

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Briefing Session Minutes
Thursday, September 19, 2024

President Boyce
Commissioner O'Grady
Commissioner Crawley

The purpose of the meeting was to review resolutions submitted for the September 24, 2024, 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 9:01 A.M.

CLERK OF COURT

Susan Bedsole, Deputy Director, Clerk of Court, offered a resolution approving a supplemental contract with MNJ Technologies Direct, Inc. to provide digital docket display signage (\$76,300.00) (Court of Common Pleas).

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

DOMESTIC RELATIONS

Barbara Reeves, Deputy Director of Business Operations & Finance, Domestic Relations, offered a resolution authorizing a supplemental appropriation in the Special Food Fund to support program operations (Domestic Relations).

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

Barbara Reeves offered a resolution authorizing a first contract extension with Action for Children for Parenting Seminars (\$45,623.40) (Domestic Relations).

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

Barbara Reeves offered a resolution authorizing a maintenance agreement with Sadler-NeCamp Financial Services, Inc. dba PROWARE (\$353,140.00) (Domestic Relations).

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

AUDITOR

Trenton Weaver, Director of Consumer Services, Auditor, offered a resolution authorizing a third amendment to the Contract with Hoover Blanket Inc. dba Main Street Computing for the provision of dog licensing software (\$54,000.00) (Auditor).

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

CORONER

Amanda Alvarez Wright, Director of Operations, Coroner, offered a resolution authorizing a supplemental contract with Agilent Technologies, Inc. for the purchase of toxicology equipment utilizing awarded American Rescue Plan Act grant funds (\$107,790.34) (Coroner).

Ms. Alvarez Wright 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 Report (3rd) of the Franklin County Engineer, establishing sums of compensation for a portion of the owners of property abutting the Renner Road, County Road No. 27, from Alton & Darby Creek Road, County Road No. 272, to Spindler Road, County Road No. 153, Improvement project, Norwich Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$38,736.50) (Engineer).

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

William “Fritz” Crosier offered a resolution for Report (7th) of the Franklin County Engineer, establishing sums of compensation for a portion of the owners of property abutting the Reynoldsburg-New Albany Road, County Road No. 6, at Havens Road, Township Road No. 203, Improvement project, Jefferson Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$109,350.00) (Engineer).

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

William “Fritz” Crosier offered a resolution approving street, storm sewer and water improvement plans for Woodland Preserve, Jefferson Township, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer).

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

William “Fritz” Crosier offered a resolution approving street, storm sewer and water improvement plans for the Villages at Galloway, Phase 4, Prairie Township, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer).

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

SHERIFF

Albert J. Smith III, Assistant Director of Finance, Sheriff’s Office, offered a resolution authorizing an agreement with Franklin County Job and Family Services for police protection at three office locations within Franklin County (\$1,359,000.00) (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 Community Outreach Fund for a new therapy dog and associated equipment (Sheriff).

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

ANIMAL CONTROL

April Ricciardo, Assistant Director, Animal Control, offered a resolution authorizing the acceptance of a gift from John G. Shaver (\$18,907.82) (Animal Control).

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

OFFICE OF DIVERSITY EQUITY & INCLUSION

Damika Withers, Chief Economic Equity and Inclusion Officer, Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, offered a resolution authorizing a contract agreement with Purple Star Photography for photography services rendered for the second Franklin County Board of Commissioners DEI Conference (\$2,000.00) (Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion).

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

Damika Withers offered a resolution authorizing an agreement with the US Together, Inc. to implement Central Ohio's Welcoming Plan for services and support for immigrants and refugees (\$251,000.00) (Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion).

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

Damika Withers offered a resolution authorizing a contract agreement with KatBro LTD for conference branding, marketing, and social media communications for the second Franklin County Board of Commissioners DEI Conference (\$19,500.00) (Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion).

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

Damika Withers offered a resolution authorizing the Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion to execute an agreement with Experience Columbus to boost tourism and revenue for Franklin County (\$750,000.00) (Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion).

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

Commissioner Boyce asked if this funding was in addition to the money given to Experience Columbus.

Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator, advised that this amount was in addition to what was given.

Commissioner Boyce asked if this would be a one-time request or if this would be a multiple-year commitment.

Administrator Wilson noted that Experience Columbus had a larger budget ask and would be discussing its annual allocation with the City of Columbus.

Damika Withers offered a resolution authorizing a grant agreement with the Now Foundation for the empowerment of minority small businesses and creatives, focusing on visual and performing arts, culinary, and fashion (\$500,000.00) (Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion).

Ms. Withers 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 Review of petition to annex 6.4 +/- acres from Truro Township to the City of Columbus Case #ANX-14-24 (Economic Development and Planning).

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

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

Bart Logan, Assistant Director of Communications, Job and Family Services, offered a resolution approving a contract amendment with Access 2 Interpreters, LLC for interpretation and translation services (\$1,800,000.00) (Job and Family Services).

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

Bart Logan offered a resolution approving a contract amendment with Arbor E & T, LLC dba Equus Workforce Solutions for the Ohio Works First work activities services and management (\$600,000.00) (Job and Family Services).

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

Bart Logan offered a resolution approving and certifying amendments to the Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services' Prevention, Retention, and Contingency Plan for the 2024-2025 biennial period (Job and Family Services).

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

JUSTICE POLICY AND PROGRAMS

Courtney Moats, Grants Specialist, Justice Policy and Programs, offered a resolution authorizing a subgrant award agreement with Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security for the purchase of interoperability equipment under the FY 2021 Justice Assistance Grant (\$37,000.00) (Justice Policy and Programs).

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

Courtney Moats offered a resolution authorizing two professional service contract agreements for peer support and case management services for residents served via SAFER Station (\$28,512.00) (Justice Policy and Programs).

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

PURCHASING

Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing, and Damika Withers, Chief Economic Equity and Inclusion Officer, Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, offered a resolution approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$2,914,147.71) (Purchasing).

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

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Brittany Razek, Director of Community Appointments, Board of Commissioners, offered a resolution to authorize and reappoint Joe Mazzola in his official capacity as the Franklin County Board of Commissioners representative to the OneOhio Region 1 Board arising out of NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION OPIATE LITIGATION (Board of Commissioners).

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

Brittany Razek offered a resolution to authorize Dr. Robert Graessle as a joint reappointment representative to the OneOhio Region 1 Board arising out of NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION OPIATE LITIGATION (Board of Commissioners).

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

Brittany Razek offered a resolution to authorize Ruchelle Pride in her official capacity as the Franklin County Board of Commissioners representative to the OneOhio Region 1 Board arising out of NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION OPIATE LITIGATION (Board of Commissioners).

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

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The Clerk noted there will be no journalizations at General Session on Tuesday, September 24, 2024.

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COUNTY ADMINISTRATION UPDATE

Kenneth Wilson, County Administrator, discussed the upcoming budget session and the strategic priorities set by the board of commissioners for the budget, and advised that the Office of Management and Budget and County Administration would be meeting to finalize the budget.

Commissioner Boyce discussed conversations he recently had with concerned residents about the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cut and what the county would be doing about it, and if there would be more cuts, the county needs to get ahead of the situation and get with the various agencies to formulate a plan.

Administrator Wilson noted those cuts would be around 30%. Vivian Turner, Chief Administrator, Job and Family Services, advised notices went to the commissioners advising of the cuts to TANF funding.

Commissioner Boyce expressed concern that residents were caught off guard by the cuts and that the community will feel the impact and expressed the need for the county to avoid this situation as more cuts are expected in the future.

Administrator Turner advised that notices of the cuts went out on Monday, and the funding reductions were over \$5MM.

Commissioner Boyce advised that he was aware of the memorandum but was surprised by what was being cut due to the amount of work the county does with those specific programs and residents are wondering what is being cut next.

Administrator Wilson advised that the American Rescue Plan reductions will be felt by the residents as well. Commissioner Boyce added that American Rescue Plan cuts were expected, but the amount of TANF cuts was not expected. It was noted that additional discussions needed to be had, while the county needs to get ahead of the situation.

Administrator Turner advised that the Human Services Chamber has contacted others, and her team has contacted the Chamber to obtain more information, and noted that every TANF contract received a reduction, and this was done to avoid the impact being felt by just a few residents; additionally, some programs were discontinued due to poor performance.

Administrator Wilson added that another area in need of budget adjustments was the Office on Aging's Senior Options program, which is needed for the county to keep the required reserve of a minimum of 90 days. Administrator Wilson noted that Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget, would be working with the Office on Aging.

Administrator Turner advised that an email outlining the reductions would go out to the commissioners today.

Commissioner Boyce noted that when the federal government cuts interest rates, it is indicative of what is to come, and the county needs to be ahead of cuts and potential downturns.

Kris Long, Deputy County Administrator, advised Joy Bivens, Deputy County Administrator, has been in talks with funders in the community and ensuring the county is maximizing its dollars.

Administrator Wilson added that, due to county return rates, healthcare rates for employees will not be increased in 2026.

Commissioner Crawley advised the community's needs are so great that commissioners have to be conservative about approving money, which is important for residents to understand.

Commissioner O'Grady added that he is hearing the county needs to look at a Health and Human Services Levy in the future, and with recent cuts, this conversation will be highlighted.

Commissioner Boyce noted that a levy will affect homeowners and seniors, and a study should be completed before any decisions are made. Administrator Wilson discussed the confusion between an increase in sales tax and an increase in property tax.

Commissioner Crawley added that a cost-of-living study needs to be done and the commissioners' goal by 2050 is to create a county where early childcare and education are a birthright.

Commissioner Boyce discussed the increase in property values, which increased property taxes, and that some owners had to take out loans to pay the increase in property taxes.

Commissioner Crawley added that there may be a time when the county needs a levy, but discussions must be held with community partners. Commissioner Boyce advised his skepticism of moving the needle without a levy in the future, and that these robust conversations must continue.

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There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:16 A.M.

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(Signature Page Follows)

These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' Briefing Session for Thursday, September 19, 2024.



KEVIN L. BOYCE, PRESIDENT

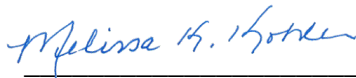


JOHN O'GRADY



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

Submitted by:



Melissa K. Kohler
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners