

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Briefing Session Minutes
Thursday, June 15, 2023

President O'Grady (*attended virtually**)
Commissioner Boyce

**Commissioner O'Grady's virtual attendance is not counted for Ohio's open meetings law.*

The purpose of the meeting was to review resolutions submitted for the June 20, 2023, General Session, and to discuss other matters pertaining to the programs of the agencies.

The meeting was convened in the Commissioners Hearing 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>

Also present on the dais were Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator; Kris J. Long, Deputy County Administrator; Erik Janas, Deputy County Administrator; Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget; Jeanine Hummer, First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Chief Counsel, Prosecuting Attorney's Office; Brittany A. Razek, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners; and Lauren Graessle, Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Boyce convened the meeting at 10:20 A.M.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Kimberly Canada, Director of Finance, Court of Common Pleas, General Division, offered a resolution authorizing a contract with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation for the Community Corrections and Targeted Community Alternative to Prisons Grant (\$11,836,040.00) (Court of Common Pleas).

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

DOMESTIC RELATIONS

Barb Reeves, Deputy Director, Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division, offered a resolution authorizing a first amendment with Forum Ohio LLC for various psychological services (\$400,000.00) (Domestic Relations).

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

Barb Reeves offered a resolution authorizing a second amendment to the 2023 grant agreement with the Ohio Department of Youth Services (\$10,000.00) (Domestic Relations).

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

Barb Reeves offered a resolution authorizing a supplemental appropriation in the Domestic Relations Grant Fund to support program operations (Domestic Relations).

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

DRAINAGE ENGINEER

Nick Soulas, Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer's Office, offered a resolution adopting the Franklin County Drainage Engineer's annual review of the 10-Year Capital Improvement Program for Drainage Systems (Drainage Engineer).

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

Nick Soulas offered a resolution authorizing Drainage Engineer Cornell R. Robertson to submit applications and execute project agreements on behalf of Franklin County for Ohio Public Works Commission funding of drainage systems (Drainage Engineer).

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

ENGINEER

Nick Soulas, Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer's Office, offered a resolution awarding contract and approving contract bond to Strawser Paving Company for the 2023 Franklin County Township Resurfacing Program (\$3,755,845.09) (Engineer).

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

Nick Soulas offered a resolution authorizing the Franklin County Engineer to enter into a contract modification with Proudfoot Associates, Inc. for general engineering services, in the amount of \$37,743.66, for a revised contract amount of \$137,743.66 (\$37,743.66) (Engineer).

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

Nick Soulas offered a resolution requesting the Ohio Department of Transportation to reduce the speed limit on McOwen Road, Township Road No. 202, Jefferson Township, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer).

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

Nick Soulas offered a resolution granting approval to declare equipment obsolete and no longer needed for Franklin County use, and authorizing sale of said equipment (Engineer).

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

SHERIFF

Albert J. Smith III, Assistant Finance Director, Sheriff's Office, offered a resolution authorizing the County Administrator to sign agreements on behalf of the Board of Commissioners to provide data to Falcon Correctional and Community Services Inc. for the purpose of improving inmate health operations (Sheriff).

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

Albert J. Smith III offered a resolution authorizing a supplemental appropriation within the LETF Federal DOJ Fund to purchase vehicles for the Recruitment, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Division. (Sheriff).

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

FRANKLIN COUNTY DATA CENTER

Julie Lust, Chief Financial Officer, Data Center, offered a resolution authorizing a Terms of Service agreement with Quickbase, Inc. for enterprise development software (\$183,470.70) (Franklin County Data Center).

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

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

Susan Brown, Director, Child Support Enforcement, offered a resolution authorizing a IV-D contract with Powers Investigations, Inc. for providing process service services (\$384,750.00) (Child Support Enforcement).

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

Genee' Cosby, Community Development Administrator, Economic Development and Planning, offered a resolution authorizing the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department to apply for Ohio Department of Development Community Development Block Grant COVID (CDBG-CV) Target of Opportunity Program Year 2022 funding to provide funding for the development of a community center and 2-acre park of the Vista Village project and authorizing a contract with Kleinfelder, Inc. for consultation services related to the preparation of the grant application and to administer the grant (Economic Development and Planning).

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

James Schimmer, Director, Economic Development and Planning, offered a resolution for review of petition to annex 22.3 +/- acres from Madison Township to the City of Columbus Case #ANX-24-23 (Economic Development and Planning).

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

Jakob Krejsa, Junior Program Coordinator, Economic Development and Planning, offered a resolution authorizing the Board of Franklin County Commissioners to sign the attached "Discharge of MORTGAGE" instrument for Kevin A. McCleese at 1847 Elmore Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43224 (Economic Development and Planning).

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

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

Andrew Crismer, Chief Alignment Officer, Board of Commissioners, offered a resolution approving a contract with Advocacy and Communications Solutions, LLC for consultation services to support the integration of Board of Commissioners Health and Human Services agencies (\$300,000.00) (Job and Family Services).

