

The Lorain County Association

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The April 20, 2023 combined LCTA & Storm Water District meeting will be held at the County Administration Building 226 Middle Ave Elyria, Ohio 44035

Minutes of the March 16, 2023 meeting at Amherst Township

President, Jared Smith, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Approve Minutes: President Jared Smith asked for a motion to approve the February 16, 2023 minutes. A motion was made by Dick Heidecker and seconded by Fred Pitts; motion carried.

Treasures Report: LCTA Treasurer's Report Period Ending 02-28-2023

January 2023 ended with a checking balance of \$28,240.08. Income from Patty Echko of \$30.00 Total Income \$30.00 Expenses: Mark Cunningham reimburse for supplies \$14.02 Total Expenses \$14.02 Outstanding Amy Richards check 1740 for \$18.61 and LCCC Scholarship check 1750 for \$750.00. This leaves us with a checking balance of \$28,256.06. Submitted 03/16/2023 by John Ciarrone, LCTA Treasurer.

The LCTA Audit Committee met on March 3, 2023 to review the financial status of the organization for calendar year 2022.

The Committee was composed of John Ciarrone, Fiscal Officer Camden Township, Sheila Lanning Fiscal Officer Huntington Township, Laura Brady, Fiscal Officer Rochester Township, and Joe Siekeres, Fiscal Officer Henrietta Township.

Monthly bank statements were reviewed along with monthly Treasurer reports and reconciled to beginning and ending bank balances. It was found that financial reporting was accurate and no discrepancies were detected.

Recommendations made by the Committee were:

The treasurer shall collect posted check images for checks written each month

The monthly treasurer's report shall include a "Outstanding" line item for checks that were written one month but posted the following month

The Treasurer shall calculate averages of expenses and income for the last three years and report to the Association members so that consideration of investment options can be made

Submitted 3/16/2023 by John Ciarrone LCTA Treasurer

President Jared Smith asked for a motion to approve the treasures report. A motion was made by Barry Taylor and seconded by Ken Ziegler; motion carried.

Program: Dr. Amber Fisher from Murray Ridge Center gave a power point presentation on the programs and services offered at Murray Ridge Center.

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Officers Report:

President Jared Smith: No report

Vice President Christie Homer Miller: April 19, 2023 is the next Trash Consortium meeting in Grafton Township. Be aware of the detour around the double round-about construction at state routes 83&303.

Secretary Mark Cunningham: OTA annual dues will be sent to township fiscal officers soon. Please pay attention to HB 1 that will reduce the money in the State of Ohio Local Government Fund [LGF].

Executive Committeeman Carl Wesemeyer; No Report

Old business: LCTA sponsorship of the Lorain County Fair opening day breakfast. After discussion a motion was made by Fred Pitts and seconded by Amy Richards for the LCTA to sponsor the breakfast: motion carried. The cost of food is approximately \$3000, the breakfast will be held in the Grange Cafeteria, The Fair Board will print the tickets. Capacity of guest is 150 people.

Public Records training will be held April 11, 2023 at The Lodge in New Russia Township from 1 pm-4:15 pm. Registration is at the LCTA website. Encourage your township board members and school board members to attend. Registration closes on April 2, 2023

New business: Jared asked if the group would support having a meeting in April so that the Storm Water District could give their annual report and explain the new Lorain County Drainage Plan [6117]. A motion was made by Dick Heidecker and seconded by Rita Canfield to hold an April LCTA meeting; motion carried.

Reports from LCTA Committees and Township Representatives:

Fair Committee: Carl Wesemeyer: No report

NOACA Report: Mark Cunningham: I attended the March 10, 2023 meeting very long meeting, 6 hours most of the discussion was on the use of the words Climate Change in NOACA, yearly projects.

NEOTA Report: Dick Heidecker: Sending out emails to all members regarding money in the account.

OPWC: Carl Wesemeyer: No report

Solid Waste: Dave Urig: Dave Blevins reported that this is the first quarter that the Solid Waste District had a net positive in their financial statement. Dave had to make a lot of cuts this year including the Environmental Crimes Unit. Dave has to submit a 10 year balanced forecasted budget to the EPA. At sometime in the future Dave hopes to bring back the community incentive grants to the township, maybe through the Ohio EPA. Working on a grant for a tire shredder to turn tires into mulch for playgrounds or turf. Also working on a grant with the Ohio EPA for an agricultural tire collection. There would be a fee of 50 cents per tire. Dave was asked if he is considering asking for an increase in the tipping fee, he said no. The District has hired a new consultant at less cost and improved service.

