

FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Briefing Minutes
March 16, 2017

Commissioner Brown
Commissioner Boyce

The purpose of the meeting was to review resolutions submitted for the March 21, 2017 General Session, and to discuss other matters pertaining to the programs of the agencies. These notes are a synopsis of the meeting.

Commissioner Brown convened the meeting at 9:03 A.M.

AUDITOR

Kevin Schultz, GIS Manager, Auditor's Office, offered a resolution authorizing an amendment to the contract with Tyler Technologies, Inc. for a Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal System at an increase of \$34,950.00 (\$34,950).

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

Commissioner Brown: Do you expect that this will be the last modification on this contract?

Mr. Schultz: Yes we do.

Commissioner Boyce: You talked about a lot of savings. Can you quantify those savings? Do you know the amounts that the savings would actually produce in comparison to the number we are paying today?

Mr. Schultz: Yes. We estimate that the scanning savings would be around \$60,000.

Commissioner Boyce: A year?

Mr. Schultz: Not necessarily an annual cost, but a cost savings over the next three years as we are automating our systems. We redo the cards every three years for reevaluations. Paper savings will be about \$3,000 annually. The staff time is unquantifiable at this moment. The overall savings of \$14,000 to the CycloMedia portion of the contract.

Commissioner Boyce: Does this pay for itself over time?

Mr. Schultz: Yes, a portion of it. Especially on the scanning side of the contract. We spend a lot of time scanning and indexing records to make access easier.

Commissioner Brown: Our residents can see all of the properties online as a result of this technology.

Mr. Schultz: Correct. The third portion of this contract, the CycloMedia portion, is a continuous drive technology that people can walk down the street. The technology that the Commissioners assisted in funding is great. They are about 45-50% complete. Hopefully they will be online at the beginning or end of April.

ENGINEER

Cornell Robertson, Chief Deputy Engineer, Engineer's Office, and Carla Marable, Project Assistant, Engineer's Office offered a resolution authorizing the 2017 Resurfacing Program for Franklin County, Ohio, declared necessary and hearing fixed for Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

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

Mr. Robertson offered a resolution authorizing the replacement or rehabilitation of various bridges and structures in Franklin County, Ohio, declared necessary.

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

Commissioner Brown: It is always good to keep them in good shape.

Mr. Robertson offered a resolution approving Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., consulting engineers appointed to assist the Franklin County Engineer in performing preliminary engineering for the Alum Creek Drive Corridor Study, Franklin County, Ohio (\$193,680).

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

Mr. Robertson offered a resolution approving Pennoni Associates, Inc., consulting engineers appointed to assist the Franklin County Engineer in providing bridge inspection services on various structures, Franklin County, Ohio (\$172,897).

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

Commissioner Boyce: When you say you are doing a qualifications based selection process, are you saying that you did an RFQ and get qualified firms that could do the work and select the firm for the particular project?

Mr. Robertson: That is accurate. We advertise in the newspaper. We usually have a list of projects that needs to be done and get interest from various consultants. We have quite a bit of consultants in our area that are competitive. We have a committee that meets and discuss about the various qualifications and past work experiences to make the selection.

Commissioner Boyce: This might not be the forum, but I am curious about this since I am still learning the county. You do not have the option of the lowest bidder, but end up negotiating the price that you think is the right number.

Mr. Robertson: That is correct. It is a little bit different than what we do for our capital improvement projects and construction. We do a sealed bids process and we have to choose the lowest and best bid.

Commissioner Brown: Do you advertise in the Central Ohio Minority Business?

Mr. Robertson: I am not positive of that.

Commissioner Brown: They do a great job of getting the word out to minority contractors as well. They have an online resource. That would be really good to advertise there as well as where you advertise now.

Mr. Robertson: We will look into that. We do have minority contractors that we work with. That would be a nice additional advertisement.

Ms. Marable offered a resolution authorizing a contract with True Inspection Services, LLC, consultant, for bridge coating inspection services for the Franklin County Engineer (\$60,000).

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

Commissioner Brown: I would say that is kind of a specialty to inspect the paint.

Ms. Marable: It is.

Ms. Marable offered a resolution to approve plans for the Multiple Bridge Repairs project (formerly known as the Bridge End Dam Repair project), Franklin County, Ohio.

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

Commissioner Boyce: When the other municipalities that are impacted by these improvements, how well do we coordinate with them? Are we communicating with them or do we just make them aware? Are they involved in the process?

Ms. Marable: We do a great job in coordinating. We try to get those municipalities involved in the design phase. With this project, we are coordinating with Delaware County, Genoa Township and Blendon Township.

Commissioner Boyce: So you let them weigh in on the design? Design can be a big factor when working with a bigger municipality.

Ms. Marable: The process, without getting too deep, we route the plans through their offices and submit comments. Sometimes we come together and discuss those items of interest.

Mr. Robertson: We meet with Columbus on a quarterly basis and share some things that we are working on because it seems like something is always popping up. This gives us an opportunity to share information. We work with Paving the Way as well.

