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FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Briefing Session Minutes
Thursday, October 15, 2026

President O'Grady
Commissioner Crawley

The purpose of the meeting was to review resolutions submitted for the October 20, 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.

Commissioner O'Grady convened the meeting at 9:03 A.M.

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SHERIFF

Albert J. Smith III, Assistant Director, Finance, Sheriff's Office, offered a resolution approving a contract with County Towing & Storage, LLC for Towing and Impound Management Services ($100,000.00) (Sheriff).

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

Tamara Ennist, Planning Administrator, Economic Development and Planning, offered a resolution for review of a petition to annex 11.9 +/- acres from Jackson Township to the City of Grove City, Case No. ANX-26-26 (Economic Development and Planning).

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

Tamara Ennist offered a resolution for review of a petition to annex 1.92 +/- acres from Mifflin Township to the City of Columbus, Case No. ANX-27-26 (Economic Development and Planning).

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

Tamara Ennist offered a resolution for review of a petition to annex 0.4 +/- acres from Jefferson Township to the City of Gahanna, Case No. ANX-28-26 (Economic Development and Planning).

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

FLEET MANAGEMENT

Charlotte Ashcraft, Director, Fleet Management, offered a resolution authorizing disposition of personal property, including motor vehicles and equipment, that are no longer needed for public use, are obsolete, or are unfit for the use it was acquired, and authorizing the Director of Fleet Management to dispose of said items in accordance with the Disposal of County Owned Personal Property Policy (Fleet Management).

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

Charlotte Ashcraft offered a resolution authorizing the supplemental contract with Cardinal Bus Sales & Service, Inc. for the purchase of a transport bus ($180,064.00) (Fleet Management).

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

Commissioner O'Grady asked whether video arraignments had reduced the need for prisoner transport between correctional facilities and the courts. Major Raven, Franklin County Sheriff's Office, explained that transport continues because of the locations of the facilities and the continued preference of some judges for in-person proceedings. Discussion also noted that video arraignments have reduced the need for some transport.

Ms. Ashcraft noted that the replacement bus will be shorter than the existing vehicle due to access limitations at the downtown facility. Although the new bus will transport fewer individuals per trip, its size should allow for closer, more secure loading and unloading.

Charlotte Ashcraft offered a resolution approving an agreement with Churchill Claims Services Inc. for automobile claims adjuster services and authorizing the County Administrator to execute the necessary documents ($20,000.00) (Fleet Management).

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

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PURCHASING

Nick Brefeld, Compliance Program Manager, Purchasing, offered a resolution approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies ($1,561,520.33) (Purchasing).

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

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jeanine Hummer, First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Chief Counsel, Prosecuting Attorney, and Kevin O'Donnell Stanek, Partner, FBT Gibbons LLP, presented a resolution dissolving The New Albany Community Authority pursuant to the authority of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners in its capacity as the organizational board of commissioners pursuant to Chapter 349 of the Ohio Revised Code (Board of Commissioners).

Ms. Hummer and Mr. Stanek reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Zak Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget, offered a resolution authorizing CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence, Inc. to receive the fees collected in 2027 for the support of shelters for victims of domestic violence (Board of Commissioners).

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

Commissioner O'Grady asked about the estimated annual amount. Mr. Talarek advised approximately $280,000.00.

Zak Talarek offered a resolution authorizing an adjustment in the per diem charge for the housing of prisoners (Board of Commissioners).

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

Commissioner O'Grady asked about the proposed increase from $115.00 to $145.00 per day. Mr. Talarek explained that the rate is calculated using correctional facility operating costs and capacity, and that costs associated with the new James A. Karnes Corrections Center and the medical services contract contributed to the higher rate. Mr. Talarek advised that the increase would be phased in by $10.00 annually beginning in 2027, reaching $145.00 in 2029, to provide municipalities with time to plan.

Commissioner Crawley requested the return of quarterly meetings concerning the correctional facilities' medical services contract to review service delivery, staffing, and

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issues affecting residents in custody. Commissioner Crawley noted the high cost of the contract and the importance of ongoing coordination among relevant county agencies.

Zak Talarek offered a resolution authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Franklin County Family and Children First Council, Franklin County Board of Commissioners, Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Franklin County Juvenile Court, Franklin County Children Services, Columbus City Schools, Franklin County ADAMH Board, Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services, Educational Service Center of Central Ohio, and United Way of Central Ohio (Board of Commissioners).

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

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The Deputy Clerk noted that two (2) journalizations are expected at General Session on Tuesday, October 20, 2026.

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County Administration offered the following updates:

Joy Bivens, Deputy County Administrator
Job and Family Services

- *Reported increased call wait times due to state system limitations and additional administrative requirements under HR 1, particularly SNAP eligibility processing.*
- *Advised that a public statement is being prepared and an internal team is exploring measures to address increased call volumes.*
- *Reported increased visits to One Door and JFS offices for work requirement assistance and benefit redeterminations.*
- *Anticipated approximately 6,000 monthly redeterminations beginning in January, with Medicaid eligibility reviews increasing from annually to twice yearly.*

Zak Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget
2027 Budget Development

- *Departmental budget presentations are expected over the next four weeks following Briefing Sessions.*
- *County Administrator's recommended budget message is scheduled for November 19, 2026.*
- *Budget resolution is anticipated at the final General Session of the year.*

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Commissioner O'Grady
Student-Athlete Mental Health Initiative

- *Discussed ongoing conversations with Ohio State football coaches and student-athletes regarding mental health and emotional well-being.*
- *Reported meetings involving Coach Tim Walton and Maurice Clarett, including a previously filmed discussion, are now made publicly available.*
- *Advised that he and Deputy County Administrator Bivens plan to meet with student-athletes at the Woody Hayes Athletic Center this evening.*

Joy Bivens, Deputy County Administrator, discussed the possibility of student-athletes serving as mental health ambassadors for young people, sharing experiences and reducing stigma.

Commissioner Crawley voiced support for the concept while emphasizing the need for appropriate training, safeguards, and connections to clinical and community resources for follow-up support.

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There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:34 A.M.

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These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' Briefing Session for Thursday, October 15, 2026.

JOHN O'GRADY, PRESIDENT

KEVIN L. BOYCE

ERICA C. CRAWLEY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO

Submitted by:

Melissa K. Kohler
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners