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FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Briefing Session Minutes
Thursday, October 1, 2026

Commissioner Boyce
Commissioner Crawley

The purpose of the meeting was to review resolutions submitted for the October 6, 2026, General Session and to discuss other matters pertaining to the programs of the agencies.

The meeting was convened in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, while also hosting guests via Zoom Webinar Meeting ID: 811 9053 2115; Passcode: 1803. To attend virtually and watch the session live, click here to register in advance.

Commissioner Boyce convened the meeting at 9:02 A.M.

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COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Kimberly Canada, Director of Finance, Court of Common Pleas, offered a resolution authorizing an addendum to the existing contract with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction for the CCA 2.0 Grant, increasing the grant award by $2,400.00 ($12,772,369.00) (Court of Common Pleas).

> Ms. Canada reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Kimberly Canada offered a resolution authorizing non-general fund appropriation adjustments for the Adult Probation Department (Court of Common Pleas).

> Ms. Canada reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

AUDITOR

Brad Steen, Staff Counsel, Auditor’s Office, offered a resolution authorizing a consultant contract with MurphyEpson, Inc. for the provision of services related to a visual identity update ($98,000.00) (Auditor).

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Mr. Steen reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

ENGINEER

Elizabeth Kuhn, Executive Assistant, Engineer's Office, offered a resolution awarding contract and approving contract bond to Layton Trucking, Inc., dba Layton Services for the Kropp Road Drainage Outlet Improvement Part 2 project ($1,936,722.00) (Engineer).

Ms. Kuhn reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Elizabeth Kuhn offered a resolution for Report (2nd) of the Franklin County Engineer establishing sums of compensation for a portion of the owners of property abutting Johnstown Road at 17th Avenue and I-670E Exit Ramp, Mifflin Township, City of Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio ($675.00) (Engineer).

Ms. Kuhn reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

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VETERANS SERVICES

Matthew Zelnik, Interim Director, Veterans Service Commission, offered a resolution authorizing a transfer of General Fund appropriations for the support of the immediate financial assistance and medical transportation programs (Veterans Services).

Mr. Zelnik reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Boyce asked how many veterans receive financial assistance annually. Mr. Zelnik stated that approximately 6,000 veterans received financial assistance in 2025.

Joy Bivens, Deputy County Administrator, requested coordination between the Veterans Service Commission and the County's One Door team to better align available funding and supportive services.

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FRANKLIN COUNTY DATA CENTER

Julie Lust, Chief Financial Officer, Franklin County Data Center, offered a resolution authorizing a Master Client Agreement with OARnet for the procurement of Broadband and Technology services (Franklin County Data Center).

Ms. Lust reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Adam Frumkin, Director, Franklin County Data Center, offered a resolution in support of Cybersecurity Awareness Month education and activities (Franklin County Data Center).

Mr. Frumkin reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

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OFFICE ON AGING

Laurice Cohens, Chief Financial Officer, Office on Aging, offered a resolution authorizing a first contract extension with seven (7) existing vendors and a second contract extension with four (4) existing vendors for General Minor Home Repair Services ($2,800,000.00) (Office on Aging).

Ms. Cohens reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

Emanuel Torres, Assistant Director, Economic Development and Planning, offered a resolution approving the recommendations of the 2026 Franklin County Tax Incentive Review Councils (TIRCs) (Economic Development and Planning).

Mr. Torres reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Gretchen Armstrong, Community Development Official, Economic Development and Planning, offered a resolution authorizing a funding agreement with Action for Children utilizing FY-2024 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to provide technical assistance to microenterprise childcare business owners operating in Franklin County ($270,943.00) (Economic Development and Planning).

Ms. Armstrong reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

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Gretchen Armstrong offered a resolution authorizing a funding agreement with the Economic and Community Development Institute (ECDI) utilizing FY-2024 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to provide business development and capital readiness training to low- to moderate-income microenterprise business owners operating in Franklin County ($51,057.00) (Economic Development and Planning).

Ms. Armstrong reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Gretchen Armstrong offered a resolution authorizing a funding agreement with Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services utilizing FY-2024 and FY-2025 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to provide consolidated services including community-based learning, financial empowerment, and wellness support to residents of Franklin County ($124,078.70) (Economic Development and Planning).

Ms. Armstrong reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Gretchen Armstrong offered a resolution authorizing a funding agreement with the Community Shelter Board utilizing FY-2023 and FY-2024 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to provide emergency shelter and intimate partner violence services in Franklin County ($372,785.30) (Economic Development and Planning).

Ms. Armstrong reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Emanuel Torres offered a resolution for review of a petition to annex 4.79 +/- acres from Prairie Township to the City of Columbus, Case No. ANX-21-26 (Economic Development and Planning).

Mr. Torres reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Emanuel Torres offered a resolution for review of a petition to annex 0.6914 +/- acres from Jackson Township to the City of Grove City, Case No. ANX-22-26 (Economic Development and Planning).

Mr. Torres reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Emanuel Torres offered a resolution for review of a petition to annex 1.985 +/- acres from Jackson Township to the City of Grove City, Case No. ANX-23-26 (Economic Development and Planning).

