

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 2026-0205)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Beverage called the Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, February 5, 2026

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon a motion by Commissioner McIntosh, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik, the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 22, 2026 were approved with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: McIntosh, Plecnik and Beverage "NAYS": None.

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 AUTHORIZING FINAL RELEASE OF A THREE-YEAR MAINTENANCE SURETY FOR 5921 SHANDLE BOULEVARD SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION IN THE CITY OF MENTOR (JOB NO. 22-30)(20260205\U01)(UT-12)

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

2.RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES OF COST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$518,000.00 FOR NEW FOURTH STREET SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT 502-W-2025(20260205\U03)(UT-9)

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

3.RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERRING CASH WITHIN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES FUND 595, PROJECT 479-W-2024 UNION STREET WATERLINE REPLACEMENT AND THE WATER FUND (20260205\U03)(UT-2)

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

4.RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERRING CASH WITHIN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES PROJECT FUND 596, PROJECT 415-S-2018 ADAMS, MELRIDGE & INDUSTRIAL PARK AND THE SEWER FUND(20260205\U04)(UT-2)

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

5.RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERRING CASH WITHIN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES PROJECT FUND 596, PROJECT 484-S-2024 LAKE ROAD FORCEMAIN RELOCATION PROJECT AND THE SEWER FUND(202602\U05)(UT-2)

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

6.RESOLUTION CERTIFYING UNPAID WATER AND SEWER SUMS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES TO THE LAKE COUNTY AUDITOR(20260205\U07)(UT-7)

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

7.RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AND APPROVING THE RECOMMENDATION OF PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBER RANDY VANBUREN TO DESIGNATE SEAN ISCHAY TO SERVE AS HIS ALTERNATE ON THE LAKE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION(20260205\C01)(B-34)

On a motion by Commissioner McIntosh, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Commissioner Plecnik thanked Mr. VanBuren for serving as his alternate, congratulated him on becoming a full member and thanked Mr. Ischay for volunteering his time to serve as Mr. VanBuren's alternate. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows : "AYES": Commissioners: McIntosh, Plecnik and Beverage "NAYS": None.

8.RESOLUTION APPROVING A REVISION TO THE NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY CODE OF REGULATIONS(20260205\C02)(C-102)

On a motion by Commissioner McIntosh, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Commissioner Plecnik asked County Administrator Boyd to address several concerns made by the public about this particular provision. Mr. Boyd stated that the Prosecutor's Office has reviewed this resolution and finds that it is appropriate. He explained that this resolution ratifies what was previously approved by the Board and gives more independence to counties and gives individual counties more control over their own delegation of board members that are appointed to sit on the NOACA Board. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows : "AYES": Commissioners: McIntosh, Plecnik and Beverage "NAYS": None.

9.RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,268,789.39(20260205\BC01)(C-4)

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

10.RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$547,801.10(20260205\BC02)(C-17)

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

11. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20260205\BC03)(C-111)

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

12. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING AN APPROPRIATION WITHIN NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20260205\BC04)(C-111)

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

13.RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2026 PERMANENT APPROPRIATION MEASURE FOR THE GENERAL FUND(20260205\BC05)(C-111)

On a motion by Commissioner McIntosh, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik. Director of Administrative Services, Mr. Joel DiMare explained that the 2026 General Fund budget reflects some intentional cost containment, strategic staffing decisions, and responsible financial stewardship. The County was able to reduce some year-over-year costs resulting in approximately \$1.8 million in added efficiencies with this year's budget. He stated that \$1 million of that was achieved through refinancing of short-term notes on the Public Safety Center Project. About \$500,000 of that was realized through staffing reductions, through attrition, and another \$300,000 in operational improvements throughout the year. He stressed that all these numbers and all of these goals were achieved without reducing core services. Mr. DiMare shared that they really appreciate the partnership with the elected officials and the other departments working to manage their budgets effectively and how the County wants to make sure it continues to be long-term sustainable for the residents of Lake County. The goal this year was to set a flat budget compared to 2025 and even with the cyclical cost of a 27th pay period this December, not only did we meet the goal, but we exceeded it. One area they will keep a close eye on are health care costs as they continue to rise. This year, they will go out for an RFP for medical and prescription coverage. He reported that as always, law enforcement represents the biggest investment in the General Fund Budget. The Judicial Branch and Public Safety represent 70% of the proposed budget inclusive of our debt payment for the Public Safety Center. Mr. DiMare thanked the elected officials and department heads, Budget Manager Mr. Underwood and his team, County Administrator Boyd, the Common Pleas Judges, Juvenile Court Judge, Clerk of Courts, the EMA Department, and the Treasurer's Office for their partnership in looking at their expenses in this year's budget. Commissioner McIntosh thanked Mr. DiMare and Mr. Underwood for the time they spent over the last month reviewing and educating him on the Budget and preparing him for today's resolution. Commissioner Plecnik stated that he is grateful to be passing a balanced budget again this year. Commissioner Plecnik thanked Budget Manager Underwood, Director of Administrative Services, Mr. DiMare and their staff for the hard work they put into this budget. He is proud of the work the County has done, being prudent and doing more with less. Commissioner Beverage stated that from the day he began as Commissioner, he wanted to be sure he had a detailed grasp of the budget and felt comfortable that this budget was going to be one that we were really able to work on for time and put forth our best effort. He agreed with his colleagues that Mr. Underwood and Mr. DiMare and their staff did a phenomenal job, not only keeping track of everything, but also looking at how we spend money and one of his goals was to flat-line the budget and focus on responsible spending. While the 27th pay created an unavoidable increase this year, we still identified approximately \$1.8 million in savings by tracking efficiencies at every level—because even small wins matter. He noted that \$1 million of that was saved in interest on the notes to build the Safety Center. Through strong collaboration with our departments and elected officials, we protected services, paid down debt on the Safety Services Center, and demonstrated the fiscal discipline our taxpayers expect. He explained one of the two critical and crucial reasons for being able to do this is due to the cooperation of the other departments and stressed how appreciative he was to them. Secondly, for him, educating himself on the funding of the Safety Services Center was vital. He questioned how the County would pay for this \$200 million project and the debt that was taken out. He offered thanks to previous Commissioners who were able to save approximately \$90 million and those who had the foresight to be able to show the discipline to be able to save those dollars to make sure that the County was able to responsibly build the Safety Service Center. He explained the debt which is broken down as approximately \$65 million in bonds and about \$50 million in notes. The bonds are 25 to 30 years maturity length; however, the notes are due every year. The goal was to pay off the \$50 million of notes at \$10 million a year or so, so that at the end of five years, those could be paid down. He stated this year, the County was able to pay down half which was \$25 million. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows : "AYES": Commissioners: McIntosh, Plecnik and Beverage "NAYS": None.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

