

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Briefing Session Minutes  
Thursday, October 26, 2023

President O'Grady  
Commissioner Boyce  
Commissioner Crawley

The purpose of the meeting was to review resolutions submitted for the October 31, 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 9:15 A.M.

ENGINEER

Nick Soulas, Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer's Office, offered a resolution for establishing, altering, and widening of Cleveland Avenue, County Road No. 75, commencing at Oakland Park Avenue, County Road No. 322, and continuing approximately 1,000 feet northerly along Cleveland Avenue, Clinton Township, Franklin County, Ohio, declared necessary (Engineer).

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

Nick Soulas offered a resolution for establishing, altering, and widening of Dempsey Road, County Road No. 183, commencing at the intersection of Dempsey Road and Hempstead Road, Township Road No. 184, and continuing approximately 1,000 feet in each direction along Dempsey Road, Blendon Township, Franklin County, Ohio, declared necessary (Engineer).

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

Nick Soulas offered a resolution for establishing, altering, and widening of Noe-Bixby Road, County Road No. 371, commencing at Winchester Pike, County Road No. 376, and continuing approximately 6,500 feet northeasterly along Noe-Bixby Road, Madison Township, Franklin County, Ohio, declared necessary (Engineer).

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

### RECORDER

Daniel J. O'Connor, Recorder, Recorder's Office, offered a resolution authorizing the set aside for the Recorder's Technology Fund for calendar year 2024 (Recorder).

Mr. O'Connor 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 a supplemental appropriation within the Commissary Fund associated with food and personal items (Sheriff).

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

### TREASURER

Jaclyn Treadwell, Budget and Purchasing Coordinator, Treasurer's Office, offered a resolution authorizing a non-general fund supplemental appropriation for the Franklin County Land Bank (Treasurer).

Ms. Treadwell 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 three-year Enterprise Enrollment for Microsoft Office 365 Software (\$9,107,971.81) (Franklin County Data Center).

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

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Brittany Stricklen-Hillyard, Community Partnerships Coordinator, Community Partnerships, offered a resolution authorizing Community Partnership Grant Agreements with 16 non-profit community agencies (\$3,704,831.00) (Community Partnerships).

Ms. Stricklen-Hillyard reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Brittany Stricklen-Hillyard offered a resolution for COVID-19 Recovery Grant to the Childhood League Center for the Rise Initiative in Early Childhood Education (\$300,000.00) (Community Partnerships).

Ms. Stricklen-Hillyard reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

*Deputy County Administrator Bivens asked if this was the maximum amount that the Childhood League Center requested, to which Ms. Stricklen-Hillyard replied in the affirmative. Ms. Stricklen-Hillyard also confirmed that this proposed resolution supports the Commissioners' Childcare Initiative, along with the Poverty Blueprint Plan. Commissioner Crawley noted that this proposed resolution supports salaries for a number of employees and asked what the sustainability plan is to continue to support these salaries. Ms. Stricklen-Hillyard stated she would be happy to have a representative present during General Session on Tuesday to answer any questions the Commissioners may have, including the question at hand.*

Brittany Stricklen-Hillyard offered a resolution authorizing a COVID-19 recovery grant with Big Brothers Big Sisters Central Ohio (\$329,651.00) (Community Partnerships).

Ms. Stricklen-Hillyard reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Brittany Stricklen-Hillyard offered a resolution authorizing a COVID-19 recovery grant with Franklin County Agricultural Society (\$999,700.00) (Community Partnerships).

Ms. Stricklen-Hillyard reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

*Commissioner Crawley asked what funding the Commissioners normally provide the Agricultural Society each year. Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget, stated that under the statutory requirements, the Board of Commissioners provides approximately \$3,200.00 to support county fairs. The Board of Commissioners has also historically supported the County Engineer's efforts to provide improvements to the fairgrounds, which is approximately \$100,000.00 per year. County Administrator Wilson noted that this proposed resolution is for assistance in addition to what the County typically provides. Commissioner Crawley asked why this did not qualify for the Capital*

*Grant. Administrator Wilson stated that due to the nature of how the fairgrounds operate, they were advised not to go through the Community Partnerships Capital Grant process because this grant exceeds the amount normally given under the Capital Grant. Commissioner Boyce asked why Community Partnerships funds are being used for this proposed resolution. Administrator Wilson replied that this is a one-time expenditure, so it is appropriate to use COVID-19 dollars. Mr. Talarek clarified that for the Capital Grant, any grant over \$500,000.00 had to be fully reimbursed. The Agricultural Society did not have the resources to start the project, so that is why it is being brought forth as a separate resolution. Deputy County Administrator Long stated that the majority of the funds will be used to make the bathrooms ADA accessible, as well as offer multi-gendered restrooms. These improvements will allow the County to use the space year-round for County and community functions in a way that is currently unsuitable.*

Brittany Stricklen-Hillyard offered a resolution authorizing a COVID-19 recovery grant with Mid-Ohio Food Collective for emergency food assistance (\$500,000.00) (Community Partnerships).

