

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Briefing Session Minutes  
Thursday, July 6, 2023

President O'Grady  
Commissioner Crawley

The purpose of the meeting was to review resolutions submitted for the July 11, 2023, General Session, and to discuss other matters pertaining to the programs of the agencies.

The meeting was convened in the Commissioners Briefing Room, while also hosting guests via Zoom conference call, by dialing (929) 436-2866; Meeting ID: 978 8790 2896; Passcode: 628826, or by visiting: <https://franklincountyohio.zoom.us/j/97887902896>

Commissioner Crawley convened the meeting at 9:13 A.M.

CORONER

Amanda Alvarez Wright, Director of Operations, Coroner's Office, offered a resolution authorizing the Franklin County Administrator and Coroner to sign an Agreement with The Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine for Non-Hospital Teaching Agreement (Coroner).

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

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Robin Moorhead, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, offered a resolution authorizing Contract Modification #1 and Extension #2 with Alban & Alban LLP, Columbus Title Agency of Westerville, Inc., and Paramount Title Agency, Inc., respectively, for Title Insurance Services (\$300,000.00) (Prosecuting Attorney).

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

### ANIMAL CONTROL

April Ricciardo, Assistant Director, Animal Control, offered a resolution authorizing a First Contract Amendment with Pethealth Services (USA) Inc. for the conversion of Data to support a new Case Management System (Animal Control).

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

### CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

William Peltcs, Assistant Director, Child Support Enforcement, offered a resolution authorizing a IV-D contract between the Franklin County Child Support Enforcement Agency and the Franklin County Clerk of Courts (\$273,023.59) (Child Support Enforcement).

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

### COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Curtis Brown, Community Partnerships Administrator, Community Partnerships, offered a resolution authorizing COVID-19 Recovery Grant Agreements to various Franklin County nonprofit organizations to assist with various capital improvement and expansion projects (\$3,551,135.00) (Community Partnerships).

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

Curtis Brown offered a resolution authorizing a grant agreement extension with the Central Ohio Workers Center (\$300,000.00) (Community Partnerships).

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

Curtis Brown offered a resolution authorizing one-year grant extensions to 21 nonprofits related to the Community Partnerships grant program (\$3,489,116.00) (Community Partnerships).

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

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

James Schimmer, Director, Economic Development and Planning, offered a resolution authorizing a Contract and Agreement with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for Floodplain Review (\$10,000.00) (Economic Development and Planning).

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

James Schimmer offered a resolution authorizing the First Amendment to the Economic Development Grant Agreement with Columbus Urban League to establish a new fund for the purpose of providing microenterprise low-interest loans to Franklin County minority businesses (\$950,000.00) (Economic Development and Planning).

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

Commissioner Crawley: So, this is just to extend the contract from December to when?

Mr. Schimmer: August.

Commissioner Crawley: How many loans have been provided already? What businesses have those gone to? What is the board makeup?

Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator: That is why we have the Executive Director of Freedom Equity, Averi Frost, joining us today. I wanted you to get an update on the work of Freedom Equity. This resolution is on the Voting Session agenda following Briefing Session today.

J. Averi Frost, Executive Director, Freedom Equity: As Director Schimmer outlined, we got the initial funding in 2021, and since then, we have been laying down the foundation for this organization. From the incorporation at the end of 2021 until my hiring in March 2022, we filled our initial Board of Directors. President Hightower is our Board Chair. Sean Grant from The Columbus Partnership is our Treasurer. Danielle Sydnor from the Rise Together Innovation Center is our Secretary. The board is rounded out by Mark Hatcher and Letha Pugh. We have a staff of five at this time. We took the duration of 2022 to build that out. Our team includes myself, a Director of Lending, a Director of Operations, and a couple of Relationship Managers. We also have an intern who will be with us through the summer. We have been seeing borrowers. We have a pipeline of 300+ Black businesses in Franklin County that are interested in receiving our funding. We started our lending activity in 2023. Since March 29, we have closed six loans and approved a seventh, but we haven't completed those closing documents. The average loan size is \$50,400.00. All of these are at a 5% interest rate, with a 1% annual fee associated with them. Since we started making the loans, we have started seeing some repayments and are very excited about that. We have received about \$5,000.00 back in repayments from our borrowers over the last two months.