UTILITIES – Sanitary Engineer, Mr. Randy Rothlisberger, explained that he was pleased with their bid opening yesterday. There were 7 bidders and of those, five were under the engineer's estimate of \$1.8 million. He is hopeful that this trend will continue with the future projects going out to bid.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – Director of Job and Family Services, Ms. Suzanne Casar, provided an update on the SNAP Benefits Program by explaining that the requirements, under the One Big Beautiful Bill have taken effect. She briefly explained that under the old requirements individuals over age 55 would have been exempt from the work requirement. That age has been increased to 65. Individuals with children under age 18 in their SNAP household were not subject to the work requirement and this has changed to children under 14. Lastly, veterans have lost their exemptions. Ms. Casar encouraged anyone with questions to visit their website, make an appointment or call 844-640-6446 to have their questions answered. Ms. Casar shared how OMJ-Lake County will be hosting a workshop taking place on Wednesday, February 11th from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at OMJ located in the Job and Family Services building. Commissioner Beverage asked Ms. Casar if she had an update on the number of Lake County veterans impacted by the new work requirement. Ms. Casar responded that she has been working with the county’s Veterans Services Office to coordinate services and she will provide an update.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – Mr. Boyd was pleased to update the Board on the nearly \$4.2 million federal appropriation that Senator Moreno and Representative Joyce have been working on. These dollars will be used for technology components and enhancements in the new Lake County Public Safety Center which will be a huge benefit as we try to bring that project under budget. This helps with the project and perhaps can free up some resources moving down the road in the general fund. He thanked Senator Moreno and Representative Joyce and their staff for the work put into this. He provided an update on the Public Safety Center stating that the crews are down to 1-2 weather days left with this most recent stretch of winter weather. The facility is 90% enclosed temporarily. He stated that the weather had been too cold this week for the crew to work on the roof and that the concrete pours had to be pushed back. They were able to pour yesterday, and the basement pour is planned for tomorrow (Friday). Other updates included masons working on the 1st floor who will be followed by HVAC. Gilbane representatives will be heading to Georgia soon to check on the progress of the pre-fab cells which will be delivered in groups of 8 upon completion. Mr. Boyd explained the weather-related issue that affected the Treasurer, Recorder, Auditor, and Veteran’s Services departments and thanked the Building and Grounds Department and the many B&G employees that came in to help on the weekend and how remediation began. He also thanked the Treasurer, Recorder, Auditor and Veteran’s Services for their cooperation.

CLERK – Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 10:00 am. There will be a workshop following and she reminded everyone that the County is still looking for an Apiary. Anyone interested in applying can call: 440-350-2751.

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: Commissioner Beverage spoke about the Code Blue Program and offered his thanks to the Sheriff, Buildings and Grounds, Mr. Boyd, the EMA, SubZero Mission, United Way, the Salvation Army, LakeTran, our local churches, and all those involved for their hard work during this long stretch of winter weather. He shared that there was a total of 9 days in 2025 and so far this year, there have been 12 days with 9 being in a row. He shared how the number of those in need is increasing and resources are strained but everyone involved has gone above and beyond to ensure the safety of these individuals. Commissioner Beverage expressed the importance of this great program and thanked all those involved. Commissioner Plecnik also thanked everyone for hard work to ensure those in need will have housing during extreme weather.

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Plecnik stated that Conn Selmer, one of the largest manufacturers of band and orchestra instruments is planning on closing their Eastlake plant and moving operations to China. He invited everyone to attend a rally put together by members of United Auto Workers Local 2359 today at 5 p.m. at the Four Points Sheraton Ballroom. He plans to attend. The Board discussed several agencies that have or would like to engage with Conn Selmer regarding this move.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner McIntosh, the Board convened for an Executive Session at 10:34 a.m. to discuss Legal-Pending Litigation with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: McIntosh, Plecnik and Beverage "NAYS": None.

The Lake County Board of Commissioners adjourned to Executive Session at 10:59 a.m.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik seconded by Commissioner McIntosh, the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:59 a.m. with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: McIntosh, Plecnik and Beverage "NAYS": None.

Minutes approved this nineteenth day of February, 2026.

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MORRIS W. BEVERAGE III, PRESIDENT

JOHN T. PLECNIK, COMMISSIONER

MORGAN R. McINTOSH, COMMISSIONER

JENNIFER BELL, CLERK