

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – Mr. Boyd reported that the front façade of the Public Safety Center is now complete. The masonry platforms were removed earlier this week revealing the building’s structure and work has begun on the southwest corner. Sheriff’s Department staff have been in Wisconsin the past couple days reviewing the electronics which will run the cameras, the access control, and the doors, etc.

He provided an update on the extreme heat experienced over the past couple weeks and how Buildings and Grounds, Telecommunications, Dog Shelter, IT Data Center, and the Sheriff’s Office all experienced very warm conditions. He thanked those departments for their patience and for the crews that have been working hard to mobilize assets to try and cool down these areas.

Mr. Boyd also wanted to provide an update on the dog shelter explaining that he and Mr. DiMare spent the vast majority of last week and into today meeting with the Lake Humane Society, Geauga County, and Pet Fix of Northeast Ohio. He shared that they had a 3 ½ hour very candid and professional meeting with the Humane Society about what the future of the dog shelter should look like in order to bring our shelter to its highest potential and ensure best management practices. Mr. Boyd stated he looks forward to having a formal relationship/partnership with the Humane Society as they train staff how to evaluate the temperament of the animals in the shelter using safer methods, assess them for anxiety and stress, perform heartworm testing, and help the shelter with enrichment of the pups and dogs that are in the facility. He also stated that he spoke with Pet Fix Northeast Ohio yesterday regarding spay and neuter before adoption. He is confident the County is on a good trajectory of getting the shelter where it deserves to be and expressed his sincere thanks to the Humane Society for their time and guidance and to dog shelter employees, particularly Tracy and Vito, who have been working incredibly hard. They will continue to discuss future potential volunteer opportunities and understand that comes with being able to staff the facility properly and adequately. The County must also follow the Ohio Revised Code but feels that having the ability to utilize partners in the community such as volunteers will help that operation significantly. He wanted to note that it will take time to create the necessary processes and procedures. They will also continue to look at flex time on Saturdays. Commissioner Beverage asked about the current temperatures in the shelter. Mr. Boyd responded that due to the current population, only Kennel C has been used which as of this morning continues to be in the mid-70’s, Kennel A was at 72 degrees and Kennel B was 74.5. Mr. DiMare noted that tomorrow is Vet Day at the shelter and once that takes place, every dog currently housed there will have received a veterinary examination. Mr. Boyd stated that the Buildings and Grounds Department has taken over maintenance of the shelter and that a firm was on site yesterday to perform an audit of the infrastructure as well as a mechanical audit. He, along with Budget Manager Mr. Underwood and Mr. DiMare, have a call scheduled regarding funding for not only the dog shelter but several other buildings throughout the County in need of critical infrastructures upgrades. Commissioner McIntosh expressed his sincere thanks to everyone.

Mr. Boyd introduced Mr. Ryan Smalley from the Envision Group to provide a high level overview of the Vision 2050 Project.