Ms. Frost (cont.): They have an average monthly loan payment between \$850.00 and \$1,500.00, depending on their loan term. The borrowers have been approved for loan terms that are between 36 months and 60 months. We have provided loans to two food service businesses, a mental health company, a moving company, an education services company, and an auto sales company. We will hopefully approve our first start-up this month, but all of the other businesses I mentioned have been in business since at least 2019. All of them are small businesses located in Franklin County. All of them are also either current employers, or will be employing imminently based on this funding.

Commissioner Crawley: Thank you for providing that update. It is exciting to hear that six loans have gone out, with another one pending.

Erik Janas, Deputy County Administrator: The Board will be voting on this resolution after the completion of the Briefing agenda.

### JUSTICE POLICY AND PROGRAMS

Melissa Pierson, Chief Operating Officer, Justice Policy and Programs, offered a resolution authorizing a contract with Mandi Pierson, of PorchLight, LLC, for the purpose of conducting four Trauma Informed Interviewing Methods trainings developed with expert analysis in connection with the Blueprint for Safety Initiative (\$3,400.00) (Justice Policy and Programs).

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

Melissa Pierson offered a resolution authorizing a contract agreement amendment with Jordan's Crossing allocating additional funding to equipment for linkage to care services (\$16,000.00) (Justice Policy and Programs).

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

Melissa Pierson offered a resolution authorizing a professional service contract agreement with Sabrina Clifton for peer support and case management services for justice involved residents served through the Franklin County Rapid Resource Center (\$25,000.00) (Justice Policy and Programs).

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

## SANITARY ENGINEERS

Ryan Stowe, Assistant Director, Sanitary Engineers, offered a resolution authorizing a contract for professional engineering services with Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. for Gladys-Inah Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project (\$212,240.50) (Sanitary Engineers).

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

Ryan Stowe offered a resolution approving modifications to the contract for water service and the contract for sanitary sewer service between the County and the City of Columbus (Sanitary Engineers).

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

## HUMAN RESOURCES

Jodi Leis, Assistant Director, Human Resources, offered a resolution authorizing a contract with United Healthcare Services, Inc. to provide medical plan administration services for the Franklin County Cooperative Health Improvement Program (\$10,800,000.00) (Human Resources).

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

## PURCHASING

Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing, offered a resolution authorizing Third Contract Modifications with twenty-two (22) Providers and a Fourth Contract Modification with one (1) Provider for Consolidated County Transportation Services (Lift, Non-Lift and Escort) (\$24,378,157.00) (Purchasing).

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

Megan Perry-Balonier offered a resolution authorizing a Supplemental Contract with Monterey Consultants, Inc. to provide an eProcurement automation assessment and purchasing support services (\$548,884.00) (Purchasing).

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

Megan Perry-Balonier and Damika Withers, Chief Economic Equity and Inclusion Officer, Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion, offered a resolution approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$10,925,599.05) (Purchasing).

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

### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Ben Kitto, Partner, Ice Miller Legal Counsel, offered a resolution authorizing the issuance of not to exceed \$65,000,000 County of Franklin, Ohio Health Care Facilities Revenue Bonds (Ohio Living Communities) (the "Bonds"); and approving the execution of a base lease, a lease, an assignment and related matters in connection with the issuance of the Bonds (Board of Commissioners).

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

Commissioner O'Grady: On Tuesday, could you please explain that these bonds are not backed by the County, and Franklin County carries no financial obligation?

Mr. Kitto: Yes, I would be happy to. That is correct; these are different from bonds that would be issued by the County or backed by any financial obligation of the County. All of the financial obligations and material obligations under the documents are those of Ohio Living. That is why the tax code requirement is needed. That is not required when Franklin County issues its own bonds, but it is required with Hospital Commission issuance of bonds on behalf of a 501(c)(3).

Commissioner O'Grady: Can you explain the purpose of coming before us to ask us to approve these?

