

## FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Briefing Minutes  
July 25, 2019

President Brown  
Commissioner O'Grady  
Commissioner Boyce

The purpose of the meeting was to review resolutions submitted for the July 30, 2019 General Session, to vote on certain resolutions, and to discuss other matters pertaining to the programs of the agencies. These notes are a synopsis of the meeting.

President Brown convened the meeting at 10:00 A.M.

### ENGINEER

Fritz Crosier, Chief Deputy Engineer, Engineer's Office, offered a resolution awarding contract and approving contract bond to Shelly & Sands, Inc., for the Borror Road 1.66 over Plum Run North Project in Jackson Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$422,206.50).

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

### SHERIFF

Dave Masterson, Director of Administrative Services, offered a resolution authorizing a transfer of appropriations and a purchase order for the return of prisoners.

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

### AUDITOR

Adam Seeley, Staff Counsel, Auditor, offered a resolution authorizing a 4 month contract with John G. Cleminshaw, Inc. for a performance audit of the 2017 sexennial reappraisal (\$50,000.00).

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

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

Jenny Snapp, Assistant Director, Economic Development and Planning, offered a resolution for review of petition to annex 8.6 +/- acres from Plain Township to the City of Columbus Case #ANX-17-19.

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

## CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

Susan Brown, Director, Child Support Enforcement, offered a resolution authorizing a Participation Agreement to obtain location information through Appriss, Corporation (\$1,040.00).

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

Ms. Brown offered a resolution authorizing a consultant contract with Linda Norris, M.A., for professional mediation services (\$40,000.00).

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

Ms. Brown offered a resolution authorizing an IV-D contract between Franklin County Child Support Enforcement Agency and the Franklin County Clerk of Courts (\$186,043.62).

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

Ms. Brown offered a resolution authorizing Franklin County Child Support Enforcement Agency to enter into a Research Agreement with MDRC for the evaluation of the Families Forward Demonstration (FFD).

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

## JUSTICE POLICY AND PROGRAMS

Courtney Benner, Justice Policy and Programs, offered a resolution authorizing a professional service contract with Joey Green for peer support services through the FY19 Franklin County Public Health Re-Allocation grant (\$10,000.00).

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

Ms. Benner offered a resolution authorizing a contract between the Franklin County Board of Commissioners and the Columbus Urban League to provide wrap around reentry services for justice involved individuals under the FY18 Targeted Community Alternatives to Prison (TCAP) grant program (\$163,997.00).

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

## PUBLIC FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Darla Reardon, Director, Public Facilities Management, offered a resolution authorizing execution of a Parking Rental Agreement with OSERS Broad St., LLC for leased parking spaces in support of the operation of county agencies located at Memorial Hall (\$46,800.00).

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

Ms. Reardon offered a resolution authorizing a Contract with Goodwill Industries of Central Ohio, Inc., for providing Housekeeping Services at designated Franklin County Facilities (\$2,161,619.98).

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

Ms. Reardon offered a resolution authorizing recycling of information technology equipment declared obsolete by the Franklin County Automatic Data Processing Board.

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

Commissioner Boyce: On the housekeeping services, is that a new contract? Who had the contract before?

Ms. Reardon: Goodwill. We've had a contract with Goodwill for a number of years, still currently with four facilities. In this new 3-year term, we're expanding that to ten total facilities. They have performed well as a contractor for the last handful of years.

Kris Long, Deputy County Administrator: We are putting out to bid the remainder of the items that have been bid in the past.

Ms. Reardon: They are in the RFP process.

Commissioner Boyce: Say that again.

Ms. Long: There are several facilities that were added onto existing facilities that Goodwill has done in the past, so per the state, we are required to take a look at options that might be available. There were a handful of spaces that were added to Goodwill to do that

performance of work and then we are bidding out the remainder of the facilities that have been bid in the past.

Ms. Reardon: The RFP will come out soon; we are working with Purchasing.

Ms. Perry-Balonier: The RFP is just about complete and Purchasing has done a great job of bundling the different facilities, so that there's an opportunity for competition amongst different sizes of Small and Emerging Businesses.

Commissioner Boyce: Thank you.

## PURCHASING

Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing offered a resolution approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$934,032.50).

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

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Erik Janas, Deputy County Administrator, offered a resolution reappointing members to the Workforce Development Board pursuant to the requirements of the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act 2015.

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

## **RESOLUTION TO BE PASSED AT BRIEFING 7.25.19**

Commissioner O'Grady moved to remove Resolution 526-19 from the table, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. Resolution 526-19 was removed from the table.

