

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

February 4, 2025

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

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

Also present on the dais were Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator; Kris Long, Deputy County Administrator; Joy Bivens, Deputy County Administrator; Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget; Shayla Favor, Prosecuting Attorney; and Brittany R. Razek, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners.

Using hybrid meeting technology, participants were also able to access General Session via Zoom conferencing by dialing (929) 436-2866, Meeting ID: 978 8790 2896; Passcode: 628826, or by joining at: <https://franklincountyohio.zoom.us/j/97887902896>

Commissioner Crawley called the meeting to order at 9:08 A.M.

//

Commissioner Crawley: As we begin our first General Session of the month, I want to take a moment to recognize that February is Black History Month—a time to reflect on the contributions, achievements, and resilience of Black individuals throughout our nation's history.

Black History Month is more than just a celebration; it's an opportunity to honor the strength, culture, and progress that have shaped our country. It's also a time to acknowledge the remaining challenges and recommit us to building a future rooted in equity and inclusion.

Honoring Black history means honoring American history. We continue creating a more just and unified nation by learning from the past and amplifying these stories.

In celebration of this important month, we are pleased to have Mr. Gregory Edmonds, President of the Tuskegee Airmen Ohio Memorial Chapter, with us today. As a dedicated advocate for preserving the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen, Mr. Edmonds works tirelessly to ensure their contributions to our nation are remembered and celebrated by educating and inspiring new generations. Please join me in welcoming Gregory Edmonds.

Gregory Edmonds, President of the Tuskegee Airmen Ohio Memorial Chapter: Thank you, Commissioner Crawley, and all commissioners. It is good to see you again. I am honored to be here, and I appreciate Perla Martinez and the Office of Diversity Equity Inclusion for inviting me here. I want all veterans to raise their hands. Thank you for your service. I joined the Tuskegee Airmen in the Detroit chapter while living in Toledo in 1995 and have been affiliated with them since. It happened when I took a group of Boy Scouts to Detroit to see their National Museum, which is still in the Charles Wright Museum of African American History. The Moten Airfield in Tuskegee is the national historic site. If you want to visit the National Museum, you can hike to Detroit. The Tuskegee Airmen overcame many obstacles to achieve greatness. They were told that they were not good enough, that they were an experiment, and that they thought they would fail. However, they overcame, persisted, and persevered in trying times. Why? Love of country. They always say that even though there was segregation rampant and those trying to deny them the opportunity. The common thread, not only with African Americans, but Native Americans. They persisted and rose above. Now, they formed chapters in 1971. Detroit was the first chapter, and other chapters followed, including the one covering Central Ohio, the Ohio Memorial Chapter. The Tuskegee Airmen's legacy was originally for their own benefit, and one had to be an original to join. They then opened it up to active military personnel and civilians, which is why I was able to join in 1995. To that end, their legacy is now perpetuated through their youth programs.

On March 25, we have our Pathways to Aerospace program, which teaches youth ages 15 to 19 about drones. It takes place at Driving Park. On March 28, we celebrate Ohio's Tuskegee Airmen Day at the Village of Lockbourne. I appreciate your support. I know Commissioner Crawley, Commissioner Boyce, and Prosecutor Favor were present when it was held at the National Veterans Memorial Museum.

The second week of July will mark our 17th year with the Buckeye Tigers program for kids ages 12 to 18. We will be at various places like Wright Patt Airforce Base and Museum, NetJets, and John Glenn Airport to expose them to careers in Aerospace. On February 13, the Ohio Supreme Court. We have five portraits painted by Robert Tanner, who is now 90 years old and lives in Delaware.

I want to conclude with a poem by Walter Wintle, "The Man Who Thinks He Can."

If you think you are beaten, you are.  
If you think you dare not, you don't,  
If you like to win, but you think you can't.  
It is almost certain you won't.  
If you think you'll lose, you're lost.  
For out of the world we find,  
Success begins with a fellow's will.  
It's all in the state of mind.

If you think you are outclassed, you are.  
You've got to think high to rise,  
You've got to be sure of yourself before  
You can ever win a prize.

Life's battles don't always go.  
To the stronger or faster man,  
But soon or late the man who wins.  
Is the man who thinks he can.

Commissioner Crawley: Thank you. Can you touch briefly on the connection between the Airmen and Lockbourne or Rickenbacker Airport?

Gregory Edmonds: Yes, Freeman Field, Indiana, had an officer's club, and that is where several of the Tuskegee Airmen were stationed after the war. They tried to push into the club when told they were not good enough. Now, they are lieutenants and were told they could not come in. They pushed past them into Freeman Field into the club, and they were court-martialed, including Mayor Coleman Young. He was a Tuskegee Airman and founded the National Museum in Detroit. After that incident, they ended up transferring them to Lockbourne, which is now Rickenbacker. That is because their last airfield was from 1946 to 1947. President Truman desegregated the military by Executive Order 9981 in 1948. Why did he sign an executive order? Because Congress refused to do it. Thank you for allowing me to share that important part of history.

