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FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

October 27, 2026

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners' Hearing Room at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, October 27, 2026.

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

Also present on the dais were Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator; 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 9:12 A.M.

Commissioner O'Grady: Good morning. This Wednesday, October 28, is National First Responders Day. When we think of first responders, we often picture firefighters, police officers, and paramedics arriving on the scene. But in nearly every emergency in Franklin County, the response starts before anyone arrives, with a calm voice answering a 911 call.

Our public safety telecommunicators make sense of chaos and steady people on the worst day of their lives. They get help where it's needed, around the clock, every day of the year. And they do this demanding work while facing constant exposure to trauma.

Today, the Board is proud to recognize our 911 dispatchers and telecommunicators as the first responders they truly are, and to thank them for their dedication to our community.

Joining us this morning is Johnna Sells, Regional Communications Coordinator and 911 Coordinator with Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security. Johnna, please come forward, introduce the members of your team who are here with you, and tell us more about the work you do to keep our neighbors safe.

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Johnna Sells, Regional Communications Coordinator and 911 Coordinator, Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security, thanked the Board for recognizing public safety telecommunicators as first responders, reflected on more than two decades of work in 911 communications, and discussed ongoing advocacy for the recognition and support of telecommunicators.

Erica Walsh, First Vice President, Ohio APCO, thanked the Board for recognizing public safety telecommunicators and discussed their role as the first point of contact in emergencies, the increasing demands associated with next-generation 911 technology, and the importance of their work to the regional emergency response system.

Commissioner Boyce thanked public safety telecommunicators for their role in the emergency response system and reflected on personal experiences with house fires in childhood, emphasizing the importance of a calm, coordinated response that begins with a 911 call.

Commissioner Crawley thanked Ms. Sells and Ms. Walsh and reflected on personal experiences calling 911 during medical emergencies involving Commissioner Crawley's mother, emphasizing the lifesaving work of first responders and the emotional demands placed on public safety telecommunicators.

Commissioner O'Grady reflected on personal experiences of calling 911 for family members and during youth sporting events, and emphasized the value of the calm voice provided by telecommunicators in moments of stress and uncertainty. Commissioner O'Grady thanked public safety telecommunicators for work that is often less visible than the work of responders who arrive on scene.

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Commissioner O'Grady: We have a Public Hearing for Resolution 0697-26. Can the Clerk please read the Public Hearing?

PUBLIC HEARING: Plans approved for the Zuber Road/Plum Run Drainage Improvements Section 4 project, Pleasant Township, Franklin County, Ohio.

Commissioner O'Grady opened the Public Hearing and asked if anyone would like to speak. Seeing and hearing none, Commissioner O'Grady closed the Public Hearing, and the resolution was read into the record.

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Resolution No. 0697-26, Plans approved for the Zuber Road/Plum Run Drainage Improvements Section 4 project, Pleasant Township, Franklin County, Ohio (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. 0697-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0698-26, Resolution awarding contract and approving contract bond to Strawser Paving Co., Inc. for the Ferris Road Improvements (Minnie Avenue to Cleveland Avenue) project ($7,220,149.25) (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. 0698-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0699-26, Resolution authorizing the Franklin County Engineer to enter into a contract modification with CDM Smith, Inc. for the Hott Ditch Drainage Improvement project, Madison Township, for a decrease of $13,624.13, for a revised contract amount of $288,031.98 ($288,031.98) (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. 0699-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0700-26, Resolution authorizing the set aside for the Recorder's Technology Fund for calendar year 2027 (Recorder), presented by Daniel J. O'Connor, Jr., Franklin County Recorder.

Mr. O'Connor reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0700-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

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Resolution No. 0701-26, Resolution authorizing a partnership with Central Ohio Veterans Stand Down and the Franklin County Convention Facilities Authority in sponsoring the 2026 Annual Central Ohio Veterans Stand Down at the Greater Columbus Convention Center ($30,000.00) (Veterans Services), presented by Matthew H. Zelnik, Interim Executive Director, Franklin County Veterans Service Commission.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0701-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0702-26, Review of a petition to annex 5.9 +/- acres from Franklin Township to the City of Columbus, Case No. ANX-30-26 (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Tamara Ennist, Planning Administrator, Economic Development and Planning.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0702-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0703-26, Resolution to adjust the boundaries of Montgomery Township, thereby making them conform to the boundaries of the City of Columbus, Case No. ANX-31-26 (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Tamara Ennist, Planning Administrator, Economic Development and Planning.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0703-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0704-26, Review of a petition to annex 29.7 +/- acres from Plain Township to the City of New Albany, Case No. ANX-32-26 (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Tamara Ennist, Planning Administrator, Economic Development and Planning.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0704-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

