

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Briefing Session Minutes
Thursday, July 27, 2023

President O'Grady
Commissioner Boyce

The purpose of the meeting was to review resolutions submitted for the August 1, 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 Boyce convened the meeting at 9:10 A.M.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS

Barb Reeves, Deputy Director, Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division, offered a resolution authorizing a one-year memorandum of understanding with the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County from January 1, 2023 to November 3, 2023 for the Reception Center (\$675,957.00) (Domestic Relations).

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

Barb Reeves offered a resolution authorizing contracts for attendance services with Canal Winchester Schools, Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools, Groveport Madison Schools, Hilliard City Schools, New Albany Plain Local Schools, Reynoldsburg City Schools and South Western City Schools (\$290,490.00) (Domestic Relations).

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

DRAINAGE ENGINEER

William "Fritz" Crosier, Chief Deputy of Engineering, Engineer's Office, offered a resolution authorizing a transfer of funds for the Stormwater Management Program (Drainage Engineer).

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

William “Fritz” Crosier offered a resolution approving a ditch maintenance petition for Zubkevych Village, Pleasant Township, Franklin County, Ohio (Drainage Engineer).

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

ENGINEER

William “Fritz” Crosier, Chief Deputy of Engineering, Engineer’s Office, offered a resolution for E.L. Robinson Engineering of Ohio Company, consulting engineers, appointed to assist the Franklin County Engineer by providing detailed engineering services for the Frank Road, County Road No. 125, at Brown Road, County Road No. 142/Hardy Parkway Street, and Frank Road, County Road No. 125, at Brown Road, Township Road No. 142 Improvement project, Franklin County, Ohio (\$675,829.00) (Engineer).

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

William “Fritz” Crosier offered a resolution for Smoot Construction Company, consulting engineers, appointed to assist the Franklin County Engineer by providing construction inspection services for bridge maintenance projects, Franklin County, Ohio (\$69,864.37) (Engineer).

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

William “Fritz” Crosier offered a resolution requesting the Ohio Department of Transportation to reduce the speed limit on Harlem Road, County Road No. 111, Plain Township, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer).

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

William “Fritz” Crosier offered a resolution requesting the Ohio Department of Transportation to reduce the speed limit on Havens Road, Township Road No. 203, Jefferson Township, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer).

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

William “Fritz” Crosier offered a resolution requesting the Ohio Department of Transportation to reduce the speed limit on Walnut Street, County Road No. 19, Plain Township, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer).

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

William “Fritz” Crosier offered a resolution for approval of the Zubkevych Village, subdivision plat, Pleasant Township, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer).

Mr. Crosier 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 twelve-month extension of the Service Agreement with AT&T for Centrex Communication Services (\$239,830.00) (Franklin County Data Center).

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

Julie Lust offered a resolution authorizing a contract with Mapsys Inc. for the upgrade of the IBM iSeries operating system (\$9,945.00) (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 Franklin County Child Support Enforcement Agency to enter into a IV-D contract with the Franklin County Data Center (\$379,313.94) (Child Support Enforcement).

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

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Curtis Brown, Community Partnerships Administrator, Community Partnerships, offered a resolution authorizing a grant agreement with the YWCA Columbus to support family shelter employees (\$250,000.00) (Community Partnerships).

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

Commissioner Boyce: This is a fundamental question I ask everyone who does these types of grants. I am okay with the investment for wage increases, but how are they going to sustain it? What is the game plan? I am not sure which funds we are using, but if you raise wages, you have to maintain that next year. Please help me understand the plan overall.

Erik Janas, Deputy County Administrator: We are using conveyance fee dollars from the Housing Fund.

Commissioner Boyce: So, is the plan to do this over the course of five years, or is it a one-time thing? How does the YWCA plan to maintain those levels?

Mr. Brown: This contract is a one-time grant agreement with the YWCA Columbus. YWCA President and CEO Elizabeth Brown can speak to the sustainability of this plan.