Commissioner Crawley: Thank you, Gregory, for sharing this important part of history with us. Next, we are joined by some special guests to help us recognize that February is also American Heart Month. As many of you may know, cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. What is often less recognized is that women, especially Black and Hispanic women, face a higher risk of heart disease and stroke. Additionally, research shows that heart attacks are becoming more common among younger women. American Heart Association Executive Director Nancy Tobee is here to tell us more about American Heart Month and what we can all do to make our hearts healthier.

Nancy Tobee, Executive Director, American Heart Association: Good morning. Thank you for having us. First, thank Commissioner Mazzola for helping us get here and President Crawley and the Franklin County Board of Commissioners for passing the resolution honoring February as American Heart Month. Cardiovascular disease continues to remain the number one health threat, and recent statistical updates show it kills more people than the number two and number three causes of death combined. We know that it is highly preventable. Our work alongside Franklin County Public Health is helping to ensure everyone has access to care and the opportunity for a full, healthy life. Our mission is to make sure everyone has health and hope everywhere. Again, working with Franklin County Public Health and many collaborators in the community, we are starting to see sustainable health wins that will make changes for our community and allow people to live longer. I am honored to be standing with Ali Dorsett, who is not only a friend of the American Heart Association but has also been impacted by our mission and is a survivor.

Ali Dorsett: Thank you all for having me and letting me tell my story. A little background about me: I am from Canton, Ohio, and came to Ohio State. Health and fitness played an important role in my life. I have spent my entire life being active, including college, where I was an Ohio State cheerleader. After college, I got married and had three kids. Shortly after having my third, we went home for Thanksgiving, and my mom collapsed. Unfortunately, it was an event that I was not expecting, and my life took a big turn. From that moment, I really started to believe in listening to

your body and that there are signs that your body gives you. Fast forward a year. I was tired, and things were normal in my mom's life, and I started to notice pains in my shoulder. I would carry a laundry basket, shake my arm, and go about my day. I mentioned it to a neighbor who was in the medical field, and they advised me to get it looked at. I had a stress echo, which is rare, but I am grateful. I went in on a Friday, and that Monday, I had the stress echo, which I passed with flying colors. Later that evening, they called my husband and said they found two significant issues. I had an enlargement in my left ventricle, and my ejection fraction was at 20%. The next few months were filled with appointments, and I got put on an external defibrillator. I kept searching for answers and ended up going through genetic testing. It came back that I carry a gene directly correlated with the risk of sudden death and the risk of dilated cardiomyopathy. Finally, after getting my diagnosis, they told me I would need an internal defibrillator. It will be five years this month that I got my defibrillator implanted at Ohio State. I have been seeing the medical team for heart failure and electrophysiology. I always say knowledge is power, and I am able to take the right actions, and now that I know, I can take the right actions. I am honored to be a part of the American Heart Association. I didn't mention that having three kids does impact them. They have gotten involved in the Heart Association and have been genetically tested. My one child's future will be a long heart health journey. I appreciate the awareness building because it will affect future generations.

Commissioner Crawley: Thank you, Nancy and Ali, for sharing more about American Heart Month.

//

**Resolution No. 0080-25**, ordering the Clerk to transmit the adjusted schedule of assessments for the improvements to the Cook Tri-County Ditch Watershed to the County Auditors of Franklin County, Delaware County, and Licking County, Ohio (Board of Commissioners), presented by Nick Soulas, Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0080-25, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0081-25**, the 2025 Resurfacing Program for Franklin County, Ohio, declared necessary and hearing fixed for Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 9:00 A.M. (Engineer), presented by Adam Fowler, P.E., P.S., Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0081-25, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0082-25**, MS Consultants, Inc., consulting engineers, appointed to assist the Franklin County Engineer by providing real estate acquisition services for the Cooke Road, County Road No. 80, from Karl Road, County Road No. 76, to Cleveland Avenue, County Road No. 75 Improvement project, Clinton Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$406,550.00) (Engineer), presented by Adam Fowler, P.E., P.S., Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0082-25, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0083-25**, requesting the Ohio Department of Transportation to reduce the speed limit on Berger Road, Township Road No. 227, Madison Township, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer), presented by Adam Fowler, P.E., P.S., Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0083-25, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0084-25**, requesting the Ohio Department of Transportation to reduce the speed limit on Feder Road, County Road No. 22, Brown Township and Prairie Township, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer), presented by Adam Fowler, P.E., P.S., Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0084-25, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0085-25**, Plum Run Crossing accepted for public maintenance and shall become part of the Jackson Township Road System, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer), presented by Adam Fowler, P.E., P.S., Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0085-25, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0086-25**, accepting the annual bridge inspection report for 2024 (Engineer), presented by Adam Fowler, P.E., P.S., Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0086-25, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0087-25**, authorizing the Franklin County Administrator and the Director of Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security to execute an FY2024 Urban Area Security Initiative grant and authorizing the Director of Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security to be the designated Agent for administration purposes (\$1,500,000.00) (Emergency Management Agency), presented by Jeff Young, Director, Emergency Management Agency.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0087-25, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0088-25**, Case #ANX-22-24 - Review of petition to annex 104.5 +/- acres from Washington Township to the City of Dublin (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Emanuel Torres, Assistant Director, Economic Development and Planning.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0088-25, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0089-25**, responding to the January 14, 2025, notice received concerning the proposed creation of a Tax Increment Financing Incentive District in the City of Whitehall (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Emanuel Torres, Assistant Director, Economic Development and Planning.

