

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

(Tape 2026-0903)

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

Upon a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner McIntosh, the minutes of Regular Meetings of August 6, August 13 and August 18, 2026, were approved with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: McIntosh, Plecnik and Beverage "NAYS": None.

RESOLUTIONS:

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner McIntosh, Director of Job and Family Services, Ms. Suzanne Casar, thanked the Board for this recognition and explained how JFS works very closely with grandparents and kinship providers. She also thanked those who go above and beyond trying to locate grandparents or other relatives to care for the children that come into agency custody. If anyone should have questions, they can call Ms. Laura Latkovich of the Substitute Care Unit at 440-350-5297. Ms. Casar also stated that the child and caregiver would be eligible for additional benefits should the grandparents or kin become foster parents. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: McIntosh, Plecnik and Beverage "NAYS": None.

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.

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On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner McIntosh. Commissioner Plecnik pointed out that the name of the company is quite interesting. Mr. Boyd explained that this is for a new cooling system in the IT Department and that this is the data center for the entire county which runs 24/7 and puts out a vast amount of heat. The units went down during the heat dome that occurred in July and they are currently using several split units. Mr. Boyd thanked IT Director Falcone, Auditor Galloway, and Buildings and Grounds Superintendent Iafelice for the work they put into obtaining this contract. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: McIntosh, Plecnik and Beverage "NAYS": None.

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.

8.RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$452,805.18(20260903\BC02)(C-17)

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.

9.RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20260903\BC03)(C-111)

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.

10.RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS(20260903\BC04)(C-111)

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.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

UTILITIES – Commissioner Plecnik asked Mr. Rothlisberger for an update on the Mentor odor issue. Mr. Rothlisberger stated that they have been fine tuning the chemical feeds for the past 6-8 months and seem to have a good balance of chemicals. He also stated that they have two feed locations with monitors in 3 manholes and they monitor the area often. He stated that they have sent letters out to all the residents explaining what they have done and will continue to do and he instructed them to contact his department should they have any questions or concerns. The phone number was included in the letter.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – Ms. Casar stated that OMJ-Lake County is partnering with a private company Tuesday, September 8 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm for a hiring event. She also shared that OMJ will be hosting a workshop on Wednesday, September 9 from 10:00 am to Noon. Both events are free, open to the public and walk-ins are welcome. Next, she wanted to make the public aware that effective October 1, 2026 sugary beverages will no longer be covered under SNAP Benefits and more information is available on their website. She explained that this was not a local decision but a state and federal one. Commissioner Beverage asked Ms. Casar to begin preparing some statistics regarding federal and state cuts they have experienced and may be expecting in the future.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – County Administrator, Mr. Jason Boyd, provided an update on the Public Safety Center. He stated that the masons will be ready to top out the front façade next week and the clock installation on the front of the building will also take place. There are between 50 and 60 masons onsite daily working both inside and outside of the building. He stated that he will be recording some videos of the jail progress in preparation of the State of County presentation next month. Mr. Boyd provided an update on the Dog Shelter stating that the employees continue to do a great job. There were 8 dogs in the shelter yesterday and the Dog Warden position has been posted. He explained that the air conditioning continues to work well and they are preparing for a replacement next summer.

CLERK – Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the next Commissioners Meeting will be next Thursday, September 10, at 10:00 a.m. There is a workshop scheduled for 10:30 following next week's meeting in Chambers and an AM250 meeting at 11:30 am. The County is still in need of an apiary.

LEGAL: none.

OLD BUSINESS: Commissioner McIntosh provided an update on the State Route 2 maintenance agreement.

He wanted to discuss some information circulating around that's not quite accurate and shared how he posted on social media to set some facts straight and thanked those that commented. He felt there was some very constructive back and forth dialogue in the comments and most comments were by and large respectful and appreciative of his post. Commissioner McIntosh provided the following update regarding recent meetings. He stated that the cities will be gaining access to additional financing through the motor vehicle tax with respect to capital equipment, the County has very graciously offered to take on the obligation of acquiring that equipment, maintaining it, and billing the cities for their use over a period of time. This will also help improve their (the cities) cash flow and alleviate them from having to come up with upfront money. Commissioner McIntosh stated that he has had several meetings with Service Directors, Mayors, and the County Engineer to discuss several complaints with respect to the quality of service. He instructed anyone with complaints to contact the County Engineer's Office directly as the Engineer would like to hear directly from the cities and residents. There are two more meetings scheduled this week and it is his hope that once these are completed, a full-term agreement will be ready for city councils to begin their diligence and ultimate approval. City leaders have communicated their desire to work with the Commissioner's Office and specifically the Engineers Office to bring that information to their city councils as their process of legislation. Commissioner Beverage first thanked Commissioner McIntosh for his engagement on social media but wanted to remind other local leaders that Facebook and social media are not how we govern. He stated how Wickliffe Mayor Sakacs did a great job explaining the recently terminated State Route 2 agreement on social media. He then spoke of two members of the Wickliffe City Council that have misrepresented a situation, specifically referencing a recent article about double taxation where they stated the County Engineers Office was billing for the hours that are being worked by the employees on State Route 2. Commissioner McIntosh stated that the Engineer's Office would not hire a snowplow driver or purchase a highway-grade plow truck unless there is an active contract to maintain State Route 2 since these expenses are not part of the county's normal statutory responsibilities. Commissioner McIntosh explained, that under the Route 2 maintenance contract, the participating cities pay for administrative and engineering functions that the county would not otherwise perform. He noted that equipment costs, including depreciation of the plow truck, are included in the contract to ensure funds remain available for major future expenses such as replacing the traffic lights along Route 2, a project expected to exceed one million dollars. He

