OCTOBER 9, 2025

#### LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES

MORRIS W. BEVERAGE III, COMMISSIONER JOHN PLECNIK, COMMISSIONER RICHARD REGOVICH, COMMISSIONER JENNIFER BELL, CLERK

JASON W. BOYD, ADMINISTRATOR LEGAL COUNSEL **NEWS MEDIA** 

(Tape 2025-1009)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Regovich called the Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, October 9, 2025.

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

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 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY ENGINEER ON BEHALF OF THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND AMERICAN STRUCTUREPOINT. INC. FOR PREPARATION OF CONSTRUCTION PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF TYLER ROAD BRIDGES (PID #122361), CITY OF MENTOR, OHIO, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$548,313.00(20251009\E01)(E-3)

On a motion by Commissioner Beverage, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. County Engineer, Mr. Alan Exley, was present and explained that his office is looking at two bridges on Tyler Boulevard in the City of Mentor who serves the industrial area of the city. Due to the location, these bridges are not such that you can let them get to the point where they can be load restricted. They will also have to keep traffic moving through that area during construction, and he pointed out that it is a very wide four lane road and is larger than most bridges his office normally handles. Mr. Exley wanted to make the Board and the public aware that not only are they are not only asking American Structurepoint, Inc. for the design, but also consideration of environmental, cultural resources, all the survey and mapping portions required for the two bridges, for a drainage study at each location to make sure there is proper sizing of the bridges, and also for the geotechnical studies for the foundations that will be going at each location. He stated that there are many utilities running along that area, and they want to make sure that there are subsurface utility investigations to physically locate where those utilities are to avoid any problems during construction. All of this has significant costs associated with it. Mr. Exley detailed some of the funding for this project, explaining that they have obtained 80/20 funding for these two bridges through the County Engineers Association of Ohio, which is federal funding. Due to the size of the project, they were able to get CEAO and ODOT to agree to allow them to use that funding towards the design work. He shared that in addition to the above funding, the county (his office) has purchased \$600,000.00 worth of 'credit bridge funds' at 50 cents on the dollar from another county. With the funding that they have secured the Engineers office will be paying 5% less than \$30,000 and are estimating about \$3 million in cost for the construction of the two bridges. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Beverage, Plecnik and Regovich "NAYS": None.

### 2.RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS IN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES SEWER PROJECT FUND 497-S-2025(20251009\U01)(UT-2)

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.

3.RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES OF COST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,271,000.00 FOR THE LANDFILL GAS WELL FIELD SYSTEM EXPANSION - PROJECT NO 498-L-2023, AND ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR SAME (Bid Opening: November 5, 2025)(20251009\U02)(UT-8)

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 THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS DELINEATING THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR REFERRING, REPORTING, INVESTIGATING, AND PROSECUTING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT CASES AS REQUIRED BY R.C. 2151.4225(B)(1)(20251009\JFS01)(JFS-11)

On a motion by Commissioner Beverage, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. County Administrator, Mr. Boyd stated that Ms. Casar was not present today, however he provided the following information: In accordance with the Ohio Revised Code, a Memorandum of Understanding is required to address child abuse and neglect within the county. This agreement clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of Job and Family Services and community partners in the referral, reporting, investigation, and prosecution of such cases. The MOU is executed by the JFS Director, the County Prosecutor, the Juvenile Court Judge, and all county police chiefs and it must be renewed every two years. Lake County Job and Family Services greatly value the collaboration of our community partners and elected officials in our shared commitment to preventing and addressing child abuse and neglect. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Beverage, Plecnik and Regovich "NAYS": None.

5.RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE ADDENDUM TO THE FY 2026-2027 COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ACT GRANT AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF THE GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON BEHALF OF THE LAKE COUNTY ADULT PROBATION DEPARTMENT AND THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION AND CORRECTION(20251009\C01)(CT-3)

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 REAPPOINTING MICHAEL MURPHY TO THE NORTHEAST OHIO COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM FACILITY GOVERNING BOARD FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 9,2028 (20251009\C02)(B-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 TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL FROM AUTO AGENT TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL TRANSACTION DEVICES SERVICES TO ACCEPT PAYMENTS FOR CERTAIN COUNTY EXPENSES(20251009\C03)(C-40c)

On a motion by Commissioner Beverage, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Mr. Boyd explained that this and the following two resolutions are a result of the RFP process that the County Treasurer administered via the revised code on different vendors regarding the ability to autopay/electronic pay. This resolution is the result of that process. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Beverage, Plecnik and Regovich "NAYS": None.

