LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES

MORRIS W. BEVERAGE III, COMMISSIONER
JOHN PLECNIK, COMMISSIONER
MORGAN R. McINTOSH, COMMISSIONER
JENNIFER BELL, CLERK

JASON W. BOYD, ADMINISTRATOR
LEGAL COUNSEL
NEWS MEDIA

(Tape 2026-0709)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Beverage called the Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, July 9, 2026

ROLL CALL: Upon roll being called, Commissioners: Plecnik, McIntosh and Beverage were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
Upon a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner McIntosh, the minutes of Regular Meeting of June 4, 2026, were approved with the vote as follows: "AYES”: Commissioners: Plecnik, McIntosh and Beverage “NAYS": None.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:
Commissioner Beverage wanted to take the opportunity to remind everyone in attendance that this public portion is intended for agenda items only and at 10:30 today, immediately following this meeting, is when the commissioners workshop session will take place. This is where members of the community can come in and discuss any topic with the Commissioners that might be of interest to them.

No one present wished to address the Board at this time.

RESOLUTIONS:
1.RESOLUTION AWARDING A BID CONTRACT TO STANLEY MILLER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR THE HOPKINS ROAD CULVERT IMPROVEMENTS - CITY OF MENTOR AND HAINES ROAD CULVERT IMPROVEMENTS - MADISON TOWNSHIP, LCE Project #2022-011, AS REQUIRED BY THE LAKE COUNTY ENGINEER IN THE AMOUNT OF $971,104.00(20260709\E01)(E-3)
On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner McIntosh, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES”: Commissioners: McIntosh, Plecnik and Beverage “NAYS": None.

2.RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES OF COST IN THE AMOUNT OF $105,000.00 FOR BACON ROAD WATER TREATMENT PLANT WINDOW REPLACEMENT PROJECT NO 495-W-2025, AND ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR SAME(BID OPENING: August 5, 2026)(20260709\U01)(UT-8)
On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner McIntosh, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES”: Commissioners: McIntosh, Plecnik and Beverage “NAYS": None.

3.RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERRING CASH WITHIN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES WATER FUND AND FUND 595 FOR PROJECT 509-W-2026 JEAN DRIVE WATERLINE (20260709\U02)(UT-2)
On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner McIntosh, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES”: Commissioners: McIntosh, Plecnik and Beverage “NAYS": None.

4.RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES OF COST IN THE AMOUNT OF $46,231.85 FOR JORDAN DRIVE FORCE-MAIN SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION IN THE CITY OF MENTOR (JOB NO. 23-57)(20260709\U03)(UT-9)
On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner McIntosh, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES”: Commissioners: McIntosh, Plecnik and Beverage “NAYS": None.

5.RESOLUTION AWARDING A BID CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF $919,900.00 TO A. GRAZIANI & COMPANY, INC. FOR THE AQUARIUS WEST END SERVICE CENTER FUEL STORAGE TANK REPLACEMENT PROJECT 469-W-2023(20260709\U04)(UT-4)
On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner McIntosh, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES”: Commissioners: McIntosh, Plecnik and Beverage “NAYS": None.

6.RESOLUTION CERTIFYING UNPAID WATER SUMS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES TO THE LAKE COUNTY AUDITOR(20260709\U05)(UT-7)
On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner McIntosh, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES”: Commissioners: McIntosh, Plecnik and Beverage “NAYS": None.

7.RESOLUTION DESIGNATING ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS AS PUBLIC DEPOSITORIES FOR ACTIVE MONIES OF LAKE COUNTY, OHIO FOR THE PERIOD COMMENCING AUGUST 23, 2026, AND ENDING AUGUST 22, 2030 (20260709\C01)(C-18)
On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner McIntosh, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES”: Commissioners: McIntosh, Plecnik and Beverage “NAYS": None.

8.RESOLUTION APPOINTING DEBERA DOUGLAS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE LAKE COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 3, 2030(20260709\C02)(B-52)
On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner McIntosh. Commissioner Plecnik stated that Ms. Douglas has served our community with great distinction in many capacities including in our Department of Utilities, as a member of the NAACP, and as a friend to everyone in this building and in Painesville. He stated that he has every confidence that Debera is going to do a great job and thanked her for stepping up to serve the community yet again. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: McIntosh, Plecnik and Beverage "NAYS": None.

9.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH AXON ENTERPRISE, INC. FOR A NEW DIGITAL EVIDENCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE IN THE AMOUNT OF $119,256.70 (20260709\C03)(CT-8)
On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner McIntosh. Commissioner Plecnik wanted to thank County Prosecutor Coulson and his colleagues for their hard work in ensuring their office is the most prepared for the next level of technology in prosecution and defense. The Board stated that there is an increasing amount of evidence to be considered in every case. This ranges from things like body cameras to ring cameras to text messages and cell phone videos and they can contain hundreds and sometimes thousands of hours of footage, data, cell tower pings, etc. This software will assist the prosecutors in being even more thorough. Commissioner McIntosh stated that this piece of technology is going to be a huge asset to our Prosecutor's Office. It is very forward-thinking and will strengthen their ability to handle these investigations. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: McIntosh, Plecnik and Beverage "NAYS": None.

10. RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF $4,608,753.08(20260709\BC01)(C-4)
On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner McIntosh, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: McIntosh, Plecnik and Beverage "NAYS": None.

11. RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF $903,408.74(20260709\BC02)(C-17)
On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner McIntosh, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: McIntosh, Plecnik and Beverage "NAYS": None.

12. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20260709\BC03)(C-111)
On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner McIntosh, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: McIntosh, Plecnik and Beverage "NAYS": None.

13. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CASH AND APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS(20260709\BC04)(C-111)
On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner McIntosh, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: McIntosh, Plecnik and Beverage "NAYS": None.

14. RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE ANNUAL TAX BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2027 (20260709\BC05)(BTAX)(C-8)
On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner McIntosh. Commissioner Beverage wanted to thank County Prosecutor Coulson explaining that the one change in this year's annual tax budget was a reduction in the property tax millage that funds the Crime Lab. He explained that the Crime Lab is a unique and wonderful resource for our county. Through fiscal stewardship and management, the Crime Lab has the ability to potentially reduce the collections of the levy. He stressed that this in no way weakens the strength or the effectiveness of the Crime Lab. Through discussions with the Prosecutor, he learned that they have new ideas that will enhance and expand their services while still maintaining funding. Commissioner Beverage emphasized that this reduction is reviewed annually and if at any point the Board believes the Crime Lab's financial structure is no longer appropriate, they have the opportunity to reassess it. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: McIntosh, Plecnik and Beverage "NAYS": None.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:
UTILITIES – Sanitary Engineer, Mr. Randy Rothlisberger, stated they had a couple of bid openings and he wanted to report that both projects (one a waterline replacement and the other a sewer line replacement) came in below the Engineers estimate. He is hopeful this trend continues with future bids. He provided an update on the truck scale replacement at the landfill stating that it will begin next week and there are temporary scales set up. The project should take approximately one month.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – none.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – Mr. Boyd stated there will be more discussion at the 10:30 work session, but he wanted to give an update on the air conditioning issues that were experienced last week not only at the dog shelter, but at a couple other facilities. Specifically, regarding the shelter, he wanted to offer special thanks to their available staff, particularly Vito and Tracy, and several community partners that helped with the relocation efforts Friday at midday. He explained that when the Board was made aware of malfunctioning air conditioning parts around June 22nd, those parts were immediately ordered but unfortunately, they have not yet arrived. The hope is that they will arrive late tomorrow (Friday) or Monday but, in the meantime, there is a commercial cooling unit being delivered to cool the facility beginning tomorrow. Mr. Boyd also explained that mid-last week working dog kennel staff requested