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Brandi Schnell Community Outreach Coordinator reminded all that May 20, 2023 is Lorain County Beautiful Day formally known as Pride Day. For more information contact Brandi at 440-328-2249 or email bschnell@loraincounty.us There will be a planning meeting for Lorain County Beautiful Day on April 13, 2023 at the Lorain County collection Center 540 South Abbe Road Elyria, Ohio 44035 All Lorain County schools are eligible to enter the Billboard Poster contest sponsored by Solid Waste Management District.

SWAC: Mark McConnell: No report

Farm Bureau: Eric Flynn; No report

Commissioners: Dave Moore said the new meeting times and days are working out very well with increased attendance. Every other Tuesday at 5 pm and that same week second meeting Friday at 9:30 am. The County and LCCC are working on acquiring the K&S Building for Children Services. Dave explained his objection to NOACA annual budget and the debate about the words Climate Change in the budget. He is ok with a Climate change debate just not in the NOACA budget. The county departments are short staff, need to hire qualified personal. Craig said any Nexus taxes that have been collected have been distributed to the townships and school districts.

Michelle Hung: A partnership between the Lorain County Board of Commissioners and the Lorain County Port Authority has made it possible for the Lorain County Office on Aging to move to a brand-new office space. The new space will allow better service to the community with:

- 1) Ample parking space for visitors
- 2) The office is on one floor, making it more accessible for our seniors
- 3) The Food bank storage space is much larger with space for additional freezers and coolers
- 4) There is access to a large meeting space that can be used to invite the community to various educational events
- 5) The possibility to partner in the future with the Solid Waste Department for drive thru food distribution events

The Office on Aging is looking to officially move in and occupy the space in mid to late April. After much consideration, they decided to wait until after tax season so that their AARP Tax Aide Program is not disturbed. The staff felt that asking clients to keep track of two appointments is something that could be difficult and confusing. The AARP Tax Aide Program provides free tax return preparation for anyone in Lorain County with simple state and federal tax returns. The program is made possible through the AmeriCorps Senior Volunteer Program, housed at the Lorain County Office on Aging. In 2022, AARP Tax Aide volunteers helped secure \$215,353 in tax returns for 233 Lorain County residents. Again, if you know a senior that needs this free tax service, have them give a call to (440) 326-4822 or email Lauren Ksiazek at lksiazek@lcoa.org, at the Lorain County Office on Aging.

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Prosecutors Office: No report

Community Development: Rob Duncan said There is a USDA economic development grant that is available for rural townships. The grant provides a consulting firm to assist the townships in economic development. The other grant is Township Safety Sign grant for townships that have not received this grant in the past. The grant is for up to \$50,000.

Sheriff Department: Captain Bosley said the department is planning on hiring another community officer to assist deputies Osborne and Hocking. The department has its speaker's bureau offering to speak at township meetings and is doing active shooter training for business. The department will also assist businesses with crime prevention inspections.

LCCA: Dick Heidecker: Need to have a county administrator appointed. LCCA had a clean audit today.

Emergency Management: No report

County Auditor: Craig reported the revenues were up also interest income was way up over last year. The housing market remains strong with sales ratios at 72%. Craig believes there will be a sizeable tax increase next year. The Auditors Department has started the reevaluation process for property tax in the southern part of the county. All appraisers will be wearing identification while working. The Nexus appeal is before the Ohio Supreme Court, it is not a valuation lawsuit it is a Supreme Court ruling whether county auditors have the right to appeal the tax commissioner's rulings. Craig said any Nexus taxes that have been collected have been distributed to the townships and school districts.

Health Department: Ann Maczuga invited all township official to attend a power point presentation on maintenance and operation of Household Sewage Treatment Program. The meeting will be held at the Lorain County health Department 9890 Murray Ridge Road on Wednesday April 5, 2023 from 6 to 8 pm

Land Bank; The Land Bank has funds available to demolish blighted building in the townships. This is at no cost to the township.

Jared Smith asked for a motion to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. Motion made by Butch Holms and seconded by Dick Heidecker; motion carried.

The next meeting will be at the Lorain County Administration Building on April 20,2023.