

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

March 24, 2026

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, March 24, 2026.

Present were: John O'Grady, President
Kevin L. Boyce, Commissioner
Erica C. Crawley, Commissioner

Also present on the dais were Kris Long, Deputy County Administrator; Damika Withers, Deputy County Administrator; Shayla D. Favor, Prosecutor, Prosecuting Attorney; Zak Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget; and Brittany A. Razek, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners.

Using hybrid meeting technology, participants were also able to access General Session via Zoom Webinar Meeting ID: 811 9053 2115; Passcode: 1803, to attend virtually and watch the session live, [click here to register in advance](#).

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Commissioner O'Grady called the meeting to order at 9:11 A.M.

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Approval of the minutes for the March 12, 2026, Briefing Session and the March 17, 2026, General Session. Commissioner Boyce moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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Resolution No. 0174-26, report (1st) of the Franklin County Engineer, establishing sums of compensation for a portion of the owners of property abutting the Innis Road from Cleveland Avenue to Westerville Road Improvement project, Clinton Township and Mifflin Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$4,500.00) (Engineer), presented by Nick A. Soulas, Jr., Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0174-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0175-26, awarding contract and approving contract bond to Decker Construction Company for the Safe Routes to Schools 2023 (FRA – SRTS SW City Schools) project (\$374,532.40) (Engineer), presented by Nick A. Soulas, Jr., Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0175-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0176-26, authorizing a contract with CivicPlus LLC for the procurement of DocAccess Software as a Service (\$97,850.00) (Franklin County Data Center), presented by Julie Lust, Chief Financial Officer, Franklin County Data Center.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0176-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0177-26, authorizing a contract extension with Jess Howard Electric Company for Outdoor Warning Siren (OWS) system installation and maintenance (\$450,000.00) (Emergency Management Agency), presented by Jeff Young, Director, Emergency Management Agency.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0177-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0178-26, approving a contract agreement with the African American Male Wellness Agency to support health and wellness in Franklin County through educational initiatives and programming (\$700,000.00) (Economic Engagement and Community Development), presented by Andrena Austin, Director, Economic Engagement and Community Development, and Perry Gregory, President, NCUS.

Ms. Austin and Mr. Perry reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Boyce asked for confirmation of relocating the event to Long Street and noted the strong community impact of a recent Real Men, Real Talk session with about 50 participants, emphasizing the need to strengthen data tracking and outcome reporting to better demonstrate impact and guide investment.

Mr. Perry confirmed the move to Long Street near Columbus State based on community input and space needs, citing improved accessibility and parking, and shared that Real Men, Real Talk served over 3,500 individuals last year while providing a space for men across backgrounds to openly discuss mental health and support one another.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0178-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0179-26, authorizing an Agreement with Women’s Small Business Accelerator to Support Small Business Training and Entrepreneurship in Franklin County (\$110,000.00) (Economic Engagement and Community Development), presented by Andrena Austin, Director, Economic Engagement and Community Development, and Gloria Rizzato, Marketing & Social Media Manager, Women’s Small Business Accelerator.

Ms. Austin and Ms. Rizzato reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0179-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0180-26, authorizing an agreement with the Ohio Black Expo to support the 2026 Ohio Black Expo Riverfront Culture Fest and related programming (\$222,072.00) (Economic Engagement and Community Development), presented by Andrena Austin, Director, Economic Engagement and Community Development, and Sherri Hamilton, CEO, Ohio Black Expo.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0180-26, seconded by Commissioner O’Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner Boyce abstaining.

Resolution No. 0181-26, approving a subaward agreement with the National Center for Urban Solutions for the Franklin County Broadband Futures Program (\$550,000.00) (Job and Family

Services), presented by Carmen Barnes, Chief Operations Officer, Job and Family Services, Kristen Muenster, SVP, NCUS, and Perry Gregory, President, NCUS.

Ms. Barnes, Ms. Muenster, and Mr. Perry reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Dunard Garner, TEC and NCUS graduate, shared his personal experience completing NCUS's six-week fiber certification program, which led to employment with CBRE Direct Line and advancement to a senior role managing a team of 48 while training others in fiber work. Mr. Garner emphasized that fiber infrastructure is foundational to AI and data center growth, stated that certified training provided a competitive advantage, and advocated for increased funding to expand hands-on training and workforce development so more local residents can access careers in the rapidly growing data center industry.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0181-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0182-26, approving a subaward with Franklin County Public Health for a Transitional Housing Initiative (\$1,500,000.00) (Job and Family Services), presented by Carmen Barnes, Chief Operations Officer, Job and Family Services, and Joe Mazzola, MPA, Health Commissioner, Franklin County Public Health.

Ms. Barnes and Mr. Mazzola reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0182-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0183-26, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$3,336,941.82) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing.

Ms. Perry-Balonier reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0183-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0184-26, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$6,350.00) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing.

Ms. Perry-Balonier reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0184-26, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner Boyce abstaining.

Resolution No. 0185-26, establishing a pilot program for the Franklin County Affordable Housing Pre-Development Bridge Fund and approving Program Guidelines and Application Procedures (\$3,000,000.00) (Board of Commissioners), presented by Robin Moorehead, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Prosecuting Attorney, and Emmett M. Kelly, Esq., FBT Gibbons LLP.

Ms. Moorhead and Mr. Kelly reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Boyce asked which entities would receive funding, and Ms. Moorhead explained that developers would apply to the County Administrator for pre-development assistance, with decisions based on project details such as the number of units, location, affordability, and services.

Commissioner Crawley requested clarity on the evaluation criteria and emphasized the need to report to the Board on applications received, approvals, denials, and reasons, and Ms. Moorhead confirmed that reporting can include both awarded and non-selected projects.

Mr. Kelly stated that all awards would be presented to the Board for approval.

Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator, added that applications and supporting materials would be formally reported and aligned with program guidelines during the pilot period through December 31, 2026.

Commissioner Boyce questioned advancing the item due to outstanding questions.

Jeanine Hummer, First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Chief Counsel, Prosecuting Attorney, advised that the Board could formally postpone the matter to a later meeting.

Commissioner Crawley moved to postpone Resolution No. 0185-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was postponed until the General Session on March 31, 2026, unanimously by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0186-26, to authorize and appoint Ernest Stockton in his official capacity as the Franklin County Board of Commissioners representative to the OneOhio Region 1 Board arising out of NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION OPIATE LITIGATION (Board of Commissioners), presented by Michael E. Ruehrmund, Assistant Director, Community Appointments.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0186-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

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There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:59 A.M.

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(Signature Page Follows)

These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' General Session for Tuesday, March 24, 2026.



JOHN O'GRADY, PRESIDENT

KEVIN L. BOYCE



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

Submitted by:



Michael E. Ruehrmund
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners