

FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Briefing Minutes
April 6, 2017

Commissioner Brown
Commissioner Boyce

The purpose of the meeting was to review resolutions submitted for the April 11, 2017 General Session, and to discuss other matters pertaining to the programs of the agencies. These notes are a synopsis of the meeting.

Commissioner Brown convened the meeting at 9:00 A.M.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Susan Bedsole, Deputy Court Director, Common Pleas Court, and Lori Francescon, Chief Probation Officer, Common Pleas Court, offered a resolution authorizing non-general fund appropriation adjustments for the Adult Probation Department.

Ms. Bedsole reviewed information found in documents submitted with this proposed resolution.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS

Barbara Reeves, Deputy Director of Finance, Domestic Relations Court, offered a resolution authorizing a third amendment to the 2017 grant agreement with the Ohio Department of Youth Services (\$328,517).

Ms. Reeves reviewed information found in documents submitted with this proposed resolution.

Ms. Reeves offered a resolution authorizing appropriation adjustments related to various carryover expenditures.

Ms. Reeves reviewed information found in documents submitted with this proposed resolution.

FRANKLIN COUNTY DATA CENTER

Julie Lust, Director of Financial Services, Data Center, and Rick James, Chief Operations Officer, Data Center, offered a resolution authorizing a contract with TEKSystems, Inc. for staff augmentation services (\$153,408).

Ms. Lust reviewed information found in documents submitted with this proposed resolution.

Ms. Lust offered a resolution authorizing a contract with Presidio Holdings for staff augmentation services (\$575,608).

Ms. Lust reviewed information found in documents submitted with this proposed resolution.

Commissioner Brown: Are these contract positions like the resolutions we passed on Tuesday?

Ms. Lust: Yes, they are helping us run the Data Center until we decide what direction to go in.

Commissioner Brown: How many additional people will these resolutions bring in?

Ms. Lust: A total of three people. All three have been onsite since January.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

Joy Bivens, Director, Job and Family Services, and Charles Noble, Chief Strategy Officer, Job and Family Services, offered a resolution approving an amendment to the contract with Dress for Success, an increase of \$52,000.00 (\$104,000).

Ms. Bivens: I wanted to thank the Commissioners and administration for the support at our employee recognition day. It meant a lot to me. Commissioner Brown, your words right before the event meant a lot to me. This was the first event with Lance Porter.

Commissioner Brown: I know. As I pulled up at the event, this was the first time Mr. Porter was not there to help me in. It was hard for me too. It was a very nice event.

Commissioner Boyce: I am so sorry I could not have been there. Something came up and I had to go out of town. I think so highly of the work that you do at Job and Family Services. I had the opportunity to meet some of the staff and know that they are working hard and doing some of the most important work we do as a county. I will be around on a regular basis.

Mr. Noble reviewed information found in documents submitted with this proposed resolution.

Commissioner Brown: They just starting getting, in addition to suits, work boots and other uniforms for women that get jobs in construction and other fields. I was amazed the last time I was over there.

Ms. Bivens: They have medical uniforms as well. Our PRC dollars can be utilized to purchase those types of items, as long as you can justify that you have a job or going to start a job. A lot of individuals do not use it because it is such a small purchase and may want to use it for a bigger item such as housing or utilities.

Commissioner Boyce: I just read an article that discussed soft skills for workers. Even individuals graduating with good academic credentials, may be lacking the soft skills of appropriate dress, etiquette and the like. I love what Dress for Success does because of the soft skill gap that we often forget that is an important part of being a productive member of the workforce.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND JUSTICE PROGRAMS

Kathy Crandall, Director, Homeland Security and Justice Programs, offered a resolution authorizing a consultant contract with Fred C. Bowditch for continued professional services related to critical infrastructure protection and private/public partnerships (\$50,000).

Ms. Crandall reviewed information found in documents submitted with this proposed resolution.

Commissioner Brown: I know he has done a fabulous job in the Jewish community when we hosted the Maccabi Games. There was a great concern about safety of the kids from all over the country. Mr. Bowditch was wonderful working with them.

Commissioner Boyce: It has been my understanding that Mr. Bowditch has been engaged with the New American Advisory Council. We appreciate his guidance there. We are having some substantive conversations with his help.

Ms. Crandall: I believe he is a great benefit to the Commissioners.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Sue Hamilton, Assistant Director, Human Resources, offered a resolution approving Personnel Actions.

Ms. Hamilton reviewed information found in documents submitted with this proposed resolution.

PURCHASING

Karl Kuespert, Director, Purchasing, offered a resolution approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$824,538.90).

Mr. Kuespert reviewed information found in documents submitted with this proposed resolution.

Kenneth Wilson, County Administrator: One other matter I would like to bring to the Commissioners' attention. There has been a request from the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) to submit a letter from the Commissioners to the legislature regarding an effort to amend the budget to undue the harm in the area of indigent defense. Kris Long, Deputy Administrator, has been talking with staff at CCAO, and a draft letter was circulated last night to each Commissioner's office. We would like to get you to sign off on this letter and down to the legislature to support efforts to restore indigent defense.

Ms. Long: Where we are now in the process is that the House Finance Committee is asking for amendments from the Committee on Friday. The substitute budget bill will be introduced on Monday, April 24th.

Mr. Wilson: The first week in May has been targeted for a House vote.

Commissioner Boyce: That is the process. Once those amendments are adopted, then it becomes more concrete. The budget is very difficult to change after that. It is important that if they are going to change it, it is done in an omnibus amendment that comes in this round.

I mentioned this to Ms. Long that we put together a summary of this proposed budget's impact on Franklin County because they seem to be piling up. I think we should approach it in this way because that may be some low hanging fruit we can get to in Finance Committee. I also think that we should provide an aggregate list to them of how Franklin County is being impacted and here are the areas you need to think about. Lastly, we might want to issue a statement about all of the proposed cuts and that we are advocating for them to be changed.

Commissioner Brown: I think the idea of issuing a statement is great. We need to talk about the proposed cuts in terms of the effects on our residents and make it more concrete.

Commissioner Boyce: It will put pressure on both Democrats and Republicans that are in Franklin County. To either fight for those budget cuts or vote against the budget. If I got a message that Franklin County was about to lose \$45,000,000, I would feel obligated to vote against that budget, no matter how great everything else was. I think having that number would be a valuable statement.

Mr. Wilson: That is a doable exercise.

Ms. Long: We will work with the Office of Management and Budget and pull that together.

Zak Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget: We are going through all the Redbooks. We will collect the information and put it into a summary.

Commissioner Boyce: Whatever we do, don't leave out or underestimate the Governor. The Chair of the Finance Committee will be going to the Governor and Director Tim Keen to get their sign off on the budget. If the Governor's Office feels pressure, they can accept or not accept those changes.

Commissioner Brown: It is good that you have a legislative background.

Commissioner Boyce: When we heard from the County or City, it made me side with the City or County. It seems like we have had a little bit of success thus far.

Commissioner Brown: We must also continue to look at the federal budget as well and how the funding of the safety net programs are going to be funded.

Mr. Wilson: We are interjecting in these matters. We will wait and see whether we are successful at all in the statewide child support allocation changes. We voiced our opinion about the current formula. It does not look at current economic and demographic factors. We communicated that to Director Dungey that they should consider population changes and poverty in their formula.

Commissioner Brown: Have we heard anything?

Mr. Wilson: We have not. We are waiting.

Commissioner Boyce: We submitted an alternative formula, which is advanced. Most come to the table and complain, but we were able to put together a proposed change in the formula that still accomplishes what they wanted to, but did not affect us quite as bad. I think if we continue to be forward thinking, it will play in our favor down the road.

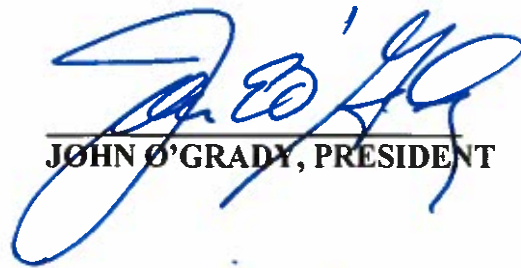
Keena Smith, Deputy Administrator: At this point we are waiting on two hearings. We are keeping a watch on that.

Commissioner Boyce: The Chairman of Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) represents Franklin County. This was a good exercise for us.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 A.M.

(Signature page follows.)

These minutes are a summary of the Commissioners' Briefing Session for April 6, 2017.



JOHN O'GRADY, PRESIDENT



MARILYN BROWN



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

Submitted by: Antwan Booker, Clerk