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

Mr. David Lima of Litchfield Drive in Mentor read a prepared statement in opposition of Resolutions #11 and #12 on the agenda pertaining to the Homestead Tax Exemption and Owner-Occupied Tax Exemption.

RESOLUTIONS:

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

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On a motion by Commissioner Beverage, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik, Commissioner Plecnik thanked Mr. Lindrose and Mr. Martin for their continued service to the Development Authority Board. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows : "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Beverage and Regovich "NAYS": None.

**7.RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING BILL MARTIN TO THE LAKE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2026 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2029 (20251030\C04)(B-192)**

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

**8.RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING JOSEPH GIBSON TO THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM COMMENCING WITH THE ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING IN JANUARY, 2026 (20251030\C05)(B-49)**

On a motion by Commissioner Beverage, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. On behalf of Board of Developmental Disabilities/Deepwood Executive Director, Ms. Elfie Roman, County Administrator Boyd thanked the Board for their support and approval of these reappointments. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows : "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Beverage and Regovich "NAYS": None.

**9.RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING KIMBERLY STENGER TO THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM COMMENCING WITH THE ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING IN JANUARY, 2026(20251030\C06)(B-49)**

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

**10.RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING FRED A. TOUGH TO THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM COMMENCING WITH THE ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING IN JANUARY, 2026 (20251030\C07)(B-49)**

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

**11.RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A LOCAL OPTIONAL HOMESTEAD TAX EXEMPTION IN LAKE COUNTY, OHIO(20251030\C08)(C-107)**

On a motion by Commissioner Beverage, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Commissioner Plecnik explained how important it is for this Board and every public body to look more seriously at the issue of property tax relief and how homeowners have experienced recent property tax increases as well as some renters so property owners are passing on those increases to their tenants. He reminded everyone that property tax values under current law go up with inflation and that we've experienced the highest inflation in over 40 years. He further explained that the Board must work with the tools that the state legislature has provided and how they have the ability to double the homestead exemption which on average is approximately \$400- \$500 and if doubled, would be another \$400 or \$500 to folks making less than \$40,000 a year. He feels that the State of Ohio has not taken responsibility under Article 6 Section 2 of the Ohio Constitution seriously to fully fund our public schools and this needs to change. He stated that the Board has the ability to double the homestead exemption for those seniors most in need and are in favor of it. He also stated that passing both the homestead exemption and the owner-occupied tax credit will result in a budget reduction on average to every taxing authority in Lake County, including Lake County proper, which is us, amounting to approximately one and a half percent. This is eminently doable for Lake County, for every school district, and for every taxing authority. Commissioner Beverage read Ohio Constitution, Article 6, Section 2, in its entirety to the Board to establish where he started his research on property tax reform. He explained that he disagrees with the voucher system that has been established in this state that steers a billion dollars this year towards private schools, some religious, some not. But those schools do not have the same requirements of their teachers, of their curriculum, or of their structure as a public school does. He continued that the problem with decisions today is that the majority of local property tax dollars go towards our schools. He referred to a statement made at a recent workshop and explained that a spreadsheet was created for all the taxing entities it showed him that in 2024, Lake County was collecting \$437 million of property taxes. Over \$250 million goes towards the schools and the County collects in total just under \$1.1 billion dollars across all funding sources (i.e. property tax, sales tax, income tax, reimbursements from the state for the homestead and the owner occupancy now, as well as federal state funding). Approximately 44% of local revenues are generated from property taxes. He stated that he and Commissioner Regovich had an opportunity to go down to Columbus earlier this month. He explained when it comes to property tax reform, the state feels that they are going to close some loopholes, fix some structural issues, and then turn it over to the local level to figure it out and they want to see the counties using the tools that they've provided. As minor and as minimal as this tool is, it is the only tool that the County Commissioners have been provided to address this issue. Commissioner Regovich stated that the Board often hears from homeowners that the unprecedented increase in property tax (over 30% on average) is significantly changing lives. With increased property taxes, the cost of inflation and increases at the grocery store, people's income is not going as far. As Commissioner Beverage, said we are asked by the state to do this in a short amount of time. He stated this Board is always looking to see how they can improve efficiency or combine services. Schools are number one in our mind because they will be affected the most because they get the most from property tax. The Board understands what homeowners want and they represent all homeowners and all taxpayers of this county. Commissioner Regovich wanted to clear up a statement from one local entity that stated the county is balancing the budget on the backs of local entities. This is not true. If we vote this through, we're voting for our own tax cut and cutting our income. He explained that this Board is responsible for keeping this county in the best financial shape possible and are trying to help as much as we can to the best of our ability. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows : "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Beverage and Regovich "NAYS": None.

