the caterer and sell tickets to the breakfast. This could be a fund raiser for the LCTA. Seating for the breakfast is 100-150 people. The LCTA will research what it would take for us to put on the breakfast and get back to the fair board members at the January or February meeting.

New business; Election of LCTA Officers; Carl Wesemeyer, Neil Lynch & Ken Zeigler the nominating committee presented the following slate of candidates. Jared Smith- president; Christie Homer Miller- vice president; Mark Cunningham- secretary; John Ciarrone- treasurer; Carl Wesemeyer- executive

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committeeman. A motion to close nominations was made by Dick Heidecker and seconded by Fred Pitts; motion carried. A motion was made by Matt Hignett and seconded by Rita Canfield to accept the nominated board of officers; motion carried.

Reports from LCTA Committees and Township Representatives:

Fair Committee: Carl Wesemeyer: No report

NOACA; Meeting on December 1, 2022 regarding the Lorain County FPA boundaries. A discussion of FPA changes and the possibility of annexation due to the changes in FPA's. Neil Lynch comment that he has attended previous meeting on this subject and the fact that NOACA is not concerned with annexation.

NEOTA; No meeting

OPWC: Carl Wesemeyer: There was a Small Government meeting last week. The three counties; Lorain, Medina and Huron have a lot of good proposed projects; should score well.

Solid Waste:

I would like to inform the Association that the Policy Committee did meet Tuesday, October 11, 2022. The Policy Committee finished review of the 10-Year Plan Update and it was sent to the Ohio EPA for review and comment.

Part of the requirement of the Plan Update is to show how the District will pay to implement the Plan. Hence, the budget over the 10-year period has to be balanced. Due to reduced revenue caused by a decrease in tipping fees and contract fees from Republic, the District is currently spending more per year than it is taking in as revenue. There is a current surplus but it is spending down and will last to only around 2027. There are three ways to show a balanced budget: cut costs, increase revenue, or a combination of the two. The Plan Update contains a combination of the two.

In September, the County and the consultant, GT Environmental, proposed increasing revenue by increasing tipping fees, instituting an in-county generation fee, and instituting a user-fee. The user fee would be put on the property tax much the same as the storm water fee is now. I argued against that because it would be a fee/tax on your property and you would not have voted on it. Also, it is not existing now and once a fee/tax gets instituted it just never seems to away and always seems to go up after time. That left the plan to call for up to a \$4.00 ton/tipping fee and a \$4.00/ ton in-county generation fee.

At the October meeting, it came out that because of the Host Community Agreement with Republic, the District cannot raise the tipping fee nor can the District recommend/consider it (including in a plan update). That meant that the only viable way to increase revenue would be via an up-to \$4.00/ton in-county generation fee.

To cut costs, the District would eliminate the Community Incentive Grants, The county's logic was that the grants were not working. Despite the grants, recycling went down. The District will instead provide "support assistance" to communities for grants from the EPA. The District will decrease funding to the Health Department, County Engineer, and the Sheriff Department. Instead of a set amount of funding, they would have to specifically specify what the money would be used for.

Policy Committee meetings will move to the second Thursday of the month starting in 2023. Next Policy Committee Meeting is 9:00 a.m. 12/13/2022.

SWAC: Mark McConnell: No Report

Farm Bureau: No report

State elected official's: No state official in attendance.

Commissioners: Dave Moore; We will not know the official results of the commissioner election until November 28, 2022. Budget hearing started 11/17. County is running on a 10- 12-million-dollar deficit. Dave

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is watching how the money is being spent. Dave talked about the one bid for the radio communications in the county. Bob Richards, Grafton Township Fire Chief commented that the new radios would cost \$6,000. Plus, there is a monthly service/ maintenance fee for each radio. Also, this system is a private system it does not go through the county 911 department. Their current radios that are about 10 years old cost about \$750 each. There is a possibility of a grant from the county commissioners to the townships to pay for the cost of the radios. A conversation about the way American Rescue Plan Act [ARPA] money was being spent by the county commissioners was held.. The county received 60-million dollars, 20% of the money went to non-profits. There is only 1.9 million dollars to spend. The two projects submitted by Amherst and LaGrange townships were denied funding by ARPA money. Dave did say there are a lot of positive projects in the works that he cannot talk about at this time. Still moving forward with talks on the Midway Mall project.

Prosecutors Office: Tom Magnum had no report

Board of Health: The Health Department is looking for townships willing to host informational meeting on the new home septic systems Operational and Maintenance regulations that will go into effect in 2024. Contact Mike Jindra or Scott Ponza

Sheriff Department: No report.

LCCA: Rob Duncan, Lorain County Community Director, reminded that the Government Roundtable is December 2 @ 8:30 am, Lorain County Community College. The Mike Whitmore award will be presented at the meeting. Please try to attend. Also, you are able to nominate a candidate for the award.

Emergency Management: Jessica emailed her report; The Hazard Mitigation Plan was adopted by the Lorain County Commissioners and has received official acceptance status from FEMA. The next step will be to exercise the plan. If anyone has any questions, please reach out by phone or email and I will be happy to discuss this further.

County Auditor: Tim Cochey from the auditors office commented on the ARPA money that the auditor will be sure that the money will go to the intended recipient. The auditor has no say in who the commissioners award the money to. The state auditor will make sure that the county auditor is the watch dog for this spending of ARPA funds. No update on the Nexus case till February 2023. No update on Green Circle case. Auditor's office has surplus computers to donate to townships if interested contact the auditors' office for more details. Tim encourages everyone to visit the auditors' web site for a wealth of township information.

County Recorder: No report

OTA; No report

Christmas Banquet will be December 15, 2022 in Camden Township get your reservation into Neil Lynch as soon as Possible. Thanks for all your work on the banquet Patty Echko.

Amy Richards asked for a motion to adjourn at 8:24 pm. Motion made by Jed Lamb and seconded by Fred Pitts; motion carried.

The January 19, 2023 meeting will be hosted by Sheffield Township