

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 2026-0917)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Beverage called the Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, September 17, 2026

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Commissioner Beverage asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board.
No one present wished to address the Board.

RESOLUTIONS:

1.RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING CONSTITUTION WEEK IN LAKE COUNTY, OHIO, SEPTEMBER 17-23, 2026 (20260917\C01)(C-126)

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner McIntosh. Commissioner Plecnik stated that there would be an event this afternoon at 4:00 pm in front of the Courthouse. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: McIntosh, Plecnik and Beverage "NAYS": None.

2.RESOLUTION AWARDING A BID CONTRACT TO OSBORNE CONCRETE AND STONE FOR THE ROADWAY MATERIALS – 2026 – LIMESTONE CONTRACT, AS REQUIRED BY THE LAKE COUNTY ENGINEER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$233,275.00(20260917\E01)(E-3)

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 CERTIFYING UNPAID WATER SUMS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES TO THE LAKE COUNTY AUDITOR(20260917\U01)(UT-7)

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.

4.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN PROJECT HOPE AND THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON BEHALF OF THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES TO PROVIDE HOMELESS PREVENTION SERVICES TO ELIGIBLE TANF RECIPIENTS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$235,631.00, EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026(20260917\JFS01)(JFS-11)

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.

5.RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,168,253.71(20260917\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.

6.RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,861,901.39(20260917\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.

7.RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20260917\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.

8.RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CASH AND APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS(20260917\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 –none.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – none.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – none.

Planning and Community Development Assistant Director, Ms. Rhea Benton, announced the completion of the Lake County Lead Safe Ohio Program. She provided some background to the program explaining that they had the opportunity to apply for funding to the Ohio Department of Development in late 2023. Statewide there was an investment of \$150 million, Lake County received a little over \$1.3 million, and these funds were intended to reduce

lead hazards in housing and other facilities that families and children frequent. Ms. Benton introduced Mr. Christian Blake to provide a detailed report of the Lead Safe Ohio Program.

Mr. Christian Blake explained that this program resulted in the renovation of 39 properties including single family homes, congregate shelters, and childcare centers with the average renovation cost being nearly \$30,000 per property. This cost speaks to both the cost burden families face in addressing these hazards on their own and to how critical these improvements were. Throughout the program's implementation over the past 3 years, he has spoken to numerous homeowners on the phone and also met with many of them in person. Homeowners expressed how it would not have been feasible to address the expensive lead safety hazards on their own, which reinforces the importance of this initiative and its unprecedented impact in Lake County. Lake County was able to spend the entire allocation it was awarded, and he thanked the Western Reserve Community Development Corporation and Ohio Regional Development Corporation for partnering with their office to help see this initiative through to completion.

Planning and Community Development Director, Mr. David Radachy, explained that the Vision2050 Comprehensive Plan will be presented by the consultant at the September 24th work session which is open for public comment. He stated that they will accept public comments through September 28. Public comments may be submitted to the website and there will be a social media post reflecting all necessary information and an email address as well. The resolution to adopt the Plan will be placed on the September 29, 2026 Commissioners Meeting agenda.

CLERK – Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the next Commissioners Meeting will be next Thursday, September 24, at 10:00 a.m. There is a workshop scheduled for 10:30 a.m. following next week's meeting in Chambers

LEGAL: none.

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

Commissioner McIntosh acknowledged that the Board has received significant criticism from members of the Wickliffe City Council. He noted that he attended their meeting this week which was their first since sometime in July. He explained that Wickliffe, along with the other communities, had been provided a draft of the SR2 agreement—about 90% complete—and had the opportunity to review it. He was present to address their questions and discuss concerns in person. Several items were discussed including the county's responsibility for acquiring and maintaining equipment as well as the plan for each municipality to be billed for its use over time. He also clarified that, on occasion and as needed, a municipality may require limited use of that equipment elsewhere. He emphasized that this flexibility is written into the contract, taking time to explain its purpose and noting that it is not standard practice. Funding increases and their variable nature were also discussed. Council members expressed their desire for a fixed cost, raised questions regarding county employee liability and quality of service, and shared their opinions of the Engineer's performance. Commissioner McIntosh recognized their concerns and emphasized the importance for continued dialogue. The Engineer requested that Council members contact him directly with any issues. Commissioner McIntosh expressed his own frustration that his offers to meet and communicate were ignored and he reminded everyone that he and the other Board members remain available for further discussion.

Commissioner Beverage explained that, regarding personnel, the County will bill for both time and benefits for employees plowing State Route 2. He noted that under the previous contract, benefits had not been billed. He acknowledged that this change may be frustrating, especially considering that the County has effectively provided this benefit at no cost for the past 52 years.

Commissioner McIntosh explained that the contract outlines what the city is responsible for paying and how, on a quarterly basis, the County will calculate the cost and divide it by lane miles. He noted that the new contract updates these calculations to include lane mileage to ensure greater accuracy for each community.

He also pointed out that a later section of the contract specifies who is liable for employees, who pays insurance and unemployment costs, who directs those employees, who assumes the associated liability. Commissioner McIntosh clarified for the Wickliffe City Council the difference between the section defining the Engineer's Office staff as County employees, where the County carries the liability, and the separate provisions outlining what the cities will pay for such as time and materials needed to service SR2.

Commissioner Beverage reiterated that the employees working on State Route 2 are not County staff who are already being paid for other duties, but rather County employees hired specifically to perform the SR2 work. He explained that the cost of these employees includes retirement and healthcare benefits, which should be passed along accordingly. He also expressed his frustration that the first meeting regarding State Route 2 was held August 2025 and 13 months later, despite essentially the same contract with only minor revisions, the same discussions are still occurring. He noted that some cities and municipalities pushed back in June 2026 when the Board terminated the contract however, the Board was legally required to provide notice by June 30, to ensure the old contract could be ended. His frustrations continue to grow because some (though not all) communities are delaying the process, and the County may be unable to go out to bid in a timely manner for the State Route 2 lighting project now. Without timely bidding, the County may not be able to procure the necessary materials or complete the job next year. Commissioner Beverage thanked Commissioner McIntosh for the work he has done. He stated that if Wickliffe does not wish to participate in the SR2 contract, the County should move forward with Painesville, Mentor, Willoughby, Eastlake, and Willowick. If those five communities approve the proposed SR2 contract, Wickliffe should be excluded and made responsible for plowing and repairing its portion of the roadway. He added that he appreciates the efforts of Wickliffe Mayor Sakacs and his service director and encourages several members of Council to work together for the good of the city.

Commissioner McIntosh added that following this meeting, he will be meeting with the mayors participating in the Route 2 contract to review any minor language adjustments or final questions. He intends to move forward with formalizing the contract which will then be sent to the councils for their review.

Commissioner Plecnik stated that he appreciates Commissioner McIntosh's sincerity and effort in understanding the SR2 issue so thoroughly and for helping all member communities work toward a new contract with updated lane

miles, standards, and expectations. He reminded everyone that although the original contract was excellent when created over 50 years ago, the Ohio Auditor of State made clear in the audit of the Engineer’s Office that a new contract was necessary. He added that while there will always be one or two politicians who see an opportunity for political gain, more often genuine problem-solving and getting the job done earns more votes, trust, and confidence than grandstanding and criticism. From the taxpayers perspective, they care less about who performs the maintenance and more about the total cost.

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 Personnel - Compensation and Personnel Employment 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