Mr. Smalley thanked the Board for their time and explained that the Vision2050 Plan has been a year-long process where his team and others have been meeting with a wide range of community members to understand what residents hope to see in the county and how they envision its direction over the next 25 years. He projected the Vision 2050 PowerPoint onto the screen to review each slide with the Board. Mr. Smalley provided some background stating that this four-phase process began June of 2025 and a draft was completed in May. Since May there have been reviews and revisions through geographic subcommittees, staff, and the Planning Commission to make this an optimal plan. He detailed their approach to stakeholders meetings, public engagements, event outreach, public meetings, and community surveys to get a better idea of what the public wanted to see over the next 20 years. There was an executive committee made up of staff, and some select jurisdictional representation that helped guide the nuts and bolts of the planning process, which was followed by meetings with all 23 jurisdictions within the county to understand what the communities are looking for. Thoughts varied from west to east with the west side being more suburban and more developed and the east side is more rural with some specialty agriculture. They wanted to be cognizant of the demands of all the different entities within the county. He described how the meetings were theme based and topics discussed were demographics and housing, parks and recreation, agriculture, environmental, quality of life, and transportation. Mr. Smalley pointed out the projected future land use map where they identified future potential development areas or redevelopment areas ensuring they were in line with what the local jurisdictions were thinking. In addition to these meetings, they met one-on-one with Concord Township and Perry Township where they anticipate growth. He stated how Lake County has an aging population and discussed senior services, how to keep those services robust and how to continue to make Lake County an attractive place for people to age in place. Mr. Smalley reviewed the senior population and projections and described how over approximately the last decade, and a half the population has flattened, partly because the population in the county is aging and getting older, which is consistent with most areas in the Cleveland-Northeast Ohio region. Some of the recommendations within the study include trying to attract workforce from other areas of the state that have the same skill sets as employers in Lake County and trying to highlight some of the tourism and amenities that only Lake County has to offer. The Board and Mr. Smalley discussed what affordable housing for seniors looks like, aging in place and affordability. He discussed in detail the focus areas of housing, quality of life, senior services, bike and pedestrian connections to the lake and the rivers, transportation, economic development, workforce development, and government efficiency as well as provided an analysis of the existing retail square footage within the county and how it compared to other counties. He explained how there are 11 broad typologies in the county ranging from open space and recreation to different types of agriculture, large lot residential, denser residential, suburban residential traditional neighborhoods (such as the 1950’s type) on the western end of the county, some downtown/village core areas, new mixed-use areas, commercial and retail centers.

Commissioner Beverage and Mr. Smalley discussed declining high school enrollment and strengthening existing workforce development relationships in the county and how there were several goals and objectives pertaining to workforce development. One specific focus would be finding better ways to connect high school students, trade schools, and colleges with Chambers of Commerce and business owners. He also spoke on economic development and how the Lake Development Authority is looking to expand their scope to make them the main economic development institution within the county. This could help some of the jurisdictions who don't have an economic development staff. He feels that in the future, having them be the lead with the smaller jurisdictions would help the county tremendously.

Mr. Smalley wanted to highlight several of the typologies within the County and he projected that map onto the screen. He stated there were 8 to 10 locations where they identified some major redevelopment/development areas. The Eastlake power plant being one as a future mixed-use area, the area in Wickliffe near Lubrizol where there is some industrial redevelopment that could be occurring in the future, the Great Lakes Mall site where there is active redevelopment occurring in a mixed-use fashion, and then Route 306 south of Kirtland Village down to US 6, where there is the potential for utility expansion in the future. He then discussed the central portion of the county highlighting three areas of potential growth; the Lane Road corridor in Painesville Township in the central section, the northeastern quadrant of Routes 44 and 90 in Concord Township, where continued residential suburban-style residential development is anticipated south of Girdled Road and to the east, Lane Road between the railroad tracks and South Ridge Road.

Lastly, he stated that in July, the Planning Commission will have the Vision 2050 plan on their agenda to approve after which it will be presented to the Board for consideration to adopt the final plan.

CLERK – Commissioners Assistant Clerk, Ms. Kathleen Russo, stated that the next Commissioners Meeting will be next Thursday, July 23, at 10:00 a.m. followed by a workshop at 10:30 am.

LEGAL: none.

OLD BUSINESS: none.

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Beverage wanted to make everyone aware that the fair is beginning on July 28th, the 4-H livestock auction, will take place on Saturday, August 1, and the baked goods auction is Tuesday night July 28th following the parade. Commissioner Plecnik encouraged every elected official in Lake County to come out to support the kids at the 4-H auction.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner McIntosh, the Board convened for an Executive Session at 11:18 a.m. for Personnel – Employment with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: McIntosh, Plecnik and Beverage "NAYS": None.

The Lake County Board of Commissioners adjourned to Executive Session at 11:18 a.m.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik seconded by Commissioner McIntosh, the Board adjourned the meeting at 12:58 p.m. with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: McIntosh, Plecnik and Beverage "NAYS": None.

Minutes approved this sixth day of August, 2026.

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MORRIS W. BEVERAGE III, PRESIDENT

JOHN T. PLECNIK, COMMISSIONER

MORGAN R. MCINTOSH, COMMISSIONER

KATHLEEN RUSSO, ASSISTANT CLERK