Commissioner Brown: They do not seem to be as active anymore. Are they still getting the word out about all the construction projects?

Mr. Robertson: Yes.

Commissioner Brown: We used to coordinate really well with MORPC, when I was working there. It was a big push to get all the construction projects out that were going on. It seemed to have stopped, but construction has not stopped.

Ms. Marable offered a resolution to authorize preliminary allocation and final encumbrance of County Motor Vehicle License Tax (\$5) Funds for the City of Gahanna (\$219,000).

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

Ms. Marable offered a resolution to authorize preliminary allocation and final encumbrance of County Motor Vehicle License Tax (\$5) Funds for the City of Westerville (\$430,000).

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

Commissioner Boyce: When we were at NACo, we discussed the House Bill that would have changed our authority of License Tax Funds. It is that kind of connection that we really need to pay attention to because it could affect our ability long term to make these kinds of decisions. This is where the different silos of government need to do a better job of connecting. There was an amendment we became aware of and needed to make some phone calls to fight against because it impacted our authority.

Mr. Robertson offered a resolution authorizing the County Engineer enter into a cooperative agreement with the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) and the City of Columbus for the Cleveland Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project.

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

SHERIFF

Dave Masterson, Director of Administrative Services, Sheriff's Office, offered a resolution authorizing a settlement to Jennifer Gitau for a disputed property damage claim due to an auto accident involving a Franklin County Sheriff's Deputy (\$500).

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

Mr. Masterson offered a resolution authorizing a settlement to Mukhtar Mohamoud for a disputed property damage claim due to an auto accident involving a Franklin County Sheriff's Deputy (\$250).

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

Commissioner Boyce: When a Deputy is involved in an accident, that is their fault, do they have to use their personal insurance? How does that work?

Mr. Masterson: No. The Ohio Revised Code (ORC) requires us to cover the other person's deductible. The other person's insurance is covering the cost and we are paying the deductible.

Commissioner Boyce: The Deputy or the other person?

Mr. Masterson: The other person.

Commissioner Boyce: Are we paying for the damages as well?

Mr. Masterson: No. We pay the deductible and their personal insurance covers the cost of repairs.

Commissioner Brown: Does that get negotiated?

Mr. Masterson: I am not sure regarding the ORC, but there is something about a type of immunity that allows us to just pay the deductible. Should that person not have insurance, we would pay the cost of the full damage and other actions would be taken on our part.

Commissioner Boyce: The immunity provision is what I was getting at. Even if we pay the other person's deductible, does it count against them on their insurance?

Mr. Masterson: I do not believe they could be penalized in that manner. I will have to check with Charlotte Ashcraft, Director, Fleet Management and get back to you on that.

Commissioner Boyce: I am curious. It is one of those legislative areas, where I think the county could do, in terms of advocacy, which benefits our residents. This is one of the interesting things I have stumbled upon that we need to think about.

Mr. Masterson: I am familiar with this because my mom was rear ended by a Grove City police officer and they covered her deductible and it didn't harm her insurance.

Commissioner Boyce: The ORC holds the insurance company that they cannot penalize the victim of an accident when it is the county's fault?

Mr. Masterson: I believe that is accurate, but will verify that information.

Commissioner Brown: If the person gets hurt, that is a whole different issue.

Mr. Masterson: That is a whole different claim.

Kenneth Wilson, County Administrator: We pay for bodily injuries.

Mr. Masterson: The bodily injury would be negotiated with a claims adjuster. These two resolutions were no speed or low speed incidents.

Mr. Masterson offered a resolution authorizing a contract with the Ohio Department of Transportation to continue an inmate work program for litter removal along Franklin County roadways (\$92,500).

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

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

Lori Torriero, Assistant Director, Child Support Enforcement, offered a resolution authorizing a IV-D contract with the Franklin County Data Center (\$434,357.13).

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

Jim Schimmer, Director, Economic Development and Planning, offered a resolution authorizing the Review of Petition to Annex 0.24 +/- acres from Hamilton Township to the City of Columbus Case #ANX-02-17.

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

Mr. Schimmer offered a resolution authorizing the Review of Petition to Annex 0.697 +/- acres from Sharon Township to the City of Columbus Case #ANX-03-17.

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

Mr. Schimmer offered a resolution authorizing the Review of Petition to Annex 2.355 +/- acres from Franklin Township to the City of Columbus Case #ANX-04-17.

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

HOMELAND SECURITY AND JUSTICE PROGRAMS

Greg Plantz, Fiscal Administrator, Homeland Security and Justice Programs, offered a resolution authorizing receipt of the Franklin County FY 2016 S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Act Block and Administrative Grant Awards (\$578,764.02).

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

Mr. Plantz offered a resolution authorizing sub grant awards and contracts for services to provide victim services and enhance law enforcement and prosecution under the FY 2016 S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Act Block Grant (\$361,403.16).