emphasized that this process simply replenishes savings and is not a form of double taxation. Commissioner McIntosh further stated that no county funds have been spent on the SR2 light repairs because the repairs have not yet occurred. He highlighted that consolidating Route 2 maintenance through the Engineer’s Office saves money for all parties involved. The cities are charged only for actual costs including labor, equipment depreciation, fuel, and administrative support, and the county does not profit from this agreement. Commissioner Beverage compared this arrangement to hiring a snowplow service, where the customer pays a single price that covers the driver, the truck, and administrative overhead. He stated that the cities are charged only the actual costs of providing the service, including labor, truck depreciation, and fuel. No profit is made and no double taxation occurs. He emphasized that this is the most efficient and cost-effective method of maintaining State Route 2. Commissioner Beverage explained that the State Route 2 maintenance contract saves money because all participating communities work through a single entity; the Engineer’s Office. He also noted that the county has a municipal fund supported by a \$5 license plate fee. Historically, and with the support of the current Board, approximately 90% of this fund, (about \$750,000 annually), has been reserved for the six communities responsible for State Route 2. He stated that this commitment recognizes the countywide value of the roadway and helps offset the cities’ maintenance obligations which they accepted when the State built the road at their request. Without this support, the cities’ costs would increase by roughly \$750,000. He further noted that cities may still apply for remaining funds for other projects. Commissioner Beverage added that capital costs, such as the purchase of the most recent snowplow truck at approximately \$400,000, are also part of the expenses involved in maintaining the route. He reminded everyone that we have a workshop session coming up on next Thursday September 10th at 10:30 am and he welcomes Councilman Gerhardtstein, Councilman Jaworski, or anyone else from any other cities that have any issues or concerns to please join us in that workshop session to discuss their concerns with the contract. Commissioner McIntosh stated that Wickliffe City Council has a meeting on Monday, September 14th where he has been asked to attend and make a presentation to Council. He was also invited by Willowick Mayor, Michael Vanni, to make a presentation to their council. Commissioner Plecnik wanted to stress that one of the principal recommendations by the Ohio State Auditor’s performance audit of the Engineers Office was to update the SR2 contract which had not been updated for decades and how even the mileage accorded to each of the six cities was incorrect. This Board is working with the Engineers Office to provide the best possible performance to the people of Lake County and updating this agreement is an important part of that work. He wanted to point out that Lake County is the only county in the State of Ohio that provides this service to its municipalities with respect to a state route. State routes under state law are the responsibility of the cities through which they traverse. It is cheaper for one entity, the Lake County Engineer, to do this work in six different cities separately. It makes no sense to have six plow trucks, six different directors of highway, six different “everything”. We’ve talked about the overlapping duplication in government and how many times that costs money and if we can get a better result at a cheaper price for the taxpayers of Lake County, that’s what we should all be collectively doing. The consensus of the mayors, managers, and the council people who have taken the time to reach out is that they are happy to work together to renew this contract, to ensure that they continue to save Lake County taxpayers money. Commissioner Plecnik added that he finds it disingenuous when someone says they’re being cut out but they have not taken the time to call and express their concerns. People are always going to try to use social media to bully or get attention for themselves, particularly when they aspire to higher office. Commissioner Beverage wanted to point out that the SR2 conversation started a year ago and it should not take a year to figure out how to pick up trash, plow a road, and mow lawns. There are possibly two or three points that have actually changed over this year, one being the percentage that the County is putting in from the Muni fund which has increased from 80% to 90%. While he appreciates the comments, he reminded everyone that this contract had to be terminated by June 30th in order to take effect otherwise it rolled into another two years. He also stated that when the audit from the State came in, discussions with the six communities began almost immediately. Commissioner Beverage reviewed the timeline for the State Route 2 lighting project that will be executed next year. He stressed how important it is to stop all the misinformation and focus on getting the contract done so that the SR2 lights can be turned on. He again reminded everyone that September 10th is the next Commissioner's Workshop if there are any concerns or if any council members would like to speak.

NEW BUSINESS: none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner McIntosh, the Board convened for an Executive Session at 10:46 a.m. for and Employment-Personnel with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, McIntosh and Beverage "NAYS": None.

The Lake County Board of Commissioners adjourned to Executive Session at 10:46 a.m.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik seconded by Commissioner McIntosh, the Board adjourned the meeting at 11:47 a.m. with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: McIntosh, Plecnik and Beverage "NAYS": None.

Minutes approved this twenty-ninth day of September, 2026.

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MORRIS W. BEVERAGE III, PRESIDENT

JOHN T. PLECNIK, COMMISSIONER

MORGAN R. MCINTOSH, COMMISSIONER

JENNIFER BELL, CLERK