additional fans and cooling units and those were deployed. The decision was made Friday to relocate the dogs which did occur and since then county staff, including Mr. Boyd, have been working to allocate whatever resources are available. He also stated that he feels comfortable with the cooling plan we have in place moving forward, not only the permanent plan, but backup or secondary fixes/secondary opportunities should we ever experience another heat dome situation and a malfunction of a traditional 20-year-old piece of infrastructure. He let the Commissioners and public know that moving ahead, he and other personnel, at the direction of the Board, will be directly involved in the daily operations, staffing, personnel, etc. for the shelter. Mr. Boyd also reported that at the same time, some county buildings had HVAC issues as well including the jail and the cooling units in the IT data center. Commissioner Plecnik wanted to thank Mr. Boyd for taking off from his family vacation to be the point person to coordinate the efforts at the Dog Shelter. He explained that the Board and staff care deeply about the dogs in our shelter. He was pleased to hear that there is a commercial cooling unit on its way to the shelter that should be operational tomorrow, noting that this system is capable of cooling the entire building which would render the geothermal unit to be used as a backup. Commissioner Plecnik stated that he believes what Mr. Boyd did speaks to the commitment that he has to our county and to our community and he thanked him for that commitment. He is grateful to hear that a new commercial unit is being installed. He stated that it was his understanding this was about a $50,000 expense ultimately providing two different ways to cool the building going forward. Commissioner Beverage stated this will be addressed further in the workshop, but he feels that the dog shelter situation has two different conversations that need to be had; one is the air conditioning which he is comfortable stating that what can be done is being done. The County will make sure that proper temperatures are maintained for the dogs, however if that fails, Plan B will be implemented. If necessary, like we saw last week, we will reach out to partner organizations if the situation becomes unsafe for the dogs. The air conditioning issues moving forward are being addressed. He shared the difficulty he has experienced finding parts for older geothermal systems, and a commercial grade unit is even more difficult to get parts for. He stated that he is thankful for the efforts everyone has put in regarding the bigger picture conversation of the dog shelter. Commissioner Beverage reiterated that starting immediately and moving forward, the County Commissioners and the County Administrator are going to have a much more hands-on, in-depth relationship and influence on the policies, procedures, and operations occurring at the dog shelter. He would like to provide any updates under the "Old Business" portion of the weekly Commissioners agenda.
Mr. Boyd provided an update on the Public Safety Center which continues to proceed very well. He stated that the front facade that can be seen from Erie Street is nearly topped off as far as the block. They will begin demobilizing or taking down the scaffolding starting next week which will then be followed by the masonry on the side of the building closest to the Juvenile Court. Level zero (or the service side of the project) is starting to take shape which includes the kitchen area, medical, intake, and the sallyport. The goal remains a completion date of next summer and under budget.

<u>CLERK</u> – Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the next Commissioners Meeting will be Thursday, July 16th at 10:00 a.m. and during the meeting there will be an update on the Vision 2050 Project. There will also be a Quarterly Investment Meeting at 9:45 a.m. prior to the regular Commissioners meeting. She reminded everyone that following the meeting today there will be a workshop in Chambers.

<u>LEGAL:</u> none.

<u>OLD BUSINESS:</u> Commissioner Plecnik wanted to share that Lake County had its official semi-quincentennial celebration on July 4th at the Lake County Captains ballpark. He stated that the Captains not only celebrated with fireworks but had a celebrity softball game where many elected officials from all over the county including Timberlake, Eastlake, Willowick, Leroy, and Madison participated in a very creative game between King George III and George Washington. Other festivities included a costume contest and signing of the Declaration of Independence which will be encapsulated for 50 years in the time capsule for Lake County. He invited anyone interested in donating a special lapel pin or bobblehead to the time capsule to contact him. There is one more America 250 Day celebration which will take place at the Lake County Fair. The committee will be passing out 1,000 free bobbleheads that the people of Lake County voted on. This year, Francis Jennings Casement was chosen. He explained that Ms. Jennings Casement was one of the most prominent members of the suffragette movement for women's right to vote and a dedicated and declared abolitionist who was also involved with the Underground Railroad.
Commissioner McIntosh thanked Commissioner Plecnik and the America 250 committee for a fantastic job and said there was a great turnout for the fireworks and festivities. He looks forward to participating in the American 250 celebration at the Lake County Fair.
Commissioner Beverage provided an update on the recent NOACA (Northeast Ohio Area Coordinating Agency) Board meeting he attended reporting that the Board had the opportunity to vote to reduce participating county fees by 50%. Through their financial management, this has allowed them to be in a position where they no longer must collect as much in fees from the counties and when there is an opportunity not to have to collect and spend as much of taxpayer dollars, that should be taken advantage of.

<u>NEW BUSINESS:</u> none.

<u>EXECUTIVE SESSION:</u> On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner McIntosh, the Board convened for an Executive Session at 10:31 a.m. for Personnel – Employment (2), Personnel – Discipline and 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: McIntosh, Plecnik and Beverage "NAYS": None.

The Lake County Board of Commissioners adjourned to Executive Session at 10:31 a.m.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik seconded by Commissioner McIntosh, the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:37 a.m. with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: McIntosh, Plecnik and Beverage “NAYS": None.

Minutes approved this thirtieth day of July, 2026.

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MORRIS W. BEVERAGE III, PRESIDENT	JOHN T. PLECNIK, COMMISSIONER
MORGAN R. McINTOSH, COMMISSIONER	JENNIFER BELL, CLERK