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

Commissioner Brown: Would the other money that you are not allocating, do you know what would be done with that money?

Mr. Plantz: I will go back and look at the attachment. I noticed that yesterday.

Commissioner Brown: Columbus is not part of this packet.

Mr. Plantz: Their projects may not have been approved yet. We usually support their domestic violence prosecutors.

Commissioner Brown: I noticed that there were fewer dollars allocated.

Mr. Plantz: I will take a look at this because as we opened up requisitions to go along with the contracts, they could possibly not be ready to move forward for some reason.

Commissioner Boyce: The VAWA Act is an important resource for women who come through human trafficking. One of the things that the New American Advisory Council is looking at is a bill that would reduce the wait time a woman is subject to under the VAWA Act in terms of accessin benefits. This is another legislative area where this work and our advocacy for the legislative actions can have a real impact. I know this will be a top issue for the Council.

Commissioner Brown: The money keeps getting reduced over the years from the federal government. I do not know what is going to happen now. Our advocacy is more important now.

Mr. Plantz: On a positive note, this is an increase of about \$30,000.

Commissioner Brown: This is 2016 money and they are talking about zeroing out VAWA money and some of our social service programs money, which is critically important.

Commissioner Boyce: Something for us to think about is to be thoughtful about the federal policy changes that might impact the folks we serve. We need to stay ahead of these issues. If funding is cut off, the need still exists.

Commissioner Brown: Absolutely.

Mr. Plantz: With all of the proposed cuts, there will be plenty to advocate for at the federal level.

Commissioner Brown: There will also be some cuts in HUD. All of our CDBG money is on the line and all of the cuts from HUD that helps our community is on the line. That concerns me. We use those monies so well.

Commissioner Boyce: The thoughtfulness that we need to be projecting out these potential changes that affect our community at large.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Dayna McCrary, Community Partnership Coordinator, offered a resolution authorizing a one-year collaboration agreement with the Franklin County Public Health Commissioner to administer contracts for health care services for low income, underinsured or uninsured county residents.

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

Zak Talarek, Director, Office on Management and Budget: It is kind of a two-tier process where they delegate to us the authority to contract with those six entities.

Commissioner Brown: I think it makes sense that Public Health is doing these contracts. We were able to do them in the past.

Mr. Talarek: We will be doing them. This will grant us the authority to enter into these contracts. Based on the guidance of our Prosecutor's Office, we cannot directly contract with these types of services under statute, but Public Health can grant us the authority to enter into the contracts.

Mr. Wilson: If we do not have a direct connection with a federal program, i.e. Medicaid, we have to do this.

Commissioner Brown: This is kind of a change because we used to not do this through Public Health. I am happy we are funding these programs.

Mr. Wilson: We have gone multiple directions with this. We are following our counsel's advice on this.

Mr. Talarek: Pending your approval on this, we will bring the contracts to the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Wilson: We are talking about the cancer support community, Central Ohio Diabetes, which is now part of LifeCare Alliance because of the difficulties they have had. We do not know what is going to happen at the federal level with healthcare; the preventive health portion alone there is \$1 billion on the table.

Commissioner Boyce: I wanted to compliment Ms. McCrary. I went to your meeting with community partners and it was a good idea to get them all in one room and come together. What I got from it is the collaborative nature where groups can talk to one another and see the bigger picture on how they can serve this community. I think it was a good convening.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Sue Hamilton, Assistant Director, Human Resources, offered a resolution authorizing the settlement of Worker's Compensation claims against the County by Cierra Merriweather (\$30,000)

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

Ms. Hamilton offered a resolution approving Personnel Actions.

Ms. Hamilton 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 (\$2,590,659.70).

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

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Kenneth Wilson, County Administrator, offered a resolution urging the United States Congress, specifically those members representing the people of Ohio, to oppose any and all attacks on affordable, accessible and comprehensive health coverage for Americans.


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

Commissioner Brown: I am really happy that we are doing this. As I have been reading all of the issues that have been proposed, there is a lot of things in the new healthcare act that will impact our residents negatively. I won't be here on Tuesday, but I fully support this resolution and anything else we can do to get to our Congress members to let them know the impact this will have on people and their lives. It is one thing to give true insurance coverage or to give access to potential coverage. They are very different. All I am hearing is that the new healthcare bill is going to provide access. That is not enough. We need to give coverage. This will affect our senior citizens in a great way financially. They will not be able to afford insurance, let alone go and see a physician. The Medicaid expansion will be capped. We cannot afford that. We have done a great job in Ohio, in Franklin County especially, that we made use of the Medicaid expansion that provided coverage for individuals who would not have been covered. I am devastated by the plan that has been proposed. I think we should do whatever we can to get our residents coverage and not just access.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:43 A.M.

(Signature page follows.)

These minutes are a summary of the Commissioners' Briefing Session for March 16, 2017.



JOHN O'GRADY, PRESIDENT



MARILYN BROWN



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

Submitted by: Antwan Booker, Clerk