Elizabeth Brown, President and Chief Executive Officer, YWCA Columbus: This agreement ties back to some of the larger strategic work we are doing on homelessness as a community. You are well aware of this because the County was an impetus in making this happen, but the Community Shelter Board is doing a strategic assessment of homelessness in our community. They are looking at not just the number of people that need to be served but how they need to be served. That includes the workforce challenges that we face in serving homeless populations. Our Family Center has been historically nearly flat-funded by the Community Shelter Board, and that has put real pressure on the wages that we are able to pay our employees. We lag behind what other shelters are paying their employees. I am on the Strategic Assessment Committee, which is the advisory council in the CSB study, along with Commissioner Crawley. We know it will take a couple of years to get the study results back and implement measures that address those results as a community. We know that the employees at our Family Center are underpaid and need help now. So, the plan that we have come up with includes getting funders to the table to help us with these wage increases, and using every tool that we have as a non-profit organization to get those wages together and sustain the two-year gap between now and when there is a broader, better solution to how we fund homelessness in our community.

Commissioner Boyce: Thank you. I know you are very thoughtful about this kind of project; you have a very good history of that. Does this \$250,000.00 cover those wages over the two years as CSB finishes its strategic planning? Or is this just for the salaries for this year?

Ms. Brown: This \$250,000.00 will go into the two-year fund that we are building to cover the delta for our organization to go from the wages we are paying now to the wage increase we will have.

Commissioner Boyce: Great, that is what I was getting at. I was going to suggest we have a multi-year commitment because if we are serious about wage increases, particularly for those on the front lines on so many levels.

Commissioner Boyce (cont.): We can't do that through a one-time commitment. I wanted to make sure that there are resources in place so that after the strategic plan is completed, those wages aren't in jeopardy. I think this two-year space is good. Let me know how I can be helpful to the YWCA in terms of the sustainability of those wages. Since we are on this issue, I know we still have work to do at the County in this area for our employees. I know we are working on studies and implementing things incrementally, but this is a good example of how our external partners need to do the same thing. I love that you have a plan and strategy to do that. We are happy to help with that, and we want to make sure you have the time to pull this together because it is not easy to make up that wage gap through fundraising. This resolution should say that this funding will cover the two years. Mr. Brown, when you talk about this on Tuesday, you should use that in your opening comments. We are all about sustainability. We do not mind helping agencies that are partners with us do their work on the front lines, but let's be transparent and deliberate about being committed to it seriously. If you had told me this contract was for four years, I would have been comfortable with that because I know it takes time to put agencies in positions to raise those wages. I am glad that this covers the two years.

Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator: We have to look at the comprehensive assessment of the entire system in a holistic fashion. As Ms. Brown pointed out, we have structural issues within different components of the emergency housing and sheltering system. These next two years are going to be crucial as we work with CSB to focus on their strategies and administration. I am also going to be serving as a member as that process plays out, alongside Commissioner Crawley. So, the County is certainly represented at the table, considering our investment. You all have had a long-term commitment to the sustainability of the emergency shelter system, particularly in the family shelter system. Deputy County Administrator Janas and I met with the Director of CSB, and there will be some more things that are part of the 2024 budget process, which will deal with the family shelter system.

Commissioner Boyce: Why are we using conveyance funds, as opposed to ARPA funds?

Mr. Wilson: We dedicated conveyance funds for this purpose in 2006 and again in 2018 for emergency shelter and housing. Because this is a permanent need and not a one-time need, and our commitment to this is permanent, we felt it was more appropriate to recommend using conveyance funds.

Mr. Janas: Based on our revenue in that fund for our Magnet Fund and other affordable housing projects, we can still afford a grant like this.

Commissioner Boyce: All of that makes sense, and I am supportive of it. I just want to make sure that we are committed to the long haul.

Ms. Brown: I appreciate your comments and your commitment to the work.

OFFICE OF DIVERSITY EQUITY & INCLUSION

Tameca Bumper, Economic Equity Administrator, Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion, offered a resolution authorizing a grant agreement with the African American Male Wellness Agency to support the African American Wellness Educational Initiatives and events and the Real Men Real Talk and Doula Programs (\$450,000.00) (Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion).

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

Commissioner Boyce: Is the Doula Program for men?

Ms. Bumper: It is for both men and women.

Commissioner Boyce: Is this the amount that we have historically been giving?

Ms. Bumper: Historically, we have given around this amount, except for the Doula Program, which is a new program.

Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator: We can provide you with a comprehensive breakdown of the funding because we have also added Uplift Her to the funding under this organization. That is for women's health, and I do not recall the exact contract amount. The ledger for this agency will appear to be over the traditional levels when you consider this resolution and the other resolutions combined. The Office of Management and Budget can pull that and provide it to you.

Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget: The Uplift Her Wellness agreement was \$250,000.00, and that was approved earlier this year. That is in addition to this resolution for \$450,000.00.

Tameca Bumper offered a resolution authorizing a grant agreement with Ghana Festival Ohio for support of the Ghana festival events (\$25,000.00) (Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion).

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

Emanuel Torres, Assistant Director, Economic Development and Planning, offered a resolution authorizing an Affordable Housing Development agreement with Woda Cooper Companies Inc, to receive funding through the Magnet Fund Program to assist the development of an affordable housing project (\$1,350,000.00) (Economic Development and Planning).

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

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

Carmen Barnes, Deputy Director, Community Contracts and Programs, Job and Family Services, offered a resolution approving a contract extension for on-site case management services between the Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services and the OhioHealth Corporation (\$211,388.47) (Job and Family Services).

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

Carmen Barnes offered a resolution approving a contract for case management services between the Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services and The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center (\$203,847.12) (Job and Family Services).

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

Carmen Barnes offered a resolution approving a COVID-19 Recovery Grant with the United Way of Central Ohio on behalf of the Boys and Young Men of Color Collective (\$200,000.00) (Job and Family Services).

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

JUSTICE POLICY AND PROGRAMS

Caitlin Looney, Grants Coordinator, Justice Policy and Programs, offered a resolution authorizing a contract with The Cornerstone Promise, Inc. for the provision of transitional recovery housing for justice involved females with identified substance use disorders who are preparing for release from incarceration (\$25,000.00) (Justice Policy and Programs).

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

HUMAN RESOURCES

Laura Repasky, Director, Human Resources, offered a resolution authorizing a Contract Extension and Modification between Franklin County and USI Insurance Services, LLC (USI) for general consulting services for the Franklin County Cooperative Health Improvement Program (Cooperative) (\$579,500.00) (Human Resources).

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

PURCHASING

Joe Gregory, Compliance Program Manager, Purchasing, and Tameca Bumper, Economic Equity Administrator, Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion, offered a resolution approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$3,652,021.81) (Purchasing).

Mr. Gregory and Ms. Bumper reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Lauren M. Graessle, Assistant Director of Community Appointments, Board of Commissioners, offered a resolution submitting names to the State Emergency Planning Commission for final approval and appointment to the local emergency planning committee, known in Franklin County as the Chemical Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council (CEPAC) (Board of Commissioners).

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

Lauren M. Graessle offered a resolution reappointing Elizabeth Martinez to the Franklin County Children Services Board of Trustees (Board of Commissioners).

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

Lauren M. Graessle offered a resolution reappointing Elon Simms to the Franklin County Children Services Board of Trustees (Board of Commissioners).

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

Lauren M. Graessle offered a resolution appointing Niki L. Hampton to the Franklin County Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services Board (Board of Commissioners).

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

Lauren M. Graessle offered a resolution appointing Tamara M. Howard to the Franklin County Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services Board (Board of Commissioners).

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

Lauren M. Graessle offered a resolution appointing Robert V. Morris, II to the Franklin County Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services Board (Board of Commissioners).

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

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

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RESOLUTION TO BE PASSED AT BRIEFING SESSION

Resolution No. 0577-23, authorizing a Software as a Service Agreement and Services Contract with GMP (Government Marketing and Procuring, LLC) with CSI (Computing System Innovations) as a subcontractor (\$2,707,575.00) (Clerk Of Courts), presented by Adam Luckhaupt, Director of Information Technology, Clerk of Courts.

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

Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator: So, this is a five-year agreement for just over \$2.7 million?

Mr. Luckhaupt: Correct.

Mr. Wilson: And you got a discount on the GSA contract?

Mr. Luckhaupt: That is correct.

Commissioner Boyce: What is the amount of the discount?

Mr. Luckhaupt: It is about 20%.

Mr. Wilson: I spent some time at the National Association of Counties speaking about artificial intelligence and its usage in government in an increasing fashion. This is an example of that.

Mr. Luckhaupt: We would like to start the software with doing internal document review, and then we will try to expand it to the external interface. That is the ultimate goal.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0577-23, 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 9:44 A.M.

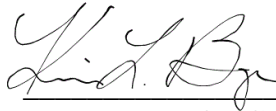
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These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' Briefing Session for Thursday, July 27, 2023.



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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