

## FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Briefing Minutes  
February 2, 2017

President O'Grady  
Commissioner Brown  
Commissioner Boyce

The purpose of the meeting was to review resolutions submitted for the February 7, 2017 General Session, and to discuss other matters pertaining to the programs of the agencies. These notes are a synopsis of the meeting.

President O'Grady convened the meeting at 9:01 A.M.

### ENGINEER

Dean Ringle, County Engineer, Engineer's Office, offered a resolution accepting the annual bridge inspection report for 2016.

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

Commissioner Brown: Is there any money to be had from the Federal government?

Mr. Ringle: Yes, but everyone is competing for it. It is nowhere near what Ohio needs.

President O'Grady: What dollar amount do you think this list represents? (referring to supplemental handout from Mr. Ringle)

Mr. Ringle: About \$10,000,000.

Commissioner Boyce: You mentioned that a bridge can fit into a specific category for 10 years. Are any of the bridges on this list at the end of their cycle to fall into a different category?

Mr. Ringle: None are in imminent danger.

Commissioner Boyce: When you evaluate bridges, is this done internally or do you contract it out? Also, are there many opinions that weigh in on the bridge inspection?

Mr. Ringle: We follow what the state does. We do most inspections internally. One must be certified. There are different categories we rate during an inspection. For more complex bridges, we have outside inspectors. We also contract with divers that check our underwater structure of bridges.

President O'Grady: The new administration is promising infrastructure and I am hoping he delivers. If you have any additional information please share. We will be in Washington D.C. at the end of this month to meet with the Ohio delegation. We want to talk about a lot of these issues.

Mr. Ringle: The American Society of Civil Engineers is a good source to use.

President O'Grady: Erik Janas, Deputy Administrator, what is going on at Rickenbacker Airport?

Mr. Janas: The TIGER application process will continue.

Commissioner Brown: We all need to have the same message at the National Association of Counties Legislative Conference.

Mr. Janas: We will put together a packet of information to make sure that we cover the same message in our meetings.

Commissioner Boyce: I would love to go on a bridge inspection with you one day.

Mr. Ringle: Just let us know when.

Mr. Ringle offered a resolution pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 5543.06, setting Thursday, March 9, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the Berwick Manor Restaurant for the Annual Meeting of the Franklin County Engineer between Township and County authorities.

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

Cornell Robertson, Chief Deputy Engineer, Engineer's Office, offered a resolution authorizing the County Engineer to submit an application, sign documents and enter project agreements on behalf of Franklin County for the 2017 Scrap Tire Grant Program offered by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

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

Mr. Robertson offered a resolution for plans approved for the rehabilitation of the structure on Big Run Road 0.27 over Big Run, Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$98,239).

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

Mr. Robertson offered a resolution for Parsons Brinckerhoff, Inc., consulting engineers appointed to assist the Franklin County Engineer in performing preliminary engineering for the Rohr Road at SR317 improvement project, Franklin County, Ohio (\$98,239).

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

Mr. Robertson offered a resolution for establishing, altering and widening of Reynoldsburg New Albany Road, County Road No. 6, Jefferson Township, Franklin County, Ohio, declared necessary.

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

Mr. Robertson offered a resolution for establishing, altering and widening of Melrose Avenue and Lamont Avenue, Clinton Township, Franklin County, Ohio, declared necessary.

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

Mr. Robertson offered a resolution for Establishing, altering and widening of Audrey Road, from the City of Columbus corporate boundary to Cleveland Avenue, Clinton Township, Franklin County, Ohio, declared necessary.

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

Mr. Robertson offered a resolution authorizing contracts with Follow the River Environmental and Stone Environmental Engineering & Science, Inc., to provide consulting services (\$95,560).

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

Mr. Robertson offered a resolution authorizing contracts with Trans Associates Engineering Consultants, Inc., Lanham Engineering, LLC and Transmap Corporation, to provide consulting services (\$65,000).

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

Mr. Robertson offered a resolution requesting the Ohio Department of Transportation to reduce the speed limit on a portion of Dublin Road, Rohr Road and Stimmel Road, Franklin County, Ohio.

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

Commissioner Brown: What are you reducing the speed limit to?

Mr. Ringle: I believe all are going down to 35mph, but Stimmel Road is going down to 40mph. We have to submit to the state to recommend the reduction.

Commissioner Boyce: What are you looking at in lowering the speed limit?

Mr. Ringle: All of the factors are equal. We look at accident history, access points, condition of road, geometry of road, what is the average speed limit on the road and the like.

Commissioner Boyce: Have you ever been asked to increase the speed limit on a road?

Mr. Ringle: Yes, after a construction project is complete on a road, we recommend increasing it back to the level before the construction.

Mr. Robertson offered a resolution requesting the Ohio Department of Transportation to reduce the speed limit on Central College Road, Orders Road and Stringtown Road, Franklin County, Ohio.

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

#### ANIMAL CONTROL

Timothy Lecklider, Prosecutor's Office, offered a resolution authorizing the settlement of legal claims brought in Grievance #2015-922, which was advanced to arbitration, FMCS Case #160107-52198-6, known as AFSCME Local 2049 (on behalf of Kendall Turner) and Franklin County Dog Shelter & Adoption Center, and Franklin County Commissioners (\$7,500).

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

#### OFFICE ON AGING

Zak Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget, offered a resolution authorizing a non-general fund supplemental appropriation and payment to the Board of Elections for expenses related to the May 2, 2017 election (\$1,343,000).

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

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

Mark Paxson, Interim Assistant Director, Economic Development and Planning, offered a resolution authorizing an agreement with Heritage Ohio to continue the Franklin County Downtown Revitalization Services Program, "Downtown Works" (\$54,000).

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

Ms. Barrett: I am Joyce Barrett, Executive Director, Heritage Ohio. Heritage Ohio is the coordinating agency for Ohio for the National Main Street Program. It is a 37 year program

template for downtown revitalization. This is our second year contracting with Franklin County Downtown Works. The most successful programmatic work thus far has been with Westerville, Worthington, Grove City and Hilliard. We have had meetings with some of the other smaller municipalities and we have to be patient with our success moving forward. Ultimately, our goal is to increase income tax, sales tax and property tax. We work with these communities, with what we call a four point approach, which is Organization, Promotion, Economic Development and Design. Design is about the buildings. How do you renovate buildings? Economic restructuring with businesses. The template program is retention first, expansion second and recruitment third. Promotions is to get people accustomed to coming downtown and using the downtown for attractive events. People are mesmerized by the events, but it is about the economic development.

President O'Grady: I have witnessed firsthand the transition of downtown Hilliard. I see it almost every day. It is great to see and they have done a lot of things there. They have concerts in the summer time and a farmers market. They have also changed the streetscape. It is a different place than it was a few years ago.

Commissioner Brown: When a community wants to work with you, do they pay a fee to do that work?

Ms. Barrett: There are three levels. The Franklin County Downtown Works provides technical assistance and when they call us, we are there. If they want to be an affiliate level, that is a \$975 fee. They only pay half of that, which gives them the extra benefit. The gold star level is a \$4,000 fee. If the Downtown Works wants us down there, there are no fees.

President O'Grady: All of the communities you named, Westerville, Worthington, Hilliard and Grove City, have all metamorphosed over the last number of years. Some of those downtown areas are the most vibrant in central Ohio.

Commissioner Brown: I am looking at your reinvestments stats with the Main Street Program through 2013 and it is certainly impressive and the number of jobs that have been created. It would be nice to see in the future how we are doing in the communities you are now working in. I think this is a great program. If you need help getting into some other communities, let me know.

Mr. Paxson offered a resolution entering into a Service Agreement with the Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens for a Community Garden grant program (\$25,000).

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

Mr. Bill Dawson, Conservatory's Growing to Green Program Manager: Thank you for your continued and past support of the community gardens and your initiatives. I am happy to have Commissioner Boyce on board because I know your work in the neighborhoods and food access issues. The Growing to Green program has been in existence since 2000. When we began the program, there were around a dozen community gardens out there. They were struggling at that time and we began to help. We also have had some corporate support from Scots-Miracle Grow. The Local Food Action Plan adopted by the Commissioners has

started a resurgence of people wanting to grow their own food again. I have been to two meetings for the past two nights and the room was full of attendees and a lot of questions on how to get started. Food access is needed all across the county. We want to make sure that those receiving grant dollars are spending them wisely to make sure that the program is sustainable. There were so many volunteers at these two meetings that are trying to better their community with these gardens. These gardens are making communities safer because neighbors are looking out for each other more. The New American population wants to farm, grow their community and share their culture. They are teaching us and we are teaching them. It's an opportunity to share cultures.

Ms. Beth Miglin, International Harvest Garden Coordinator: At our garden, we provide space for residents across Franklin County to grow food for themselves and neighbors and to contribute to local food pantries. We have strong participation in our gardens from the Somali Bantu and Burmese refugee communities. As part of the local food system, we are producing delicious, healthy, significant foods. We are connecting and sharing and learning from each other through our food production, environment and nature. In 2016, we had over 150 gardeners who produced over 7,500 pounds of food. We expanded our garden size, we were able to provide some educational workshops, gave garden tours, and shared our garden knowledge with the community. With the garden expansion and the grant, we were able to provide accessible water, tools, soil and supplies which allowed our gardeners to become effective and productive in growing healthy and affordable foods. One of our garden leaders, Hai Vung Lian, Representative for the Burmese garden, wanted me to share a few words on his behalf. The garden brings great happiness and joy into his community. Most of his community comes from a rural and farming background. Sometimes there is a disconnect from the new life and the old life and the community gardens help bridge the gap and it makes it feel like home again. When people work all day, they will still work in the garden because working with the land is nourishing. The garden allows them to grow and eat cultural foods. He expresses with appreciation for the support of the Commissioners.