**Resolution No. 0526-19 - Tabled on July 23, 2019**, authorizing a transfer of General Fund appropriations in order to provide the budgetary allotment for meeting August payroll and other obligations (Board of Elections), presented by David Payne, Deputy Director, Board of Elections.

President Brown: Do we have any news on the communications plan?

Mr. Payne: Our communications plan is, in my opinion, unprecedented and I'm proud to talk about it. We have gone out to over 200 fairs and festivals, city councils, we were recently at the Franklin County Fair, we're at the Ohio State Fair, and other places.

President Brown: But nothing new on the mass communications on TV, other marketing efforts?

Mr. Payne: To answer your question, the Board has not voted on that yet.

President Brown: Ok.

Commissioner O'Grady: So it's been two months since we've heard that Franklin County's got a disproportionate number of provisional ballots, and that a proportional number of those ballots are cast by seniors and people of color, and a disproportionate number of them are rejected. Alarming numbers, serious problems, people are being disenfranchised in this community. I know that we have a communications plan, but do you believe that this communications plan addresses those problems?

Mr. Payne: Commissioner, with all due respect, I have spent my entire career encouraging people to vote. We've been to senior homes, we have been in the African American community.

Commissioner O'Grady: I respect that, but we have in this community, a disproportionate number beyond every other county in the state. So irrespective of what you've done, this county still lags behind every other county in the State of Ohio, including metropolitan counties as it relates to provisional ballots, as it relates to, how we are addressing these communities in this county. We still have two members of the Board of Elections who refuse to vote for advertising of elections, when we have a gigantic problem in this county. I have voted against funding for the Board of Elections for the entirety of this year, I will continue to vote against it, and I will continue to find ways, look for ways for us to advertise this election, this year, next year and into the future. I personally believe that the two members of the Board of Elections in this county that continue to vote against it, are absolutely 100% interested in suppressing the vote. I'm not saying that you are, I'm saying the board members are.

Mr. Payne: With all due respect, I've worked with Brad Sinnott and Doug Preisse for over twenty years in different capacities, and to claim voters suppression, I can't think of anything worse, for someone like myself or those two who have been involved in politics and trying to get the vote out, our communications plan, if you're asking me, does it involve television, the answer is no. I'm telling you, it's unprecedented in the communities that we've gone to. We are registering voters, we are working to fix the problem on provisional ballots. I think the difference is, how are you going to reduce provisional ballots on television? We are going in the community talking to people.

Commissioner O'Grady: And how many people are showing up at the events that you're doing?

Mr. Payne: How many people? I don't have the numbers.

Commissioner O'Grady: Generally, how many people are in the crowd when you're making these presentations?

Mr. Payne: It depends. When we are at a City Council meeting, it may be 15, or it may be 50.

President Brown: The concern that we've all had and expressed at various times is, why not, do all that you can do to expand the pool of voters. We've got new people coming into the community every single day who are moving into this community. Why not, do everything you can do, whether it's TV, whether it's internet, whatever it may be. What is it that this Board of Elections has against doing whatever it takes to get the word out, when it's in the budget for the Board of Elections to do the advertising, knowing we've got new machines, knowing we've got new residents, knowing residents don't always understand how to vote. I don't understand it, none of us have understood it from the beginning of this discussion.

Mr. Payne: As it relates to new citizens, we actually are having naturalization ceremonies at the Franklin County Board of Elections. That's never been done. We are encouraging all those people. We've got voter registration, we are trying to register all of those people and I don't think it's a matter of doing or not doing advertising. We are doing advertising, it's just the matter of the vehicle you use. We think we know elections, we think we know how to reach people and I think it's just a matter of how you do that. Again, I don't want to speak on behalf of Brad.

President Brown: I understand that. But the people that voted provisionally, and had to vote provisionally, many of them did not have their votes counted, and that was in the study that was done and presented to you and presented to us.

Mr. Payne: And the vast majority of those people were not registered.

President Brown: All the more reason to have more communication and more advertising, not less, which is what we've been saying.

Mr. Payne: I don't think we're having less. I think if you looked at what we were doing at the Franklin County Board of Elections, it is unprecedented in the amount of advertising we are doing.

Commissioner O'Grady: I respect all the efforts that you have at the moment. I respect the work that you are doing, and I appreciate the fact you guys are going out talking to the public individually, but when you are hitting 15-50 people per event...

Mr. Payne: No, that was just at City Council. At the Ohio State Fair, there's thousands.

Commissioner O'Grady: There's thousands of people there, but they're not coming to your presentations that you're having. I've been in those booths.