# 8.RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL FROM POINT & PAY TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL TRANSACTION DEVICES SERVICES TO ACCEPT PAYMENTS FOR CERTAIN COUNTY EXPENSES(20251009\C04)(C-40c)

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.

### 9.RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL FROM TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC. TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL TRANSACTION DEVICES SERVICES TO ACCEPT PAYMENTS FOR CERTAIN COUNTY EXPENSES(20251009\C05)(C-40c)

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.

### 10.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE OF TITLE FEES FOR THE LAKE COUNTY CLERK OF COURT – TITLE BUREAU(20251009\C01)(CT-1)

On a motion by Commissioner Beverage, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Clerk Of Courts, Carl DiFranco was present and thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak on this and to continue the county's shared commitment of transparency, accountability, and efficiency in county operations. He stated that the clerk's office remains dedicated to safeguarding the integrity of their court records, managing public access, and ensuring compliance with statutory requirements. He emphasized how they continue to work closely with the judiciary, law enforcement, and the community to improve services and modernize their systems. Mr. DiFranco provided some background explaining that since 2009, the title fee has been \$15 with \$11.50 allocated to the Clerk of Court's title certificate. The upcoming changes in House Bill 96 will increase the fee by \$3 and give the local County Commissioners the option to adopt a discretionary additional \$5 increase, bringing the total to \$23.00 with \$16.50 being retained. The title bureau processes approximately 230,000 titles annually. Their dealer business in 2024 accounted for 80.86% of their title work and almost 60% of that was outside of Lake County. He shared that the costs associated with operating the Clerk of Court's two title offices have risen significantly since 2009, including rent, utility, security, and employee salaries. He asked the Board to adopt the discretionary \$5 increase. Once the fund is replenished pursuant to the revised code, any agreed upon excess can be transferred to the general fund and used for other county purposes that the Board deems fit for the benefit of the citizens of Lake County. 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 \$4,857,686.51(20251009\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 PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,071,122.33(20251009\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.

### 13.RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20251009\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, Plecnik and Regovich "NAYS": None.

# 14.RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS(20251009\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**

<u>UTILITIES</u> — Mr. Rothlisberger stated that his department had a bid opening yesterday for a sanitary force main project in Grand River with the Engineer's estimate being approximately one million dollars. In total they received 7 bids with several bids coming in right around a million dollars with a handful a bit below the million dollars. He was pleased with the number of bids received and hoped that future bids will be trending that way.

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#### <u>COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR</u> – none.

<u>CLERK</u> – Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that County offices will be closed on Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup> in observation of Columbus Day. The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 16, 2025, at 10:00 am followed by a Workshop at 10:30.

<u>LEGAL</u> – none.

OLD BUSINESS: none.

NEW BUSINESS: County Auditor Galloway was present and wanted to share with the Board that his 2024 State Audit is complete and they received a completely clean audit with no management items and no management letter. The report is available for public review online. He thanked his staff for their work over the last 10 months preparing for the audit and to the other departments and offices for their cooperation in obtaining requested information. He announced that the House Ways and Means Committee voted unanimously on House Bill 309 and then was overwhelmingly voted on when it went to the House floor. He reminded everyone that this is the budget commission reform bill that the Committee has been working so hard on for the last 3 years. He thanked Representative Thomas for putting in a lot of hard work and Representative Troy who serves on the House Ways and Means Committee for voting in favor of it and will now go to the Senate. Commissioner Plecnik thanked the Auditor and his staff for their hard work and for transparency and accountability. He stated that while House Bill 309 is a modest improvement, he would like to see property taxes cut, not just procedural safeguards for the future. Commissioner Beverage wanted to remind everyone that the voters of Lake County or any municipality or school district have the opportunity to review all the balances and levy collections and if they should feel the need to alter or change those, they have the opportunity to do so with their vote on the second Tuesday of November every year.

<u>ADJOURN:</u> On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik seconded by Commissioner Beverage, the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:24 a.m. with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Beverage, Plecnik and Regovich "NAYS": None.

Minutes approved this twenty-third day of October, 2025.

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS		
RICHARD J. REGOVICH, PRESIDENT	JOHN T. PLECNIK, COMMISSIONER	
MORRIS W. BEVERAGE III, COMMISSIONER	JENNIFER BELL. CLERK	