

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

January 6th, 2026

A recording of the meeting can be found at www.youtube.com/@FranklinCountyBoardofSupervisors/streams

The Board of Supervisors met at 8:30AM on Tuesday, January 6th, 2026, at the Franklin County Courthouse for a regular session with Board members Lukensmeyer, McVicker, and Vanness present.

Motion by Lukensmeyer, seconded by McVicker to approve the agenda as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by McVicker, seconded by Lukensmeyer to approve the minutes from the 1/2/2026 special session. All ayes. Motion carried.

Board Committee Updates & Public Comment: McVicker attended Northeast Iowa Workforce Development Finance Committee.

Jay Waddingham, Secondary Roads Engineer met with the Supervisors for a department update.

Motion by McVicker, seconded by Lukensmeyer to approve a resolution authorizing the County Engineer to execute certification of completion and final acceptance on farm-to-market construction projects. The resolution reads in full:

RESOLUTION #2026-7

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ENGINEER TO EXECUTE CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETION AND FINAL
ACCEPTANCE ON FARM-TO- MARKET CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

Be it resolved by the Franklin County Board of Supervisors that John (Jay) Waddingham, the County Engineer of Franklin County, Iowa, is hereby designated, authorized and empowered on behalf of the Board of Supervisors of said County to execute the certification of completion of work and final acceptance thereof in accordance with plans and specifications therefore in connection with all Farm to Market construction projects in this county.

Roll call vote was as follows, Ayes: Lukensmeyer, McVicker, Vanness; Nays: None. Motion carried and resolution duly adopted.

Motion by Lukensmeyer, seconded by McVicker to approve a resolution authorizing the County Engineer to sign for and collect federal disaster relief funds. The resolution reads in full:

RESOLUTION #2026-6

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ENGINEER TO SIGN FOR AND COLLECT FEDERAL DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS

The Franklin County Board of Supervisors does hereby authorize the County Engineer for Franklin County, John (Jay) Waddingham, to sign for and collect Federal Disaster Relief funds on behalf of Franklin County for any secondary road or bridge damage.

Roll call vote was as follows, Ayes: Lukensmeyer, McVicker, Vanness; Nays: None. Motion carried and resolution duly adopted.

Motion by McVicker, seconded by Lukensmeyer to approve a resolution authorizing the county engineer to close secondary roads in emergency and necessary situations. The resolution reads in full:

RESOLUTION #2026-5

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ENGINEER TO CLOSE SECONDARY ROADS IN EMERGENCY & NECESSARY
SITUATIONS**

Be it resolved by the Franklin County Board of Supervisors that John (Jay) Waddingham, the County Engineer for Franklin County, Iowa, is hereby authorized to close secondary roads or portions thereof in emergency situations to safeguard the traveling public. Be it also resolved by the Franklin County Board of Supervisors that John (Jay) Waddingham, the County Engineer for Franklin County, Iowa, is hereby authorized to close secondary roads or portions thereof in necessary situations for the construction or repair of roads.

Roll call vote was as follows, Ayes: Lukensmeyer, McVicker, Vanness; Nays: None. Motion carried and resolution duly adopted.

The Supervisors continued discussion regarding funding of courthouse projects. After discussion, they directed the Auditor to move forward with a GO Bond and placing the Courthouse into an Urban Renewal Area for funding purposes.

Motion by Lukensmeyer, seconded by McVicker to approve claims as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Acting as drainage trustees, motion by Lukensmeyer, seconded by McVicker to approve drainage claims as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Lukensmeyer, seconded by McVicker to appoint Eric Arenholz as EMA Director for 2026. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by McVicker, seconded by Lukensmeyer to appoint Dan Tilkes as Weed Commissioner/Sanitarian/Planning & Zoning Administrator for 2026. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Lukensmeyer, seconded by McVicker to appoint Adam Akers as Veterans Affairs Director for 2026. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Lukensmeyer, seconded by McVicker to appoint John "Jay" Waddingham as Secondary Roads Engineer for 2026. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by McVicker, seconded by Lukensmeyer to appoint Julie Pralle as General Services Director for 2026. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Lukensmeyer, seconded by McVicker to set Hampton Chronicle as the official newspaper of Franklin County for 2026. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Vanness, seconded by McVicker to authorize the Auditor to issue checks in 2026 per Iowa Code §331.506. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Lukensmeyer, seconded by McVicker to approve the list of Board & Commission appointments for members of the Board of Supervisors for 2026. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Lukensmeyer, seconded by Vanness to approve a resolution for Master Matrix Construction Evaluation. The resolution reads in full:

**RESOLUTION #2026-2
CONSTRUCTION EVALUATION RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS Iowa Code section 459.304(3) sets out the procedure if a board of supervisors wishes to adopt a "construction evaluation resolution" relating to the construction of a confinement feeding operation structure; and **WHEREAS** only counties that have adopted a construction evaluation resolution can submit to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) an adopted recommendation to approve or disapprove a construction permit application regarding a proposed confinement feeding operation structure; and **WHEREAS** only counties that have adopted a construction evaluation resolution and submitted an adopted recommendation may contest the DNR's decision regarding a specific application; and **WHEREAS**, by adopting a construction evaluation resolution the board of supervisors agrees to evaluate every construction permit application for a proposed confinement feeding operation structure received by the board of supervisors between February 1, 2026, and January 31, 2027, and submit an adopted recommendation regarding that application to the DNR; and **WHEREAS** the board of supervisors must conduct an evaluation of every construction permit application using the master matrix created in Iowa Code section 459.305, but the board's recommendation to the DNR may be based on the final score on the master matrix or may be based on reasons other than the final score on the master matrix. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY** that the Board of Supervisors hereby adopts this construction evaluation resolution pursuant to Iowa Code section 459.304(3).

Roll call vote was as follows, Ayes: Lukensmeyer, McVicker, Vanness; Nays: None. Motion carried and resolution duly adopted.

Motion by McVicker, seconded by Lukensmeyer to approve a resolution for investigation of drainage districts per request. The resolution reads in full:

**RESOLUTION 2026-3
FRANKLIN COUNTY INVESTIGATION OF DRAINAGE DISTRICTS PER REQUESTS**

NOW, ON THIS 5TH DAY OF JANUARY 2026, THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ACTING AS DRAINAGE DISTRICT TRUSTEES: WHEREAS, SAID TRUSTEES BELIEVE THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF DRAINAGE DISTRICTS THAT INDIVIDUALS, LANDOWNERS, OR ENTITIES MAKING REQUESTS FOR DISTRICT INVESTIGATION OF REPAIRS BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COSTS OF THOSE INVESTIGATIONS IN THE EVENT THAT THE SOURCE OF THE NEED FOR REPAIRS WOULD BE PRIVATELY-OWNED TILE AND NOT PART OF THE DRAINAGE DISTRICT FACILITIES OR NO PROBLEM IS FOUND AND THE DRAINAGE DISTRICT FACILITY IS ANYTHING OTHER THAN OPEN DITCH. BE IT RESOLVED THAT IN THE EVENT ANY INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY MAKES A REQUEST TO THE DRAINAGE DISTRICT TO INVESTIGATE PROPOSED REPAIRS WHICH REQUIRE THE DISTRICT TO EXPEND FUNDS TO DETERMINE THE LOCATION OF NEEDED REPAIRS, FEASIBILITY OF REPAIRS, OR ANY OTHER COSTS INCURRED IN CONNECTION WITH INVESTIGATING THE REQUEST AND THAT IN THE EVENT IN THE COURSE OF INVESTIGATION IT IS DISCOVERED THAT THE DRAINAGE TILE OR RELATED STRUCTURES NEEDING REPAIR ARE NOT UNDER THE DRAINAGE DISTRICT'S CONTROL, THEN THE INDIVIDUAL, LANDOWNER, OR ENTITY REQUESTING THE INVESTIGATION SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT OF ANY EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE DISTRICT. IF SAID INVESTIGATION RESULTS IN NO PROBLEM DISCOVERED, SAID REQUESTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT OF ANY EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE DISTRICT. THIS DOES NOT APPLY TO DRAINAGE DISTRICT FACILITIES THAT ARE OPEN DITCHES. IF THE INVESTIGATION IN THE DISTRICT FINDS A PROBLEM WITH DISTRICT FACILITIES, THEN SAID DISTRICT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT OF ANY EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE DISTRICT AS ALLOWED BY IOWA CODE. THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ACTING AS DRAINAGE DISTRICT TRUSTEES AUTHORIZE THE FRANKLIN COUNTY AUDITOR TO PREPARE THE NECESSARY FORM FOR THE INDIVIDUAL LANDOWNER, OR ENTITY TO EXECUTE PRIOR TO ANY INVESTIGATION (EXCEPT OPEN DITCHES) IN A FORM NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE INTENT OF THIS RESOLUTION.

Roll call vote was as follows, Ayes: Lukensmeyer, McVicker, Vanness; Nays: None. Motion carried and resolution duly adopted.

Motion by McVicker, seconded by Lukensmeyer to approve a resolution appointing deputies and assistants:

**RESOLUTION #2026-1
RESOLUTION TO APPOINT DEPUTIES AND ASSISTANTS**

WHEREAS, Iowa Code 331.903 requires that the number of deputies, assistants, and clerks for each office shall be determined by the board and the number and approval of each appointment shall be adopted by a resolution recorded in the minutes of the board, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors approve the appointments of the following staff members to fill the positions authorized above:

Amy Holmgard, Deputy Auditor
Stacey Pratt, Deputy Recorder
Joel McWilliams, Chief Deputy Sheriff
Cindy Shelton, Deputy Treasurer
David Kuehner, Assistant County Attorney

Roll call vote was as follows, Ayes: Lukensmeyer, McVicker, Vanness; Nays: None. Motion carried and resolution duly adopted.

Motion by Lukensmeyer, seconded by McVicker to freeze the current mileage rate at .70 per mile and re-evaluate in 6 months. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Lukensmeyer, seconded by McVicker to approve the list of representatives to various NIACOG boards as presented for 2026. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by McVicker, seconded by Lukensmeyer to appoint Jay Waddingham to the Landfill of North Iowa Board of Directors for 2026. All ayes. Motion carried.

Chairman Vanness adjourned the meeting at 9:38AM until Tuesday, January 13th, 2026, at 8:30AM at the Franklin County Courthouse for a regular session.

ATTEST:

Chris Vanness, Chairman

Katy A. Flint, Auditor & Clerk to the Board