Commissioner O'Grady: I've been in those booths at the State Fair, you're getting people straggling in, if you're lucky, if you have a great event, there's a couple of dozen people that are coming into those things. Its grass roots and you're barely making an impact and we're providing you with the resources to reach hundreds of thousands of people at a time. We're providing the board with the resources to make a huge impact and the members of the Board of Elections are rejecting that. The only sensible reaction to that, is that, they just

don't want to do it. It was quoted in the paper, saying that they think that it's an irresponsible use of taxpayer dollars. They can look at our track record over the last number of years that we've all been here, we don't make irresponsible decisions with taxpayer dollars, and we never have. So I take offense to that. We can call it a fundamental disagreement, whatever they want to call it, but I look at their track record on this on this, what they've done over the last number of years since they've been on the Board of Elections and then the fact they all of a sudden, very abruptly make decisions that they make based on the track record they've got. An electoral track record that they've got and all of a sudden they don't want to do this anymore and I can only make one conclusion. I refuse to vote for this, I'm going to continue to refuse to vote for this. So they can call it whatever they want, and they can call me whatever they want.

Mr. Payne: I don't think they've ever called you anything other than Commissioner O'Grady.

Commissioner O'Grady: They've accused me of being an irresponsible taxpayer with dollars, as it relates to this.

Mr. Payne: That is one of the things when I came in four and half years ago. We owe it to the taxpayers, as you do, we try to be fiscal conservatives as well and make the best decisions with the money the Commissioners are kind enough to give us. We try to spend those dollars in the best way to register voters. We were just going to have voting machines out there. It was the Republican members that said we ought to be recruiting poll workers and we ought to be registering voters that is not voter suppression, that's filling the rolls. Again, it's not my place to talk about Doug and Brad, other than I know them, I know their heart and we've discussed. They're fiscal conservatives, they are attempting to spend the money they see fit and to accuse them of voter suppression or whatever the term is you're using, is incorrect and if it was aimed at me, I would be insulted.

Ken Wilson, County Administrator: There's extreme frustration here over the course of many months. This is just a reflection, respectively David Payne of extreme frustration. If you have a disease, you treat the disease. Their response is just not talk about healthcare in general. We have information that suggests that provisional ballots are being cast in a number of communities within Franklin County. What specifically are we doing about that? What you do about that is, you begin a voter education campaign by targeting provisional ballots in those communities that are impacted, but I'm not going to the County Fair and you do that through some sort of mass media, radio, twitter, Facebook, however. If you educate poll workers as well and increase poll worker training.

Mr. Payne. Again, with all due respect, you use the term, targeting. When we send out mailing, we send it to every voter. If you start targeting, that's a slippery slope, if you start saying, let's go into this community and start targeting with whatever message you want to say, that's very dangerous. We treat all the voters the same.

President Brown: You can't.

Mr. Payne: What's that? I'm sorry, you can't?

President Brown: You're talking about going into where there's high provisional votes, and doing extra education. That's not treating everybody the same. You've got to go to where you are getting all those provisional voters and give them additional training. That's not treating everybody the same. You can't just do blanket education.

Mr. Wilson: Obviously, David Payne hasn't been able to get it done. My suggestion would be, maybe call Doug and Brad up, and go to lunch with them.

Commissioner O'Grady: If you are having provisional ballot problems, and the provisional ballots are in certain zip codes and you go to the County Fair to try and address the problem, it's not going to work.

President Brown: You are never going to address the problem.

Commissioner O'Grady: When you go to the State Fair to address the problem, and half the people that go to the State Fair are from outside of Franklin County, it's not going to work.

Mr. Payne: Those were two of over two hundred.

President Brown: But you know where the provisional ballots are coming from. We know, from the study where they are coming from. You can't just treat everybody the same.

Mr. Payne: One of the reasons again, a lot of those were provisional ballots have been coming from the Nepalese community and the Somalian community and that's why when we have naturalization ceremonies, we are actually having them at the Board of Elections and we are handing them registrations, registering those people.

Mr. Wilson: That's a violation of due process.

President Brown: I am very frustrated with the Board of Elections and the members who continue to not see the value in doing anything and everything that they can do to ensure that every vote counts and that every voter has an opportunity to have their vote counted. We are not doing that, because two members of that Board who are the Republican members of the Board, are not seeing the value of doing everything and anything we can do when we have put in the budget resources to do that is irresponsible and unacceptable.

Commissioner O'Grady: Especially, when in the past each time when we had a new voting system, they've been willing to use the dollars that's available to them to advertise the new voting system. Up until recently, they've always been willing to advertise the election. Then all of a sudden, I can draw a correlation as to why the decision was made, and they say it is because we've been there for a longtime. They have their stated reasons, I don't believe their stated reasons are what they say they are.

