

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 2026-0226)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Beverage called the Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, February 26, 2026

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon a motion by Commissioner McIntosh, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik, the minutes of the Regular Meetings of February 12 and February 19, 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.

The Board presented a Special Certificate to Lake County Clerk of Courts employee, Christine Raines, for her lifesaving actions. Clerk of Courts, Mr. Carl DiFranco, was present and shared how proud he is of Christine. He explained that Christine works at the Title Department as a supervisor. He explained that on December 22, 2025, her service went far beyond her job description when a co-worker suffered a sudden heart attack. Chris acted immediately by performing chest compressions while remaining calm and focused until the EMTs arrived and because of her quick thinking and courage, a life was saved. Her actions remind us that public service is not just about the work we do but about the care we show for one another. Mr. DiFranco stated that his department is proud to honor not only her heroism, but her 38 years of unwavering commitment to Lake County. The Board thanked her for being there for her colleague and coworker and expressed how grateful they are for her 38 years of public service and for caring enough and being present in that incredibly difficult moment. Commissioner McIntosh added that remaining calm when others are panicking is a gift and a skill.

Commissioner Beverage stated that without objection, the first resolution on the agenda would be presented last.

RESOLUTIONS:

2.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADVERTISING FOR REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE LAKE COUNTY SOLID WASTE LANDFILL GAS UTILIZATION PROJECT FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES (20260226\U01)(UT-8)

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

3.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADVERTISING FOR REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE LAKE COUNTY SOLID WASTE LANDFILL SOLAR INSTALLATION PROJECT FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES (20260226\U02)(UT-8)

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

4.RESOLUTION TO DELETE WATER AND SEWER SUMS CERTIFIED TO THE LAKE COUNTY AUDITOR (20260226\U03)(UT-7)

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

5.RESOLUTION CERTIFYING UNPAID WATER AND SEWER SUMS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES TO THE LAKE COUNTY AUDITOR(20260226\U04)(UT-7)

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

6.RESOLUTION TO DISSOLVE THE FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL IN LAKE COUNTY, OHIO (20260226\JFS01)(B-193)

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner McIntosh. The Board discussed the Family and Children First Council. Commissioner Beverage stated that the job of the Family and Children First Council was to take care of the children in our community. He feels that there is a lack of funding coming from Columbus and DC that was going towards this council to make a positive impact with the children in our community. He also stated that he is thankful that the work that was being done through that funding with this council is going to continue but in another form and he hopes that there will continue to be a positive impact because the residents deserve this. Job and Family Services Director, Ms. Suzanne Casar, explained that one of the main reasons why Lake County considered this was that there was legislation passed in July stating that effective in September, the Boards of County Commissioners could move to dissolve the Family and Children First Council if certain criteria was met. After several months of meetings with the steering committee, it was determined that a Medicaid program called Ohio Rise and other organizations would be able to serve the community well. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows : "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, McIntosh and Beverage "NAYS": None.

7.RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING AND APPOINTING INDIVIDUALS TO THE LAKE COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD(20260226\JFS02)(B-24)

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

8.RESOLUTION APPOINTING LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONER MORGAN R. McINTOSH TO SERVE ON THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION DISTRICT 7 INTEGRATING COMMITTEE AND DESIGNATING HIS ALTERNATE TO SERVE ON THEIR BEHALF TO COMPLETE THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING MAY 22, 2027(20260226\C01)(C-146)

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

9.RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,924,393.83(20260226\BC01)(C-4)

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

10.RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,120,451.28(20260226\BC02)(C-17)

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

11.RESOLUTION INCREASING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT(20260226\BC03)(C-111)

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

12.RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING AN APPROPRIATION WITHIN A GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT(20260226\BC04)(C-111)

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

1.RESOLUTION DECLARING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2026, AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN LAKE COUNTY, OHIO AND RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY WEEK (20260226\F01)(C-126)

On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner McIntosh. Commissioner Plecnik stated that, as chairman of America 250, he feels it is important that we highlight the milestones in our community and our nation that have preserved the American experience and improved it from 1776 to 2026 and to recognize this historic year. It is not only the semi-quincentennial of the United States but the centennial of recognizing black history ,specifically the 100th anniversary of the First National Black History Week which has eventually grown into Black History Month. Ms. Tina Wilson, Treasurer of the NAACP was present for President of the NAACP, Rev. Chris Lee, to accept the resolution and she thanked the Board for the recognition and support. Bishop Mirbel stated how thankful they are for the Commissioners support. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows : "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, McIntosh and Beverage "NAYS": None.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

UTILITIES – Sanitary Engineer, Mr. Randy Rothlisberger, explained that he was pleased with their bid opening yesterday. There were 5 bidders and two were 18% under the Engineer's estimate and within \$500.00 of each other's bid. He is hopeful that this trend will continue with future projects going out to bid. He stated to Commissioner Beverage that his department hosts CPR and First-Aid classes and on average, they train 100 employees annually.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – none.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – County Administrator, Mr. Jason Boyd, provided an update on the Safety Center project stating that with the stretch of bad weather we have had recently, the crews have used 23 of 28 weather days but now that the building is approximately 99% enclosed temporarily that should not be an issue moving forward. He also stated that there are metal studs going up on the first floor and where the administrative offices are also being installed are duct work and data trays. The basement is approximately 70% poured with concrete and should be completed in the next month. Masonry will begin in the spring as well as interior work. He added that the project is still on time and still on budget for a substantial completion around the end of March 2027. He mentioned the steel cells being fabricated in Georgia and how the representatives from the Sheriff's office will be going to Michigan to view a mockup of what the computer system or interface of the command control center will look like. Sheriff Leonbruno stated how Gilbane has been exceptional and how County Administrator, Mr. Boyd, has done amazing work in terms of facilitating a lot of the construction. He also thanked the Board and Buildings and Grounds Superintendent, Mr. Mark Iafalice. Mr. Boyd next provided an update on the water damage in building C stating that they are working with the insurance companies and continuing improvements such as carpet, ceiling tiles and drywall repairs.

CLERK – Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. She also stated that there would be a workshop this morning.

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: none.

NEW BUSINESS: none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: On a motion by Commissioner Plecnik, seconded by Commissioner McIntosh, the Board convened for an Executive Session at 10:32 a.m. to discuss Personnel – Discipline with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Plecnik, McIntosh and Beverage "NAYS": None.

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

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

Minutes approved this twelfth day of March, 2026.

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MORRIS W. BEVERAGE III, PRESIDENT

JOHN T. PLECNIK, COMMISSIONER

MORGAN R. McINTOSH, COMMISSIONER

JENNIFER BELL, CLERK