Mr. Jafar Matan, Representative for the Somali Garden: Good morning Commissioners. My community garden helps 400 low income families. We grow a number of vegetables in my community garden. I have been working in my community garden for fourteen years. We started with fifteen people working and now up to sixty-five people. I am thankful for the water for the community garden. People that were on medicine before the community garden and working in the garden, they no longer need medicine. Everything we grow is healthy. There are seventy-five year olds that work in my community garden. Thank you Commissioners.

President O'Grady: I learned a lot from Mr. Matan and Mr. Lian about gardening. What I learned from Mr. Matan is how to keep the deer away. In the Burmese garden, they just plant foods that the deer do not like to keep them away. My interest in community gardens started with Mr. Matan right after I became a County Commissioner in 2009. I met Mr. Matan at the Somali Community Center on the west side. Mr. Matan mentioned that they needed a place to grow. I came back and met with Jim Schimmer, Director, Economic Development and Planning, and Don Brown, former County Administrator, and said we need some land so this community can have a garden. It took a few months to get the Gantz

Road property. The big issue was getting water to the property. The first crop was planted in August and Mr. Matan grew until the end of the growing season.

Mr. Dawson: Yes, they grew until the end of November. A lot of us would leave the garden in September. They grew with the right techniques and the right crops. I learned much about dry land farming from Mr. Matan.

President O'Grady: The following year we built another acre, and put in a rain catcher system from Rain Brothers. It all worked out fine.

Mr. Dawson: We have assisted over 300 projects. You can hardly go anywhere without seeing one now. More and more new Americans want the opportunity to grow.

Commissioner Boyce: This goes much deeper than just gardens. It relates to an issue that the county deals with, which is poverty and access to fresh vegetables and fruits. Do we have a map of food deserts in Franklin County, where we really need to create an access point for gardens?

Mr. Dawson: We have been addressing that in Franklinton, Hilltop, Linden and the northeast part of the county, where there are a lot of immigrants.

Commissioner Boyce: Who has the map? Who generates the map? How can I get a copy of it?

Mr. Dawson: The local health department. Mid-Ohio Foodbank might have one.

Commissioner Brown: I know MORPC has it. We were looking at it at MORPC as it relates to poverty. Poverty and access to fresh fruits and vegetable is closely linked together.

President O'Grady: Can you get with Matt Brown and have him get the food desert overlay to each of the Commissioner's office?

Mr. Paxson: I believe it already exists and we will get it to you.

President O'Grady: I haven't seen it in a while. Mr. Paxson, this \$25,000 is our 2017 Community Gardens program?

Mr. Paxson: Yes.

President O'Grady: I do not know how much the city is going to be putting in this year.

Mr. Dawson: It is going to be a little bit less than the \$25,000 you are giving. They have a lot more applicants within the city.

President O'Grady: Mr. Paxson, are these CDBG dollars?

Mr. Paxson: Correct.

Commissioner Brown: They go to the right neighborhood, which is important.

President O'Grady: We have been doing this for seven years with the city as a way to grow this program. This is the reason we have gone from twelve to three hundred gardens around the county.

Mr. Dawson: Scots-Miracle grow has been tremendous with donating product and tools for these projects. They have their own grant as well.

President O'Grady: On top of the few thousand dollars we give each garden, Scots-Miracle will donate tools, soil, fertilizer and the like to make sure the garden will succeed. When does this usually happen?

Mr. Dawson: Earth Day. There will be eighteen semi-trucks with product to fulfill these three grants. We have an annual conference called Dig Ohio. It is an urban agriculture conference at the Franklin Park Conservatory.

President O'Grady: Thanks for coming guys.

#### CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

Lori Torriero, Assistant Director, Child Support Enforcement, offered a resolution authorizing an Employee Training and Recognition Event on February 24, 2017 (\$1,500).

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

#### PUBLIC FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Kris Long, Deputy Administrator, offered a resolution authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding providing support for the lease of space for the operations of The Ohio State University Extension Service, Franklin County, Ohio (\$65,000).

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

#### HUMAN RESOURCES

Rob Young, Director, Human Resources, offered a resolution approving Personnel Actions.

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



## PURCHASING

Karl Kuespert, Director, Purchasing, offered a resolution approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$3,321,121.76).

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

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mr. Talarek offered a resolution authorizing the agreements between Franklin County and the Public Safety Answering Points for the disbursement of Wireless 9-1-1 grant dollars.

Mr. Talarek reviewed information found in documents submitted with this proposed resolution and asked that it be removed from the agenda for one week.


Erik Janas, Deputy Administrator, offered a resolution reappointing Tom Fries, Sr., and Wayne B. Harer to the Franklin County Parks and Recreation Board of Trustees.

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

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:11 A.M.

**(Signature page follows.)**


These minutes are a summary of the Commissioners' Briefing Session for February 2, 2017.



**JOHN O'GRADY, PRESIDENT**

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**MARILYN BROWN**



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

Submitted by: Antwan Booker, Clerk