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Resolution No. 0705-26, Resolution approving subaward agreements with multiple community agencies for Franklin County Out-of-School Time youth programs ($5,745,499.94) (Job and Family Services), presented by Carmen Barnes, Chief Operations Officer, Job and Family Services.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution No. 0705-26, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner Crawley abstaining.

Resolution No. 0707-26, Resolution approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies ($5,756,441.68) (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. 0707-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0708-26, Resolution approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies ($41,880.00) (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. 0708-26, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner Boyce abstaining.

Resolution No. 0709-26, Resolution approving an extension of the term of the Franklin Park Conservatory Joint Recreation District (Board of Commissioners), presented by Eli Redfern, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Prosecuting Attorney.

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

Commissioner Boyce stated he would support the resolution to avoid jeopardizing the federal and state historic tax credits available to the Franklin Park Conservatory, while reiterating concerns regarding the proposed dilution of Franklin County's representation on the Conservatory board and the fencing strategy for Franklin Park. Commissioner Boyce also requested that a follow-up meeting with the advisory board and Area Commission be scheduled as soon as possible.

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Commissioner Boyce asked how much funding could be placed at risk without the extension. Jill Lukshin-Hoff, Chief Financial Officer, Franklin Park Conservatory, responded that the Conservatory had been awarded nearly $10 million between federal and state historic tax credits.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0709-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0710-26, Resolution approving a Memorandum of Understanding between the Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services, the Board of Commissioners on behalf of the Franklin County Office on Aging, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, the Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, the City of Westerville, the City of Upper Arlington, and The Center for Family Safety and Healing regarding responsibilities in cases of adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 5101.621 (Board of Commissioners), presented by Eli Redfern, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Prosecuting Attorney.

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

Commissioner Crawley asked whether the Memorandum of Understanding was new or whether it replaced a prior agreement required periodically under the Ohio Revised Code. Mr. Redfern responded that the agreement in its current form was new and that similar agreements were in place among other agencies in Franklin County.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0710-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0711-26, Resolution appointing Melissa Thompson to the Community Shelter Board of Trustees (Board of Commissioners), presented by Michael E. Ruehrmund, Assistant Director of Community Appointments, Board of Commissioners.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0711-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

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Brittany A. Razek, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, read one (1) journalization into the record:

1. Case #ANX-36-26 - A Municipal annexation petition, ANX-36-26, was filed with the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department on October 14, 2026. The petition is requesting to annex 0.190-acres from Jackson Township to the City of Grove City. The petition will be considered by the Board of Commissioners on November 10, 2026.

   Site:
   1. Existing portion of Jackson Pike right-of-way (D.B. 983, Pg. 150-0.95 Ac.)
   2. Deeded portion of Jackson Pike right-of-way (I.N. 202607230089132-0.95 Ac.)

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Resolution No. 0712-26, of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners to convene into Executive Session to consider the purchase of property for public purposes, the sale of property at competitive bidding, or the sale or other disposition of unneeded, obsolete, or unfit-for-use property in accordance with section 505.10 of the Revised Code, if premature disclosure of information would give an unfair competitive or bargaining advantage to a person whose personal, private interest is adverse to the general public interest, and to confer with the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office concerning pending or imminent litigation (Board of Commissioners)

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0712-26 to convene into Executive Session to consider the purchase of property for public purposes, the sale of property at competitive bidding, or the sale or other disposition of unneeded, obsolete, or unfit-for-use property in accordance with section 505.10 of the Revised Code, if premature disclosure of information would give an unfair competitive or bargaining advantage to a person whose personal, private interest is adverse to the general public interest, and to confer with the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office concerning pending or imminent litigation, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote. The Commissioners convened into Executive Session at 9:51 A.M.

At 11:02 A.M., Commissioner Crawley moved to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Boyce, and the motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote. No substantive action was taken upon exiting Executive Session, and with no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:02 A.M.

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These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' General Session for Tuesday, October 27, 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