Mr. Payne: Commissioner, and again, with all due respect, in my career, I've actually fired people that have come in my office and said, we need to do it, because that's the way it's always been done. We are trying to do the best we can with the resources we have to educate all voters.



Commissioner O'Grady: Well, I'm certain they will work hard next year to fire me.

Mr. Payne: No, don't take that. I apologize if that was the...what I was saying, your reference to saying we do it because we've always done it.

Commissioner O'Grady: Until we get it right in this county, we should continue to do it. I'm not saying we should always do it because we've always done it before, that wasn't my point I was trying to make. But we sure as hell aren't getting it right. The numbers show it, we're not getting it right, voters aren't educated. Until we get voters educated in this community, we shouldn't be stopping for some arbitrary reason, which is exactly what I think they have given us, and arbitrary reason.

Mr. Wilson: Communicate with all and every voter, and every individual that wants to vote, but I think no one can argue that we don't have an unacceptable number of provisional ballots being cast in Franklin County versus the rest of the state. In the 2020 budget, at a minimum is going to be presented to eliminate that high disproportionate number of vast provisional ballots that are being cast in Franklin County.

Mr. Payne: Gotcha.

Mr. Wilson: A provisional ballot is a ballot of last resort. We are a county that takes pride in being one of the best managed in the country, and we are terrible when it comes to provisional ballots, in my opinion. Does the data show that?

Mr. Payne: First of all, 87% of the provisional ballots that are cast are counted. If somebody is not registered, we can't count it. That's as simple as that. We want to count every vote we can, so all of those provisional ballots, we want to make sure that we show them that they came into the early vote center and had voted already. Then on Election Day, they try to vote again. Most of the time, it's just that they forgot that they had already voted. Well, that's why you have to vote a provisional ballot. If you don't vote a provisional ballot, you voted twice.

Mr. Wilson: Let's work together to get it right. Let's work together to educate them to get it right.

Mr. Payne: But you can't vote twice.

Mr. Wilson: That's fraud.

Commissioner O'Grady: We're in the county management business, you're in the election management business. Every voting organization out there, agrees with us and not with your two board members. Why is that?

Mr. Payne: First of all, I don't know that every voting organization out there is...

Commissioner O'Grady: League of Women Voters, All Voting is Local. There's like five or six of them that stood behind this organization. There are ones I've never heard of, every single one of them, reason with us, and none of them agree with Brad and Doug.

Mr. Payne: I hesitate to even say anything.

Commissioner O'Grady: They are in the voting business and we're just in the business of providing you guys with the resources to do your jobs. But they all agree with us and all we are trying to do is give you all the resources necessary to do your jobs, and I got to vote against it every month. I don't make a lot of no votes in this business. I've been here for 11 and a half years and I can count on two hands the number of times I've voted no. Once against a Sheriff's resolution one time, and every other time I voted no, has been against your budget for this reason.

Mr. Payne: I respect all the work that all three of you do, I absolutely do. We appreciate the appropriations. I hesitate to speak on behalf of Doug and Brad, and I certainly can't speak on behalf of voter organizations why they disagree with us. But what I can tell you is, I would love to visit with any of those organizations and tell them what we're doing to solve all the problems. If there are problems, we want to do the best. Like you said, we view Franklin County as the gold standard, not only in Ohio, but anywhere in the country. We have people that recognize us nationally for awards, are we perfect, absolutely not, do we want to do better, and we absolutely do. Is advertising on TV the best method to do it? I think two board members think it's not.

Commissioner O'Grady: Did you guys read the study that they did?

Mr. Payne: Absolutely.

Commissioner O'Grady: They don't think you're the gold standard.

Mr. Payne: It wasn't given to us. Interestingly enough, we found out about it. It was given to us the day of the meeting. Everybody else had it, except the Board of Elections to whom it was written. We read it and we are meeting with that gentleman and that group to try to address, answer any questions that they may have.

Mr. Wilson: The NAACP here locally, is interested in how we can improve, how we can reduce the number of provisional ballots.

Mr. Payne: I agree with that. We just hired a new social media coordinator. For the first time ever, a full-time position, because all four members recognize that social media is, for a lack of a better term, where it's at. It's not TV anymore. My kids don't watch TV, if they don't watch TV, they are on social media. When you take the appropriation that you give us, we're trying to figure out, how do we address the problems or the situations that you put up and we think social media is a great thing to do. That's why we hired Social Media Coordinator to recruit poll workers and registered voters to tell them about our machines.