Mr. Torres reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

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Emanuel Torres offered a resolution for review of a petition to annex 0.6914 +/- acres from Jackson Township to the City of Grove City, Case No. ANX-24-26 (Economic Development and Planning).

Mr. Torres reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Perla Martínez, Deputy Director, Economic Engagement and Community Development, offered a resolution authorizing a grant agreement with South-Western City Schools to support its Adult Hub, providing accessible workforce development opportunities for residents of Franklin County ($150,000.00) (Economic Engagement and Community Development).

Ms. Martínez reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Perla Martínez offered a resolution authorizing a grant agreement with WrightChoice Mentoring to support mentorship, career exploration, career coaching, confidence-building, and life-skills development for high school seniors, college students, and early-career professionals ($150,000.00) (Economic Engagement and Community Development).

Ms. Martínez reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

Bart Logan, Assistant Director, Communications, Job and Family Services, offered a resolution approving a subaward agreement with Nationwide Children's Hospital for the Franklin County Ready 2 Earn summer youth employment program ($75,000.00) (Job and Family Services).

Mr. Logan reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Sue Hamilton, Assistant Director, Human Resources, offered a resolution authorizing an agreement with The Ohio State University for the purchase of Management Advancement for the Public Service (MAPS) training units for agencies of the Board of Commissioners ($74,500.00) (Human Resources).

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Ms. Hamilton reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

PURCHASING

Traci Mathew, Assistant Director, Purchasing, offered a resolution approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies ($3,311,431.97) (Purchasing).

Ms. Mathew reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Traci Mathew offered a resolution approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies ($4,150.00) (Purchasing).

Ms. Mathew reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Traci Mathew offered a resolution approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies ($5,595.96) (Purchasing).

Ms. Mathew reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Eli Redfern, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Prosecuting Attorney, offered a resolution approving a Second Amended and Restated Franklin Park Conservatory Joint Recreation District Agreement with the City of Columbus (Board of Commissioners).

Mr. Redfern reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Boyce asked about reports of a fencing project around the Franklin Park Conservatory. Mr. Redfern stated that he was not familiar with the issue and agreed to follow up.

Melissa Kohler, Assistant Director, Community Appointments, Board of Commissioners, offered a resolution appointing Paul Denton to the Franklin County Rural Zoning Commission (Board of Commissioners).

Ms. Kohler reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

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Melissa Kohler offered a resolution appointing Lisa Shirkey to the Franklin County Rural Zoning Commission (Board of Commissioners).

Ms. Kohler reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Melissa Kohler offered a resolution of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners to convene into Executive Session for the purpose of considering personnel matters (Board of Commissioners).

Ms. Kohler reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

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The Deputy Clerk noted that one (1) journalization is expected at General Session on Tuesday, October 6, 2026.

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County Administration Update

Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator

- *Reported that he completed a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Certificate of Consistency associated with Community Shelter Board funding after the federal notice of funding was released, allowing the City and County to certify that proposed projects are consistent with their consolidated plans. Administrator Wilson noted that the materials were reviewed by the Prosecuting Attorney and the Office of Management and Budget, and that the County has correspondence documenting the Community Shelter Board's project selection process.*

- *Recognized the Realizing Other Options (ROO) financial literacy event and reported continued national attention for the County's senior e-gaming initiative, including coverage by ABC News, interest from Good Morning America, and the National Association of Counties (NACo), and efforts to secure sponsorship support for the team's travel to Los Angeles.*

- *Noted that Commissioner Boyce would participate in community outreach later that day to distribute mental health resource materials.*

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Kevin Pangrace, Director, Government Affairs, Board of Commissioners

- *Reported that the Ohio General Assembly approved a 90-day gas tax holiday that included $725 million in General Revenue Fund dollars intended to hold harmless entities receiving gas-tax revenue.*

- *Reported that public comment is open on proposed rules related to the administration of the 2030 Census and noted that proposed changes could affect formulas used to distribute federal funding. Mr. Pangrace stated that a National Association of Counties (NACo) webinar is scheduled for Friday and that County Administration could prepare comments for Board review.*

Joy Bivens, Deputy County Administrator

- *Reported on changes to Medicaid eligibility effective October 1, 2026, affecting certain noncitizens and on a shift to twice-yearly Medicaid renewals beginning January 1, 2027, which will increase the administrative workload for Job and Family Services.*

  Commissioner Boyce asked whether Job and Family Services is staffed to manage the increased workload for verification and renewal. Ms. Bivens estimated that the additional administrative burden would equate to approximately 150 additional staff positions and cautioned that residents may experience longer wait times.

Zak Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget

- *Reported that the Office of Management and Budget is finalizing a schedule for agencies to begin presenting budget requests during County Administration Update, with approximately two or three agencies expected at each Briefing from late October through mid-November.*

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There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 A.M.

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(Signature Page Follows)

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These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' Briefing Session for Thursday, October 1, 2026.

10/26/2026
JOHN O'GRADY, PRESIDENT

10/22/2026
KEVIN L. BOYCE

10/23/2026
ERICA C. CRAWLEY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO

Submitted by:

Melissa K. Kohler
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners