

LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES

MORRIS W. BEVERAGE III, COMMISSIONER	JASON W. BOYD, ADMINISTRATOR
JOHN PLECNIK, COMMISSIONER	LEGAL COUNSEL
RICHARD REGOVICH, COMMISSIONER	NEWS MEDIA
JENNIFER BELL, CLERK	

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(Tape 2025-0417)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Regovich called the Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, April 17, 2025

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
Upon a motion by Commissioner Beverage, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik, the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 3, 2025 were approved with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Beverage, Plecnik and Regovich "NAYS": None.

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

RESOLUTIONS:
1.RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2025 FAIR HOUSING MONTH IN LAKE COUNTY, OHIO (20250417\F01)(C-126)
On a motion by Commissioner Beverage, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. CDBG Manager, Ms. Rhea Benton, was present and thanked the Board for recognizing Fair Housing month. She explained that this is a designated time to celebrate the advancements of equal access to housing regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial and military status, disability or ancestry and was enacted by Congress in 1968 as part of the Civil Rights Act. Ms. Benton invited all Lake County residents to join in celebrating fair housing concepts in their neighborhoods, schools and communities. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows : "AYES": Commissioners: Beverage, Plecnik and Regovich "NAYS": None.

2. RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2025 NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH IN LAKE COUNTY, OHIO(20250417\F02)(C-126)
On a motion by Commissioner Beverage, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Commissioner Plecnik addressed the Clerk and stated that he believes that her research has shown that Lake County's birthday is March 6, 1840 and would like it be marked on the calendar as we celebrate National County Government Month in Lake County. He provided some history on how Lake County seceded from Geauga County. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows : "AYES": Commissioners: Beverage, Plecnik and Regovich "NAYS": None.

3.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF CONTRACTS FOR VARIOUS WATER AND WASTEWATER CHEMICALS FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES(20250417\U01)(UT-4)
On a motion by Commissioner Beverage, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows : "AYES": Commissioners: Beverage, Plecnik and Regovich "NAYS": None

4.RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES OF COST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$278,522.20 FOR SANITARY SEWERS FOR ECHO HILL MANOR SUBDIVISION IN THE CITY OF MENTOR (JOB NO. 23-58) (20250417\U02)(UT-9)
On a motion by Commissioner Beverage, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows : "AYES": Commissioners: Beverage, Plecnik and Regovich "NAYS": None.

5.RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES OF COST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$163,861.50 FOR A WATERLINE FOR OLD SCHOOL VILLAGE SUBDIVISION IN THE CITY OF WICKLIFFE (JOB NO. 25 07)(20250417\U03)(UT-9)
On a motion by Commissioner Beverage, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows : "AYES": Commissioners: Beverage, Plecnik and Regovich "NAYS": None.

6.RESOLUTION APPROVING LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES VOUCHERS DATE OF WARRANT APRIL 25, 2025 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$572,109.48 (20250417\JFS01)(JFS-14)
On a motion by Commissioner Beverage, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows : "AYES": Commissioners: Beverage, Plecnik and Regovich "NAYS": None.

7.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND PAINESVILLE TOWNSHIP FOR THE FY-2024 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS(20250417\C01)(C-46)
On a motion by Commissioner Beverage, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Ms. Benton explained that this agreement is a result of the project selection process that took place last year for FY '24 and it allows Painesville Township to purchase land on Normandy Drive for the purpose of open space and potentially a storm sewer project. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows : "AYES": Commissioners: Beverage, Plecnik and Regovich "NAYS": None

8.RESOLUTION APPOINTING DIONE DEMITRO TO THE LAKETRAN BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM EXPIRING MAY 15, 2028(20250417\C02)(B-37)

On a motion by Commissioner Beverage, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Commissioner Plecnik stated that he is grateful that she's willing to step up and serve in this capacity. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows : "AYES": Commissioners: Beverage, Plecnik and Regovich "NAYS": None.

9.RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING DONNA P. MCNAMEE TO THE LAKETRAN BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM EXPIRING MAY 15, 2028(20250417\C03)(B-37)

On a motion by Commissioner Beverage, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Commissioner Plecnik stated that it is important when selecting trustees to make sure that they choose individuals who take advantage of the services and how she's been a force on the board for quite a while. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows : "AYES": Commissioners: Beverage, Plecnik and Regovich "NAYS": None.

10.RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING MICHAEL PIZMOHT TO THE LAKETRAN BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM EXPIRING MAY 15, 2028(20250417\C04)(B-37)

On a motion by Commissioner Beverage, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Commissioner Plecnik stated that Mr. Pizmoht volunteered to complete his late wife's term and would like to have the opportunity to be reappointed to continue her legacy and work. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows : "AYES": Commissioners: Beverage, Plecnik and Regovich "NAYS": None.

11. RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,078,811.77(20250417\BC01)(C-4)

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

12. RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS TO CT CONSULTANTS INC. AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$22,510.47(20250417\BC01A)(C-4)

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

13. RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,439,655.53(20250417\BC02)(C-17)

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

14. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20250417\BC03)(C-111)

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

15. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CASH WITHIN NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20250417\BC04)(C-111)

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

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

UTILITIES –Commissioner Plecnik asked that Sanitary Engineer, Mr. Randy Rothlisberger, stay after the meeting to attend and answer questions during the work session. Commissioner Plecnik stated that he has heard a lot of questions from residents in Madison regarding the sewer and water bills since the Lake County Department of Utilities has taken over their area.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – none.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR –Mr. Boyd stated that some of the safety center highlights include the foundation walls being formed up late last week and the concrete was poured Tuesday and Wednesday. They will start tearing off some of the forms today. He explained that everybody is performing and meeting and exceeding expectations. He thanked Gilbane and County Chief Building Official Dave Strichko for their responsiveness and professionalism. He would like to schedule another trip for the Commissioners to tour the site when the weather dries up. Mr. Boyd also shared that they would be fast tracking the entire juvenile court parking lot project and address some challenges that the judge and his team have experienced.

CLERK – Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 24, 2025 at 10:00 am. and that there will be a Workshop today.

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: State Representative, Dan Troy was present and explained that he has tried to go around to all the communities in his district to explain the very important State Issue Two on the ballot Tuesday May 6th. He explained that State Issue Two renews the authorization from the voters in the constitution

to continue the Ohio state community improvements program under the public works commission. He explained that he was able to work and co-sponsor this with Republican State Representative Scott Oleger from the Canton area last fall. He offered a detailed explanation of the renewal and how there is no tax increase involved on a state or local level and it is being covered as general obligation funds under existing resources. He also explained that the decisions on what projects are being funded are made at the local level, right here in Lake County. The local committee consists of the County Engineers Office, Commissioners, Representatives, Mayors, City Managers and also the Townships and Villages. Representative Troy provided a detailed explanation and handout to the Board. He shared several projects that have been completed with these dollars and they include the Grace Court Trunk Sewer Rehabilitation, Lakeshore Boulevard Replacement, Vine Street Waterline Replacement, the Blair Road Retaining Wall and Resurfacing Project Phase One and the County Line Road Reconstruction Project-Phase Two. Commissioner Plecnik and State Representative Troy continued to discuss the proposed \$600 million investment for the Brook Park Brown stadium and how the state was willing to spend more on a football stadium than on roads and infrastructure. They also discussed property tax reform, and an increase in the homestead exemption from about \$28,000 up to \$50,000 which was tabled as well as Medicare and Medicaid. Commissioner Plecnik shared his thoughts about how he supports a 100% property tax exemption for seniors. Representative Troy thanked the Board for allowing him the time to discuss this issue and asked that everyone considering voting.

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Beverage shared that he tries his best to be non-political in his comments as a Commissioner and when he was a small business owner in the county, he always tried to do his best to help people in the community. He read a quote by the Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert Kennedy Jr. as he was speaking about individuals with autism: *“Autism destroys families and more importantly it destroys our greatest resource which is our children. These are children who should not be suffering like this. These are kids who will never pay taxes, they'll never hold a job, they'll never play baseball, they'll never write a poem, they'll never go out on a date, and many of them will never use a toilet unassisted.”* Commissioner Beverage pointed out that last week the Board passed a resolution for Autism Awareness Month to acknowledge the fact that individuals with autism offer a great value to society and can be contributing members of society just like any other citizen in the country. The Board received gifts from individuals that work at a company and pay taxes. In regards to the comment about *“never being able to play baseball”*, Commissioner Beverage pointed out that he is one of the founding Board Members and fundraising chairs for an organization called the Miracle League of Lake County, which is an adaptive baseball field in Eastlake. This organization is based on every child having the opportunity to play ball. As for the comment about *“never writing a poem”*, it's as if somebody with autism doesn't have anything to add in the world of art. This Board was presented with a piece of art from somebody with autism. He explained that, while he doesn't have the platform that the Secretary of Health and Human Services has, these types of remarks undermine the work that Lake County is trying to get done and he asked that all federal officials educate themselves on these topics. Commissioner Beverage made the following comment for the record: *“Commissioner Beverage individually, but as an elected official representing Lake County, condemns the ignorant remarks made by the Health and Human Services Secretary this week about individuals with autism.”*

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik seconded by Commissioner Beverage, the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:54 a.m. with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Beverage and Regovich "NAYS": None.

Minutes approved this twenty-ninth day of April, 2025.

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RICHARD J. REGOVICH, PRESIDENT

JOHN T. PLECNIK, COMMISSIONER

MORRIS W. BEVERAGE III, COMMISSIONER

JENNIFER BELL, CLERK