

COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING – MONDAY APRIL 27, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Brian Baird at 10:00 a.m. Kevin Walls and Ron West were present.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. West gave the Invocation and Mr. Baird led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment – *(limited to agenda topics and 5 minutes per person)*

Linda Norton, (3620 N Hurricane Rd, Franklin IN 46131) was present to address the City of Franklin and the Commissioners' proposal to pursue a \$500,000 survey indicating a need for a highway interchange located at 300 N and I 65 with anticipation of future development in the area (agenda item F3). Mrs. Norton stated that not only is this land not in Franklin's jurisdiction, but it is also not for sale. She also stated that the proposed new comprehensive plan has the land along 300 North marked as commercial activity center, light industrial for the future and has neglected to add farming, which is the most likely use of this land. Mrs. Norton also spoke and voiced her opinions about the crime that this construction could possibly bring to the area.

William McTurnan, (4463 E 300 N, Franklin, IN 46131) was present representing the LaGrange Farm with whom he is part-owner with his uncle Thomas Hill. Mr. McTurnan stated the farm has been in his family for 175 years and has no intention of developing. He stated he would like to know what the survey represents. Mr. Walls answered that they will do a study on traffic in Franklin, all surrounding roads, to see what the impact is going to be. Mr. McTurnan asked if it was more than just 300 N; Mr. Walls answered, yes.

Tom Hill wanted to add to what Mr. McTurnan said; he stated that over the years, it has been an active farm. He stated that some years ago, I-65 came through and divided the farm in half, and now, with the proposed interstate, it's just more acreage lost, and he would just like that to be considered.

Cole Campbell, (1790 Hillside dr, Franklin, IN 46131) a seventh-generation farmer whose family has been operating off the same farm since 1834. The farm is on CR 300 N and is less than a mile from the proposed interchange. Mr. Campbell is a young farmer who intends to operate in this county for as long as sustainably possible. He serves on the Johnson County Fair Board of Directors and is an active member of the Johnson County Farm Bureau Board. He is present to speak against the proposed \$500,000 study for an interchange at 300 N. He stated to him this is not just a study; this is a first step towards development that will permanently change the area and put additional pressure on productive farm ground. He stated this also creates safety concerns as farmers. They already have limited options to move equipment across the county. Adding more traffic and congestion to the area will make it even more difficult and more dangerous to move large farm equipment from field to field safely. It's not just an inconvenience; it's a risk to the farmers and to the public.

Mr. West read aloud the purpose of the survey and what the evaluation consists of:

- 1. The coordination with various agencies and stakeholders for the purpose of acquiring and reviewing data information for the preparation of the study report.*
- 2. Review of existing studies and/or reports that will impact the development of CR 300 N. I65 interchange.*

3. *Field investigation, on-site collection of data, preliminary drainage assessment. Horizontal vertical alignment alternatives for two different alternates using available GIS information.*
4. *Development of typical roadway sections. Determine preliminary right of way needs for each alternate.*
5. *Develop preliminary assessment of costs for each alternate. Preferred alternate alignment up to two schematic alternates on aerial photos. Preliminary utility impact assessment.*

Discover Downtown Franklin – Strawberries on the Square Event May 22nd

Danny Causey, Director, was present to ask for access for two of the water spigots for the Indiana American Water trailer and the Oriental Cookery trailer, as done in prior years.

Mr. Walls moved to approve the above request as presented. Mr. West seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

Franklin American Legion Post 202 – Field of Crosses and Memorial Day Event

Mr. Walls moved to approve the above request as presented. Mr. West seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

Routine Matters – Consent Agenda

By a single motion, the Commissioners approve the following items, which may include annual contracts, grant application forms, ratifications, change orders, ordinance, resolutions, and meeting minutes. Any items listed on the consent agenda may be removed by a Commissioner and moved to the regular agenda.

- A. *Ratification of Commissioners’ Department Liaison List*
- B. *Ratification of INDOT Local Roads and Bridges Matching Grant Agreement for Project Description #2600250*
- C. *Minutes:*
 1. *4/13/2026 – Executive Session*
 2. *4/13/2026 – Joint Executive Session with Johnson Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees*

Mr. West moved to approve the above requests as presented. Mr. Walls seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

Elected Officials and Department Heads

A. Public Safety Communications

1. Johnson County Public Safety Communications Advisory Board Appointments

Heath Brant, Director, was present to discuss board appointments. Mr. Brant stated the current board members are willing to continue to serve and he asked for them to be reappointed

Mr. Walls moved to approve the above requests as submitted. Mr. West seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

2. Request to Attend the 2026 National APCO Conference, August 2nd thru 5th, in San Antonio, Texas

Mr. Brant stated this is a request for himself and Kip Werden, who is the Training Coordinator. They have been selected to be presenters at the conference, so it is free, it is just a matter of travel.

Mr. West moved to approve the above request as presented. Mr. Walls seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

3. Request to Attend the 2026 Be the Difference Conference, July 19th thru 22nd, in Knoxville, Tennessee

Mr. Brant stated this conference was for one of his supervisors, who entered a contest with the Denise Amber Lee Foundation and won. There will be no cost to the County for her travel or attendance.

Mr. Walls moved to table this request. Mr. West seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

B. Recorder

1. Request to Attend the 2026 Annual Fidler Education Symposium, May 18th thru May 20th, Rock Island, Illinois

Angel Wiser, Chief Deputy Recorder, was present to discuss the request. She stated this is something they attend every year. It's an educational symposium from Fidler.

Mr. West moved to approve the above request as presented. Mr. Walls seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

C. Extension Office

1. Approval of Toshiba Sales order and maintenance Contract

Mr. West moved to approve the above request as presented. Mr. Walls seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

D. Animal Shelter

Discussion for Permission to Begin a New Initiative for Return to Owner Fees

Removed from agenda by Cari Klotzche. Tabled until next meeting.

E. Highway

1. Approval of Braden Office Equipment Sales Order and Maintenance Contract

Luke Mastin, Supervisor, was present for approval.

Mr. Walls moved to approve the above request as presented. Mr. West seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

2. Award and Execution of Construction Contract for Bridge 85 and Culvert P-0004 Project

Daniel Johnston, Engineer, was present for the award and execution of the construction contract with Duncan Robertson, Inc. Mr. West asked for the amount that is being paid. Mr. Johnston stated the total contract amount was \$1,517,573.00, the portion for Bridge 85 was \$1,057,770.00, the portion for the culvert was \$459,802.00. For the County's share of the project for construction is \$671,356.00. The inspection fees for the contract were \$191,500.00. The County's share of that is \$106,878.00.

Mr. Walls moved to approve the above request as presented. Mr. West seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

3. Approval of CrossRoad Engineers, PC Construction Inspection Contract for Bridge 85 and Culvert P-0004 Project

Mr. Johnston was present to request the approval of CrossRoad Engineers, PC Construction Inspection Contract for Bridge 85 and Culvert P-0004 Project.

Mr. Walls moved to approve the above request as presented. Mr. West seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

4. Award and Execution of Construction Contract for 2026 Mill and Overlay Project

Mr. Johnston was present for award and execution of construction contract for 2026 Mill and Overlay Project to Calumet Civil Contractors, Inc. He also noted they are requesting an additional \$35,000 for the contingency.

Mr. Walls moved to approve the above request as presented. Mr. West seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

5. Approval of CrossRoad Engineers, PC Preliminary Engineering and RW Services Contract for Fairview Road and Leisure Lane Roundabout and Bridge 137 Superstructure Replacement Project

Mr. Johnston was present for approval of the PC Preliminary Engineering and RW Services contract with CrossRoad Engineers.

Mr. West moved to approve the above request as presented. Mr. Walls seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

F. Board of Commissioners

1. Ratification of Hearing Officer Appointment and Hearing Date – Pleasant Township Appeal

Mr. Baird stated the Hearing Officer will be Commissioner Ron West, and the hearing date will be 4/27/26 at 1:00 pm.

Mr. Walls moved to approve the above request as presented. Mr. West seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

2. Acceptance of Quote and Award of Contract Pursuant to IC 36-1-12-5 for Courthouse Roof Project

Mr. Baird stated the contract is awarded to Kammerling Construction with a quote of \$260,927.00.

Mr. Walls moved to approve the above request as presented. Mr. West seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

3. Approval of Interlocal Agreement with City of Franklin for Engineer Purpose of I-65 Interstate Access Document Development Project

Mr. Walls stated this was a long-range project, it is not going to happen quickly, as there is a lot of red tape. Mr. West stated that with or without the County, is something that the City will move forward with. He also stated they would rather be included as things progress.

Mr. Walls moved to approve the above request as presented. Mr. West seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

Mrs. Norton asked that when the study is done, any traffic rerouted due to construction be taken into consideration.

4. Award and Execution of Construction Contract for Johnson County Park Pickleball, Basketball and Tennis Courts Project

Mr. Baird stated the contract is awarded to All Star Paving, Inc. Mr. West asked if he could have a breakdown of all the costs for the project. Mr. Baird stated that he could provide the numbers for the project.

Mr. West moved to approve the above request as presented. Mr. Walls seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

5. Claims and Credit Card

Mr. West mentioned the thousands of dollars that are being spent on the interpreters' services. He would like to investigate these services more seriously.

Mr. West moved to approve the above request as presented. Mr. Walls seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

New and Old Business

There was no new or old business discussed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. West moved to adjourn. Mr. Walls seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

REGULAR COMMISSIONERS' MEETING – MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026



Brian Baird



Kevin Walls



Ron West

Attest:
Elizabeth A. Alvey
Auditor