Mr. Kitto: The specific citation to the tax code is Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) of 1986, which is on the federal side. There is also a state law approval that we are requesting, which is the authorization of the issuance by the Hospital Commission.

Commissioner O'Grady: When these come up, it is good for you to explain to the viewing public that you are required to come to the Board of Commissioners to ask us for approval

Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator: Yes, they are required to come to the applicable elected officials. That point is important because sometimes these matters cross multiple counties. These bonds do not carry any obligation on the County itself.

Erik Janas, Deputy County Administrator: Can I clarify that it is not the Hospital Commission that issues the bonds?

Mr. Kitto: Correct; the County is acting through the Hospital Commission.

Mr. Janas: Right, so this is just approval of the bond issuance.

Jeanine Hummer, First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Chief Counsel, Prosecuting Attorney's Office: It is administrative approval to act in an administrative role of processing these documents, as opposed to the substantive role that you are normally involved in when the County issues its own bonds.

Commissioner O'Grady: I bring this up in case there is news media or interested public parties at General Session. I want folks to understand all of this.

Commissioner Crawley: I agree. This discussion is great because I do not know everything about this process either. For this resolution, when it came to the Hospital Commission for their approval, was it approved by a roll call vote, or was there a vote? I would like to know if there was a vote by the members of the Hospital Commission; why isn't that documented in this resolution? We just have a paragraph that states that the Hospital Commission conducted a public hearing, which satisfies the IRC requirements.

Ms. Hummer: I did attend the Hospital Commission meeting, along with your appointee, Zachary Talarek. There was a vote, and it was unanimous among all of the members who were present at the meeting. There were documents executed pursuant to that vote, and if you would like to see those documents, we would be happy to share them.

Commissioner Crawley: Why wouldn't those documents be a part of the documents included in the resolution?

Ms. Hummer: Part of that was the timing. We just had the action by the Hospital Commission, so that had not yet occurred by the time we had to submit this resolution. We can always update the resolution prior to Tuesday to add that information.

Mr. Kitto: Yes, we would be happy to do that. Just for clarification, the resolution that you will have in front of you on Tuesday will be for an amount not to exceed \$500,000,000.00. The Briefing agenda reads \$65,000,000.00, and that will be updated. The distinction is that for federal tax purposes, we are doing a plan of enhanced authorization, which will cover what Ohio Living might finance and refinance in the next three years. This bond issue is for \$65,000,000.00, which the Hospital Commission approved.

Mr. Wilson: A question that Commissioner Boyce will likely ask is what is the underwriting syndicate that has been selected for this issuance?

Mr. Kitto: It is Ziegler, who is one of the leaders in the senior living industry. I will let Mr. Stillman speak about their relationship with Ohio Living.

Robert Stillman, Chief Financial Officer, Ohio Living: BC Ziegler has served as the underwriter for Ohio Living, formerly known as Ohio Presbyterian Retirement Services, for about 30-40 years for any of the bond issuances that have gone on. They are the leader in the nation in terms of underwriting for senior living and senior healthcare bond issuances, by a wide margin. They are experts and have good connections to bond investors.

Lauren Graessle, Assistant Director of Community Appointments, Board of Commissioners, offered a resolution appointing Jarrod B. Skinner to the Franklin County Community Based Correctional Facility Governing Board (Board of Commissioners).

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

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*The Clerk noted that there will be one (1) journalization expected at General Session on Tuesday, July 11, 2023.*

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**RESOLUTION TO BE PASSED AT BRIEFING SESSION**

**Resolution No. 0534-23**, authorizing the First Amendment to the Economic Development Grant Agreement with Columbus Urban League to establish a new fund for the purpose of providing microenterprise low-interest loans to Franklin County minority businesses (\$950,000.00) (Economic Development and Planning).

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0534-23, seconded by Commissioner O’Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

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There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:53 A.M.

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**(Signature Page Follows)**

These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' Briefing Session for Thursday, July 6, 2023.



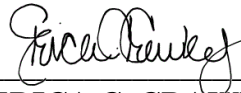
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**JOHN O'GRADY, PRESIDENT**



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**KEVIN L. BOYCE**



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

Submitted by:



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Lauren M. Graessle

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