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

*Commissioner Boyce noted that they are deferring taxes to an economic development project in an area that needs that resource to uplift it, create jobs, support economic development, and impact community development efforts. Commissioner Boyce asked if the commissioners had authority on all Tax Increment Financing (TIF), including Columbus.*

*Mr. Torres stated that the commissioners do have the authority, and this TIF is related to the development of residential units.*

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0089-25, seconded by Commissioner O’Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0090-25**, authorizing a professional service contract agreement with IMPACT Community Action for peer support and case management services for residents served through the Pathways Achieving Recovery by Choice Program (\$23,567.00) (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Melissa Pierson, Deputy Director of Justice Services, Justice Policy and Programs.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0090-25, seconded by Commissioner O’Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0091-25**, authorizing execution of a Lease Agreement with The Reeb Center for leased space to implement a centralized location for the provision of peer support and other supportive services (\$23,128.68) (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Melissa Pierson, Deputy Director of Justice Services, Justice Policy and Programs.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0091-25, seconded by Commissioner O’Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0092-25**, approving purchases for various Franklin County Agencies (\$4,233,298.64) (Purchasing), presented by Traci Mathew, Assistant Director, Purchasing, and Andrena Austin, Economic Equity Administrator, Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0092-25, seconded by Commissioner O’Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0093-25**, approving purchases for various Franklin County Agencies (\$168,828.25) (Purchasing), presented by Traci Mathew, Assistant Director, Purchasing.

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

Commissioner O’Grady moved to approve Resolution 0093-25, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner Boyce abstaining.

//

Brittany A. Razek, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, read two (2) journalizations into the record:

1. Case #ANX-02-25 - An Expedited Type 2 annexation petition, #ANX-02-25, was filed with the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department on January 31, 2025. The petition is requesting to annex 8.618-acres from Franklin Township to the City of Columbus. The petition will be considered by the Board of Commissioners on March 11, 2025.

Site: 1696 North Hague Avenue (PID No.:140-000312 / 140-003344)

2. The document that has been presented to each of you today has been sent to your offices via email and is being journalized as required under Resolution No. 0392-24, Intergovernmental Agreements. The Clerk’s Office has been tracking each contract that is signed by the County Administrator under this authority as required by the Resolution. The list provided to you will be captured in today’s meeting minutes.

<b>Resolution No. 0392-24 - Intergovernmental Agreements</b> Clerk to journalize monthly	
<b>Date Signed</b>	<b>Contract Information</b>
12/12/2024	Franklin County Radio Subscriber Agreement - Franklin County Board of Commissioners and Franklin County Coroner's Office.
1/10/2025	Media Services Contract - Franklin County Board of Commissioners and City of Columbus
1/14/2025	MOU - JFS and FCCS



1/17/2025	Tenth Amendment to Intergovernmental Agreement - Franklin County Board of Commissioners and Franklin County Transportation Improvement District
1/28/2025	Master Agreement with City of Westerville for WeConnect
1/28/2025	SF425 and Certifications - 2016 HOME Grant

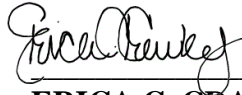
//

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:51 a.m.

//

**(Signature Page Follows)**

These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' General Session for Tuesday, February 4, 2025.



**ERICA C. CRAWLEY, PRESIDENT**

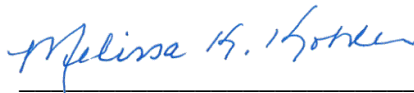


**JOHN O'GRADY**



**KEVIN L. BOYCE  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

Submitted by:



**Melissa K. Kohler  
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners**