

LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES

MORRIS W. BEVERAGE III, COMMISSIONER	JASON W. BOYD, ADMINISTRATOR
JOHN PLECNIK, COMMISSIONER	LEGAL COUNSEL
MORGAN R. McINTOSH, COMMISSIONER	NEWS MEDIA
JENNIFER BELL, CLERK	

(Tape 2026-0521)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Beverage called the Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, May 21, 2026

ROLL CALL: Upon roll being called, Commissioners Plecnik and Beverage were present. Commissioner McIntosh was not present today.

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Beverage, Commissioner McIntosh was excused from today's meeting with the vote follows : "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik and Beverage "NAYS": None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner McIntosh, the minutes of Regular Meeting of May 7, 2026 were approved with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: McIntosh, Plecnik and Beverage "NAYS": None.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Commissioner Beverage asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board.

Mr. Brian Massie of 8196 Rainbow Drive in Concord, discussed item number 12 on the agenda pertaining to a settlement agreement with Lake County Council on Aging and hoped to get some of the details. He stated that he assumed this deals with the \$466,000 that was a problem between the Auditor's Office and the Council on Aging. He stated that he previously sent a public records request and was told the records were not yet available as it was still under investigation. Commissioner Beverage addressed Assistant Prosecutor, Mr. David Hackman, asking if there was anything to comment on. Mr. Hackman responded to Mr. Massie that this is relating to an incident that happened last summer and Lake County is a victim of crime. There is a pending criminal investigation for obvious reasons and therefore the County is unable to comment.

Ms. Jenna Bing, 36951 Beach Hills Drive in Willoughby Hills, stated that she is a member of the Senior Advisory Panel and thanked the Board for approving the funds to for the Osgood Group Senior Study. Ms. Bing explained that she has many years of experience performing consumer market research for major corporations like Quaker Oats, Craft Foods, Ameritech, and Progressive. With her experience she wanted to share how the Osgood Group is doing a very good and well-conducted study and that they have reported to the Advisory Panel twice so far. She stated that she hoped the Board would really listen to the study and the recommendations and implement them.

RESOLUTIONS:

1.RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERRING CASH WITHIN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES SEWER FUND AND PROJECT FUND 596, MADISON TRUNK SEWER PHASE 2, PROJECT 505-S-2026 (20260521\U01)(UT-2)

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

2.RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERRING CASH WITHIN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES WATER FUND AND FUND 595 FOR PROJECT 503-W-2026 DAYTON ROAD WATER TANK RESTORATION (20260521\U02)(UT-2)

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

3.RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERRING CASH WITHIN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES SOLID WASTE FUND AND PROJECT FUND 597, BC3 FORCE MAIN MODIFICATION, PROJECT 512-L-2026 (20260521\U03)(UT-2)

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

4.RESOLUTION AMENDING THE SANITARY SEWERAGE, SOLID WASTE, AND WATER SUPPLY RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES(20260521\U04)(UT-41)

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

5.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN ENGINEERING AGREEMENT WITH ARCADIS US, INC. FOR THE GLYCO I FORCE MAIN PROJECT 506-S-2026 FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES(20260521\U05)(UT-4)

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

6.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN ENGINEERING AGREEMENT WITH EUTHENICS FOR THE DICKERSON ROAD WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT 507-W-2026 FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES(20260521\U06)(UT-4)

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

7.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN ENGINEERING AGREEMENT WITH STEPHEN HOVANCSEK & ASSOCIATES FOR THE SHARPE AVENUE WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT 511-W-2026 FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES(20260521\U07)(UT-4)

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

8.RESOLUTION CERTIFYING UNPAID WATER AND SEWER SUMS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES TO THE LAKE COUNTY AUDITOR(20260521\U08)(UT-7)

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

9.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN ENGINEERING AGREEMENT WITH VERDANTAS, INC. FOR THE HEATHERSTONE WASTEWATER RECLAMATION FACILITY EXPANSION PROJECT 500-S-2025 FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES(20260521\U09)(UT-4)

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

10.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND WEST CREEK CONSERVANCY FOR FY-2023 ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS(20260521\C01)(C-34B)

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

11. RESOLUTION APPOINTING JOSHUA J. STRICKLAND TO THE LAKELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO COMPLETE THE REMAINDER OF A FIVE-YEAR TERM EXPIRING MARCH 6, 2030(20260521\C02)(B-51)

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Beverage. Commissioner Beverage stated that he appreciates Mr. Strickland stepping up to serve on the Lakeland Board to replace Mr. Michael Benz. He stated that he appreciated Mr. Benz serving and notifying the Board that he couldn't make the time commitment and wanted to make room for someone that could. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows : "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik and Beverage "NAYS": None.

12. RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING (20260521\C03)(C-125)

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner Beverage. Commissioner Beverage explained that Lake County was a victim of a crime last summer and fortunately, the full amount of the loss was recovered through both the insurance carriers for Lake County and the Council on Aging and due to the bank's recovery efforts. No services have been lost or interrupted. This resolution is to memorialize the settlement agreement between the county and the Council on Aging. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows : "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik and Beverage "NAYS": None.

13.RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,975,005.40(20260521\BC01)(C-4)

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

14.RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$633,673.51(20260521\BC02)(C-17)

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

15. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20260521\BC03)(C-111)

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

16. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CASH AND APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS(20260521\BC04)(C-111)

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

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

UTILITIES – Commissioner Plecnik stated that he wanted to reaffirm his absolute confidence in Mr. Rothlisberger's work and the work of his staff on this very difficult odor problem. He addressed an email that Mr. Rothlisberger shared explaining that some of the odor may have sources outside of the sanitary sewer system and that sometimes internal plumbing can be an issue. He asked Mr. Rothlisberger to elaborate to make sure every resident understands the odor issue and what may be their responsibility to get it resolved and where it may be the county's responsibility. Mr. Rothlisberger provided a very detailed report explaining wastewater and sewer gases and their odors. He also explained how any system in the United States can contain odors and gasses such as hydrogen sulfide and methane and those sorts of gases can cause odors by decomposing wastewater. He also explained the details of how they test

for hydrogen sulfide in manholes, and what the readings mean. Mr. Rothlisberger also spoke of a binding chemical which he's talked about several times in this meeting and through emails that will help reduce the amount of hydrogen sulfide that's generated or created. Further, it's all a chemical and biological reaction inside of the sewers and there may or may not be a single source to that and they continue to investigate that. He next expanded on the source of odors, stating that the plumbing system inside of a house is designed to vent gas, there is a vent stack on top of your roof, and that's where gases are supposed to go. He provided a detailed explanation of different issues that can occur with a leak in the vent stack or elsewhere in plumbing inside someone's home resulting in bad odors within the home.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – Ms. Suzanne Casar, Director of Job and Family Services, wanted to thank everyone that attended the Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner last night at the FarmPark, particularly her staff, Juvenile Court Judge DeLeone and Probate Judge Bartolotta. She shared that the children enjoyed face painting, a clown, and balloon artist.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – Mr. Boyd stated that the jail project is continuing to progress on schedule and the prefab cells arrived and are being installed. All the level one cells are in and on level two, there are double tiered stack cells which are approximately 40- 50% installed. He stated that excavation and storm water detention is completed, masonry continues, and next month, they hope to transition to the outside for the brick veneer façade. He introduced Ms. Alyea Barajas, Senior Services Manager, to speak on the Senior Study. Ms. Barajas introduced Mr. Adam Sheldon, Partner and Senior Consultant, and Ms. Nancy Osgood, Founder and President of The Osgood Group, who have been leading Lake County's Senior Services Strategic Planning process. Ms. Barajas explained that the purpose of this study was to evaluate the current senior services landscape, identify strengths and gaps, assess future needs, and develop recommendations that will help ensure services remain responsive, coordinated, and sustainable as demand continues to grow. Ms. Barajas stated that over the past several months, Mr. Sheldon and Ms. Osgood have been engaging stakeholders, gathering community input, and conducting research and analysis to better understand the needs of older adults in Lake County and opportunities for the future. They are now at a point where they can provide an update on the work completed to date and share preliminary observations as the process continues. Mr. Sheldon and Ms. Osgood thanked the Board for the opportunity to present their report, to discuss summary findings to date, and they detailed some of the considerations that they have regarding some thought that needs to go into the plan as it moves forward over the summer months. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to conduct the study as well as Alyea and her staff who have walked them through the nuances of the senior sector of Lake County. He thanked Administrator Boyd and the Senior Advisory Panel. Mr. Sheldon explained that the goal of today's presentation is to focus on three sections. First is the methodology; what has gone into this study so far. The second is summary findings which he will cover and highlight and the third is their considerations for decision-making. These are the key areas in which will need further discussion. Mr. Sheldon presented a thorough PowerPoint presentation and provided details of each slide. He explained that the idea was to get a comprehensive understanding and assessment for senior services across Lake County. He explained that the market study is an underpinning of much of the other research that you see up here, including the senior center usage data, some of the data that came out of the Lake County Council on Aging, as well as one of the deepest areas of study with 75 plus stakeholders which we interviewed. All the Commissioners were interviewed as a part of this. They spent about 45 minutes, in some cases even longer, on a zoom call or two to really dive into the needs of the senior sector and some of the perceptions. In addition to that, they took a two-day tour to spend time with all the senior centers that are levy funded in Lake County and really got to know each director, see the facility, and see things in action. They took the time to see the physical locations and drive the distances between those senior centers. Mr. Sheldon stated that there were seven key areas that came out of their work and he highlighted them on subsequent slides. The top one is that the Lake County senior population is proportionately large relative to other regions benchmarked and growing. He stressed that there is a robust senior service sector in Lake County but that more can be done. He continued to review the key areas and explained each in detail. There is a strong demand for aging in place services in Lake County and across the country; navigating the system is harder than it should be, senior centers are important but serve a limited population, and the levy distribution process needs to change to align with best practices and meet growing demand. The Board, Ms. Osgood and Mr. Sheldon discussed affordable housing, efficiency of senior centers and navigating the system and the Meals on Wheels program. Mr. Sheldon added what a big asset to Lake County LakeTran is for senior transportation. Commissioner Beverage asked what the next steps would be. Mr. Sheldon stated that they would be meeting with Ms. Barajas and her team to chart out what strategies and tactics need to be completed in the next three years, along with the resources and who would be accountable and responsible for those strategies and tactics. A comprehensive plan could be complete by the end of August, possibly sooner. The Board continued their discussion with Mr. Sheldon and voiced several concerns such as seniors being able to afford their homes with the ever-rising property taxes, various ways for seniors to age in place and where and what that might look like, and agencies that serve the senior population.

CLERK – Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the next Commissioners Meetings will be next Thursday, May 28, at 10:00 a.m. There will be a workshop at 10:30 in Chambers today or after executive session and a 250th tree planting ceremony is scheduled at 1:00 today at Veterans Park in Painesville.

LEGAL: none.

OLD BUSINESS: Commissioner Beverage wanted to make everyone aware of some issues that have been previously discussed pertaining to State Route 2 lighting. This has been an ongoing discussion for several years. He also referenced a maintenance agreement between the municipalities of which State Route 2 passes through and the County Engineers Office, which the Commissioners have had some involvement with. Commissioner Beverage provided some background to the agreement and reminded everyone that it has been in place over 50 years. He explained the audit of the Engineers Office that had been done by the State Auditor. Part of their findings included

a need to revisit the current maintenance contract. Commissioners Beverage and Plecnik discussed several funding options including license plate tag fees and outside grants and funding as well as potential costs to the municipalities and the Engineers Office. The current contract runs through 2026 and in order to opt out of the contract in 2027, there must be a six-month notice provided to the municipalities. He thanked Mr. Boyd, Mr. DiMare and Mr. Underwood for the work that they have been doing on this for almost a year.

NEW BUSINESS: none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner McIntosh, the Board convened for an Executive Session at 10:33 a.m. for the purpose of protecting the interests of an applicant or the possible investment or expenditure of public funds to be made in connection with an economic development project pursuant to R.C. 121.22(G)(8)with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, McIntosh and Beverage "NAYS": None.

The Lake County Board of Commissioners adjourned to Executive Session at 11:40 a.m.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik seconded by Commissioner McIntosh, the Board adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m. with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, McIntosh and Beverage "NAYS": None.

Minutes approved this sixteenth day of June, 2026.

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MORRIS W. BEVERAGE III, PRESIDENT

JOHN T. PLECNIK, COMMISSIONER

MORGAN R. McINTOSH, COMMISSIONER

JENNIFER BELL, CLERK