Ms. Stricklen-Hillyard reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

*Commissioner Boyce asked how much money was requested, to which Ms. Stricklen-Hillyard replied that this proposed resolution was for \$500,000.00. Administrator Wilson noted that there is an additional request that will support the Eastland Prosperity Center project, which is for \$2,000,000.00. Commissioner Crawley asked for the total amount of funds the Board of Commissioners has provided for food assistance this year. Ms. Stricklen-Hillyard agreed to provide that information to the Commissioners by the end of the day. Commissioner Crawley emphasized that continued advocacy is needed at the state level for them to provide funding, as well. Administrator Wilson highlighted the growing need for food assistance in Franklin County, stating that out of the 1.35 million residents, approximately 500,000 residents have visited the Mid-Ohio Food Collective more than once over the course of the year. The Board of Commissioners has provided approximately \$16.5 million to the Mid-Ohio Food Collective over the last several years. Deputy County Administrator Bivens noted that there has also been an increase in the number of SNAP benefits recipients in the county compared to pre-pandemic numbers. Commissioner Boyce added that unemployment is low in Central Ohio, but food insecurity is still increasing, and the root cause needs to be assessed.*

## OFFICE OF DIVERSITY EQUITY & INCLUSION

Damika Withers, Chief Economic Equity and Inclusion Officer, Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion, offered a resolution authorizing a contract agreement with Clarity Solutions Group LLC for consulting services for the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion data strategy and framework (\$96,000.00) (Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion).

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

Damika Withers offered a resolution authorizing a grant agreement with Columbus Urban League for support of the Minority Business Access Center (\$75,000.00) (Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion).

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

Damika Withers offered a resolution authorizing a grant agreement with Buckeye Entertainment for rental of the claw equipment to be used for small emerging business outreach for the first Franklin County Office of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Conference (\$900.00) (Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion).

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

Damika Withers offered a resolution authorizing a grant agreement with Orbit360 Photobooth for rental of a 360 photobooth to be utilized during the Connect & Ignite reception during the Franklin County Office of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Conference (\$200.00) (Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion).

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

### FLEET MANAGEMENT

Charlotte Ashcraft, Director, Fleet Management, offered a resolution authorizing the 2024 vehicle commitment with Byers Ford, LLC (Fleet Management).

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

### JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

Bart Logan, Deputy Director, Communications, Job and Family Services, offered a resolution approving subaward agreements with multiple community agencies for Franklin County Out-of-School Time youth programs (\$9,716,858.04) (Job and Family Services).

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

## JUSTICE POLICY AND PROGRAMS

Courtney Moats, Grants Administrator, Justice Policy and Programs, offered a resolution authorizing a subaward agreement with UNIK Foundation for the implementation of a New American Adult Diversionary-Reentry Program under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (\$250,000.00) (Justice Policy and Programs).

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

Courtney Moats offered a resolution authorizing the Franklin County Administrator to sign an Award and Acceptance Form in receipt of an FY 2024 Victims of Crimes Act (VOCA) grant from the Ohio Attorney General's Office (\$107,260.64) (Justice Policy and Programs).

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

Courtney Moats offered a resolution authorizing the Franklin County Administrator to sign all acceptance documents and waivers related to the receipt of Franklin County's FY 2022 Title II Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act Formula and Planning grants from the Ohio Department of Youth Services (\$245,000.00) (Justice Policy and Programs).

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

Courtney Moats offered a resolution authorizing the County Administrator to accept the FY 2023 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) award to Franklin County and to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the cities of Columbus, Reynoldsburg, and Whitehall confirming an agreed-upon funding plan and to sign all certification and assurance documents related to the grant program (Justice Policy and Programs).

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

## SANITARY ENGINEERS

Ryan Stowe, Assistant Director, Sanitary Engineers, offered a resolution authorizing a Water Pollution Control Loan Fund Application to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Ohio Water Development Authority for the construction phase of the Gladys-Inah Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project (Sanitary Engineers).

Mr. Stowe 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 (\$5,630,900.96) (Purchasing).

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

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget, offered a resolution authorizing CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence, Inc. to receive the fees collected in 2024 for the support of shelters for victims of domestic violence (Board of Commissioners).

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

Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator, Board of Commissioners, offered a resolution, postponed on October 24, 2023, authorizing non-general fund appropriation adjustments for the provision and maintenance of zoological park services and facilities (Board of Commissioners).

Mr. Wilson 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, October 31, 2023.*

The Board took a recess until 10:32 A.M. before reconvening for the Voting Session.

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**RESOLUTION TO BE PASSED AT BRIEFING SESSION**

**Resolution No. 0819-23**, of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners to convene into Executive Session for the purpose of considering personnel matters and to confer with the Franklin County Prosecutor’s Office concerning pending or imminent litigation (Board of Commissioners).

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0819-23, to convene into Executive Session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official and to confer with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote, and the Commissioners convened into Executive Session at 10:33 A.M.

At 12:54 P.M., Commissioner Crawley moved to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner O’Grady, which was approved by roll call vote. No substantive action was taken upon exiting Executive Session, and with no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 P.M.

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**(Signature Page Follows)**



These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' Briefing Session for Thursday, October 26, 2023.

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**JOHN O'GRADY, PRESIDENT**



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**KEVIN L. BOYCE**



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

Submitted by:



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Lauren M. Graessle

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