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

Commissioner Boyce: I think this is a lot, and I think it is important. I am glad you mentioned a timeline. One of the things that jumped out at me is that the contract goes until April 30, 2024, and then there are two additional twelve-month extensions possible. So, potentially, this work could take up to three years? And what are the costs of the extensions? I support this resolution, but I want to make sure that this is not a siloed project. You touched on saying that even though this is under Human Services, the plan is to expand it into a one-stop shop. I have a number of questions that I would like to ask, so please follow up with my office so we can discuss this. Once you start the work, it is hard to adjust the pathway after. My initial thoughts are that three years is a long duration. We have been using this firm quite a bit, and I want to make sure that this is a turning point for us in the area of Human Services. We need to address things such as the benefits cliff and long-term sustainability so that people do not need to come back. We need to address things that are poverty-oriented and race-oriented that give us longevity. I think one of the components of that is a seamless integration of our Human Services resources. I would also like to create an affordable housing task force to connect those dots and see where homelessness fits into this. There are as many external things for us to look at in this context as there are internal. But I think this is a good start, and that is why I support it. I would like to be involved in this conversation at a deeper level.

Commissioner O'Grady: I appreciate all of the work that you have done to get to where you are. Going forward, be intentional about having everyone work together and allowing everyone to have input. This is a big change and a big step, so there will be growing pains. As this entire process moves forward over the coming months and years, there will be the need for improvements and changes. Everybody needs to be a part of that conversation on a regular basis. What we build today will not look the same as the process we will have in the future; we have to let it develop and make tweaks as we go, when appropriate.

Joy Bivens, Deputy County Administrator, Board of Commissioners: This is a product of the Poverty Blueprint Plan. The people said they wanted a place where we can condense all of their services into a one-stop shop. The Franklin County One-Door Policy is not just through our brick-and-mortar locations but also through our mobile units. We will offer the same services through both methods. The difference with this is that the Juvenile Court and Children Services are also involved. We are taking this slowly because you cannot take agencies that were created thirty years ago and who have always operated in a silo and mush them all together and expect it to be seamless. This is a tremendous undertaking. That is why we are leveraging our Friday policy meetings to include updates from my team. If anyone else should be included, please let me know because I want to make sure that we get this right.

Commissioner O'Grady: It has been my experience that if you are going to make changes, you need to inform people that change is coming, but you also need to let them be a part of that change. If you do not, you will get more resistance than you want. If you let them be a part of the process, it will be a much smoother transition.

Commissioner O'Grady (cont.): I think there is a great vision here. Through the process, you will learn that some of the things that you designed today are going to be different than what you end up with. Trial and error will teach you that some of the things you thought would work do not actually work in practice.

Bart Logan, Deputy Director, Communications, Job and Family Services, offered a resolution approving a COVID-19 Recovery Grant agreement with the Urban Resurrection Community Development Corporation for summer youth enrichment programming (\$50,000.00) (Job and Family Services).

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

Bart Logan offered a resolution funding the Prevention, Retention and Contingency (PRC) Emergency Rental Assistance Program in response to the ongoing rental crisis resulting from the public health emergency (\$9,000,000.00) (Job and Family Services).

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

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Lauren Rummel, Director, Government Affairs and Ethics, Board of Commissioners, offered a resolution authorizing a Grant Agreement with IMPACT Community Action to provide rental and utility assistance to residents in Franklin County (\$22,000,000.00) (Board of Commissioners).

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

Lauren Rummel offered a resolution authorizing an amendment to the Grant Agreement with The Homeless Families Foundation to provide rental and utility assistance to households as part of the Resiliency Bridge Pilot Program (\$2,237,155.89) (Board of Commissioners).

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

Lauren Rummel offered a resolution amending a Grant Agreement and authorizing a new Grant Agreement with the Legal Aid Society of Columbus to provide Legal Assistance to Tenants Facing Eviction in Franklin County (\$500,000.00) (Board of Commissioners).

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

Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator: Thank you for all of your efforts in rolling all of these contracts out so that we can continue to battle the growing number of evictions within our community. Between these four resolutions, do we have an estimate of how many individuals we will be able to serve?

Ms. Rummel: I will get that information to you by Tuesday. I have that for each individual contract. In each contract, the number of individuals and averages that they anticipate per household are listed.

Mr. Wilson: You anticipate that we should have a minimum of one more contract with a community partner with these funds, correct?

Ms. Rummel: Correct. This batch of resolutions does not allocate the full amount that Franklin County was awarded in this reallocation, so additional proposals are under review and will be before you for consideration in the future.

JUSTICE POLICY AND PROGRAMS

Melissa Pierson, Chief Operating Officer, Justice Policy and Programs, offered a resolution authorizing the Franklin County Administrator to approve subgrant awards and contracts for services with Columbus Public Health and Franklin County Public Health for harm reduction services related to the FY 2022 Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) grant (\$677,753.00) (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 Alisa Noel 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.

PURCHASING

Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing, and Tameca Bumper, Economic Equity Administrator, Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion, offered a resolution approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$3,513,702.19) (Purchasing).

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

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jeanine Hummer, First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Chief Counsel, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, offered a resolution approving the donation of a permanent easement to the City of Columbus for purpose of constructing a public shared-use path and authorizing the County Administrator to execute the Deed of Easement (Board of Commissioners).

Ms. Hummer 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, June 20, 2023.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:04 A.M.

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(Signature Page Follows)

These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' Briefing Session for Thursday, June 15, 2023.



JOHN O'GRADY, PRESIDENT



KEVIN L. BOYCE



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

Submitted by:



Lauren M. Graessle

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