**12.RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A LOCAL OPTIONAL OWNER-OCCUPIED TAX EXEMPTION IN LAKE COUNTY, OHIO(20251030\C09)(C-107)**

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

**13. RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,111,642.86(20251030\BC01)(C-4)**

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

**14. RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS TO CT CONSULTANTS INC. AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,378.63(20251030\BC01A)(C-4)**

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

**15. RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$881,365.74(20251030\BC02)(C-17)**

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

**16. RESOLUTION INCREASING AND DECREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS(20251030\BC03)(C-111)**

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

**17. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CASH AND APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS(20251030\BC04)(C-111)**

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

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

**UTILITIES** – Commissioner Plecnik asked Lake County Department of Utilities, Director of Administration, Mr. Matthew Armand, to provide an update on the recent heavy rains we experienced. Mr. Armand spoke on the flooding situation in Fairport Harbor, Painesville Township, and other locations in Lake County stating that last week Lake County sustained heavy rains. The closest rain gauge in the vicinity of Painesville Township was at the landfill which measured roughly 8.5 inches of rainfall in approximately 10 hours. He stated that their crews were mobilized, prepared, and tanking throughout that day to minimize the heavy rains that fell. He acknowledged that there were certainly customers who experienced flooding and he encouraged those residents to contact his department. Since then and given the rainfall today the collections crews were again mobilized and tanking all day. While there haven't been any further issues, they remain vigilant and available to minimize any undue impact to the residents of Lake County. Commissioner Regovich wanted to remind everyone of the amount of rain and shared how his basement flooded when he was Mayor of the City of Willowick. He noted that this rain event seemed to have come off the lake in strands because gauges in Willowick recorded less than an inch of rain. Mr. Armand explained that there were several areas that experienced microbursts of rain, in particular, certain areas of Painesville Township. They received roughly 250,000 gallons of rain per acre in certain areas which means over 47 million gallons of rain fell in certain subdivisions. He further explained the process his department goes through and he reported that there were no mechanical failures or obstructions. The Board commended his department. Mr. Armand also wanted to recognize his department for being very responsive and willing to work around the clock.

**JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES** – Department of Job and Family Services, Ms. Suzanne Casar reminded the Board that she has been providing updates the last several weeks about SNAP benefits and the impact that the government shutdown will have on those benefits after October 31st. She stated that her department recently learned that SNAP benefits for the month of November will not be issued at this time because of the government shutdown. To put it in perspective, there are about 17,141 individuals in Lake County who currently receive SNAP benefits. Of those, 6,200 are children under the age of 18 and 2,510 of those are seniors age 65 and over. She explained that she has been working very closely with Lifeline and the United Way of Lake County and since receiving official word that SNAP benefits were not going out, they have been mobilizing crews to increase food distributions, food collections, and posting on social media to alert members of the community that SNAP benefits will not be available come November 1<sup>st</sup>. She encouraged members of the public to call 2-1-1 if they are in need of food assistance and how they are the best and most reliable resource for individuals to learn if food pantries are stocked, where food distributions are going to be held throughout the county and where community hot meals are going to be held. Her department will continue to update the public via our website as well as having information available out in their lobbies so that the public continues to be aware of what will happen next. Commissioner Regovich wanted to offer special thanks to Ms. Casar and her staff for the extra hard work they have had to deal with when it comes to the many, many changes in addition to the federal shutdown. He also thanked United Way and Lifeline. Commissioner Beverage shared his displeasure with the shutdown and how it is having a very real impact on Lake County and our community. He also wanted to commend Ms. Casar on how she has handled the unfortunate work and chaos her department is currently dealing with and how the resolutions just adopted today are going to affect the Job and Family Services property tax levy. He spoke of his extreme support for United Way of Lake County and how this is one of those times where their food coalition of 40 plus food banks across the county can help the need of our the community at this time.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR** – Mr. Boyd stated that to follow up with Ms. Casar he has a contract for approximately \$20,000 for United Way to assist in their food efforts that he will be signing after today's meeting. The United Way will have the ability to supplement the need in the community with 211 acting as a clearing house of sorts. The Board asked Ms. Casar what the monthly financial impact of recipients losing their SNAP benefits means. Ms. Casar responded that in Lake County, there is currently \$1.7 million distributed every month in SNAP benefits just for Lake

County alone. She explained that SNAP benefits are staggered throughout the month, so from the 2nd of each month until the 20th of each month, households get their SNAP benefits. Beginning November 2nd, and every two days, 900 households will be impacted because of this.

CLERK – Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Bell, reminded everyone that tomorrow is Halloween, and to watch out for trick-or-treaters. This weekend we turn the clock back an hour. The next meeting is Thursday, November 6, at 10:00 a.m. and there will be a workshop after today’s meeting.

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: none.

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Plecnik also wished everyone a Happy Halloween.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik seconded by Commissioner Beverage, the Board adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m. with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, Beverage and Regovich "NAYS": None.

Minutes approved this eighteenth day of November, 2025.

**BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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RICHARD J. REGOVICH, PRESIDENT

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JOHN T. PLECNIK, COMMISSIONER

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MORRIS W. BEVERAGE III, COMMISSIONER

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JENNIFER BELL, CLERK