Mr. Wilson: The Board of Commissioners are looking for a written communication plan that is based upon the best practices in the nation, as it relates to remedy provisional ballots, improving voter education.

Mr. Payne: Other states use television to reduce provisional ballots?

Mr. Wilson: We don't have anything, we have nothing.

Mr. Payne: The Republican board members have written a communication plan.

President Brown: We haven't seen it.

Mr. Payne: The Democratic board members have it, the Director of the Board of Elections has it.

Commissioner O'Grady: I haven't seen it. I'm not here telling you that I think we got to have television advertising, I'm here saying, we need a communications plan that we haven't seen and we gave you money that you guys can split between Democratic and Republican communications firms. If they want to buy social media advertising, because that's the way the Millennials vote or get their advertising, or whatever it is. I don't really care. The point is we provided you guys with the dollars to do that and it was rejected.

Mr. Payne: And part of it, and I don't want to speak on behalf of the Board, but part of it was because probably, which you just mentioned, consultants. Why would we have consultants involved in that?

Commissioner O'Grady: Because we trust consultants more than we do the Board of Elections.

Mr. Payne: Ok.

Commissioner O'Grady: Who's going to make those decisions about how to best make those advertising choices? Are Doug and Brad and Mike and Kim going to make those decisions? Are you and Ed going to make those decisions? I rather pay a Republican and Democratic firm to make those decisions. I think that's a smarter way to go.

Mr. Payne: In the past, when I came on board, there were blank checks written to Democratic and Republican consulting firms. With no ability to track where that money was spent, that's all I'm saying. That in my mind, was criminal and we put a stop to it. That you cannot allow to happen.

Commissioner O'Grady and President Brown: I don't ever recall that ever happening.

President Brown: We allocated, we never would have given a blank check.

Mr. Payne: We gave the consultant the full check, and they bought time. We didn't know how much their consulting was versus how much they placed in media.

President Brown: This is going nowhere.

Commissioner Boyce: Alright, enough is enough. I can't take it anymore. Honestly, and I say it with the most respect to you, but this is an absurd conversation. This is an absolutely absurd conversation and quite frankly, the more you debate and argue this, the more I want to vote no. I've come in here and I believe in what the Board of Elections does as an operational matter, but this is an absurd and ridiculous conversation. Let's just get the vote over with. Because this isn't going anywhere. I think for you to argue that the mass media system of TV, compared to you going out to festivals, it's absurd. There's 1.3 million people in this county. If you went to every single festival, you went to every single community meeting, you hosted a thousand of them, and you got 100% of their attention,

it still wouldn't equal the impact of a full media plan that included television and social media, it's absurd to argue that.

Mr. Payne: I wasn't...

Commissioner Boyce: Don't cut me off, because you've not been listening and you don't do a very good job, and I don't know you very well sir, but I will tell you, just sitting here listening to you when you walked in and sat in, I was ready to vote yes. Let's get it over with. I respect Commissioner O'Grady's position, I think it's the right one, but we also have an operation to carry out. But you make me want to vote no, too.

President Brown: Me too.

Commissioner Boyce: You have not made me feel better. You have not made me feel more comfortable with this process. This discussion or even the engagement that's going on between the board and the Board of Commissioners. I have to tell you, I can't wait until the next budget cycle. Let's take a close look. This just goes to show how much of an understanding you all have of consultants. When consultants buy media time, it's a progressive process. They have to look at what's trending in terms of what people watch, they look at times, they look at who watches what. Only a person who does that for a living can do that, and that's what those consultants do. We happen to do that every four years, when we are running for election, we have to go through that process. I can tell you, I go to every community meeting, every festival, stand out there, and again, if you got 100% of the people who attended, it still wouldn't equal a full mass media plan to make sure that your impacting and communicating your vote.

Commissioner O'Grady: The candidates who go to every single festival, every single community event and don't buy advertising, generally lose.

Commissioner Boyce: And that's just a fact.

Mr. Payne: My comment, I do appreciate the vote. I was going to say, if you didn't like my presentation, if you didn't like my answers, please don't take it out on the hard working people.

Commissioner O'Grady: David, honestly, I've said this to you one hundred times, I respect what you do.

Mr. Payne: Thank you.

President Brown: We are taking this up today because we understand the value of the workers that work at the Board of Elections.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 526-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:49 A.M.

**(Signature page follows.)**

These minutes are a summary of the Commissioners' Briefing Session for July 25, 2019.

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**MARILYN BROWN, PRESIDENT**



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**JOHN O'GRADY**



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

Submitted by: Victoria Caldwell