



LAKE COUNTY NARCOTICS AGENCY

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LAKE COUNTY NARCOTICS AGENCY EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES OF MEETING May 3, 2023

Commissioner Richard Regovich
Chief Randy Ice
Chief John Gielink
Prosecutor Charles Coulson
Mayor Dennis Morley
Chief Ken Gunsch
Sheriff Frank Leonbruno
Chief Matt Naegele

Lake County
Wickliffe
Mentor-on-the-Lake
Lake County
Eastlake
Mentor
Lake County
Willoughby Hills

CALL TO ORDER: Chief Randy Ice called the meeting to order at 1303 hours. Mayor Morley was not in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve the minutes from the April 5, 2023 meeting made by Chief Gunsch, seconded by Chief Gielink. All members in favor.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DRUG ENFORCEMENT:

Lt. Kemp's April enforcement report was included in the packet. Agents initiated 13 cases, made 3 arrests/indictments, and conducted 17 controlled buys in April. Of note during the month was a Willoughby search warrant targeting a psilocybin mushroom grow that resulted in the seizure of more than two pounds of finished product and a large number of spores and growing materials. Agents also seized [REDACTED] and more [REDACTED] during an investigation targeting a repeat violent offender [REDACTED]

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

April 2023 financial statements were included in the packet. Carry over fund balance as of April 27, 2023 was **\$4,495,625.74**. Prior month's balance was \$4,485,587.56.

STATE FORFEITURE FUND:

Current balance as of April 30, 2023 is **\$288,289.92**. Prior month's balance was the same.

FEDERAL FORFEITURE FUND:

A check for \$23,695.00 for the Chevy Malibu was posted in April. After depositing a \$29,116.21 check from the City of Cleveland on behalf of the NOLETF's 2010-2021 reconciliation, LCNA's balance in the Federal Forfeiture Fund as of May 1, 2023 is **\$621,831.78**. Prior month's balance was \$592,715.57.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Lake County Commissioners met on April 13, 2023, and made the following narcotics executive board appointments:

1. Willoughby Hills Police Chief Matt Naegele was appointed to replace outgoing Madison Township Police Chief Matt Byers, effective April 13, 2023 and expiring December 31, 2025.
2. Willoughby Police Chief Jim Schultz was appointed to replace outgoing Mentor on the Lake Police Chief John Gielink, effective July 1, 2023 and expiring December 31, 2025.

LCNA's roofing project has been completed. The work went well and there was minimal rot to the sub-roof. The payment of roughly \$144,000.00 will be made shortly, once the final bill is received.

At the April meeting, the board approved the purchase of a movable wall system to be used in the shoot house being constructed at the Lake County Law Enforcement Training Center. This purchase will cost \$21,439.00 and the vendor is Trango Systems. The board approved this expenditure from LCNA's federal trust fund account, but Director Hengst is now requesting that the board approve the purchase from state trust fund monies instead, as a significant expenditure of federal forfeiture funds is anticipated in the near future for body cameras (see new business, below). **The board agreed by unanimous voice vote to use state trust fund monies for the movable wall system.**

Prosecutor Coulson and Chief Ice updated the board on status of research to add Sheriff Leonbruno to the Narcotics Agency Executive Board as a permanent voting member. The county commissioners will vote on a resolution related to this on May 4, 2023, as the Lake

County Police Chief's Association unanimously recommended Sheriff Leonbruno's appointment to the board.

NEW BUSINESS:

Director Hengst is seeking board approval to purchase a vehicle at some point later this year. The car will be needed when Agent [REDACTED] returns from his Ohio National Guard deployment at the start of the new year. Director Hengst is seeking approval at this time so that an order can be placed if need be, as orders are taking several months to arrive. The cost will be presented to the board once determined, and the vehicle will likely be an SUV. **The board approved this purchase by unanimous voice vote.**

Director Hengst is seeking board approval to spend about \$63,000.00 for a (5) year contract with Motorola Solutions to provide 10 body worn cameras, cloud storage, software, and support to LCNA. The cameras will be used by agents for search warrants, interdiction operations, arrest warrants, and other encounters with the public. The cost will be paid in yearly installments, and the price is guaranteed for the (5) year period. The matter was discussed, and Director Hengst will check with the prosecutor's office to determine if Motorola Systems is a certified state vendor and report back to the board before committing to any purchase/contract.

LCNA recently completed our 2022 Recovery Ohio Grant, successfully meeting our grant objectives. Our 2023 Recovery Ohio grant application has been completed. LCNA is requesting \$75,000 for the new project, and an award notice will not be received for several months. LCNA is also awaiting an award notice on our 2022 Drug Law Enforcement Fund (DLEF) Grant. We have requested \$100,000, which is consistent with past awards. Director Hengst is currently writing our 2023 JAG Byrne Grant proposal, which will be focused on making cases against repeat/violent offenders and seizing firearms.

On April 27, 2023, LCNA agents assisted mentor PD and Wickliffe PD with the buy-bust arrest of a male suspected of supplying fentanyl to a Mentor resident who then OD'd and died. During this arrest at a Wickliffe gas station, the suspect rammed an unmarked Mentor unit and an unmarked LCNA unit as agents/detectives attempted to block the suspect in. He was wanted in Cuyahoga County on drug and weapons charges, and will be charged with numerous offenses by Mentor PD. (7) fentanyl pills were located in the suspect car. LCNA has received a preliminary estimate of between \$2,000 and \$4,000 to fix the damaged LCNA unit.

PERSONNEL ISSUES:

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned at 1338 hours. Motion to adjourn by Chief Gielink, seconded by Chief Gunsch.

Next meeting will be June 7, 2023 at 1:00 pm at the Lake County Commissioner's Office 5th Floor Conference Room.

Director

Chairman