

FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Briefing Minutes  
May 30, 2019

President Brown  
Commissioner O'Grady

The purpose of the meeting was to review resolutions submitted for the June 04, 2019 General Session, 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 9:03 A.M.

ENGINEER

Carla Marable, Director of Communications, Engineer's Office, offered a resolution for prayer of petition to vacate a portion of Canal Street, Village of Shadeville, Hamilton Township, Franklin County, Ohio, granted.

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

Ms. Marable offered a resolution, Greenman-Pedersen, Inc., consulting engineers appointed to assist the Franklin County Engineer in providing bridge inspection services on various structures, Franklin County, Ohio (\$78,345.00).

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

Ms. Marable offered a resolution awarding contract and approving contract bond to Darby Creek Excavating, Inc., for the 2019 General Drainage Investigation and Repair Services Project, Franklin County, Ohio (\$301,730.00).

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

Mr. Crosier offered a resolution report (1st) of the Franklin County Engineer, establishing sums of compensation for a portion of the owners of property abutting the Borror Road 1.66 over Plum Run North improvement, Jackson Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$5,420.00).

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

Mr. Crosier offered a resolution report (3rd) of the Franklin County Engineer, establishing sums of compensation for a portion of the owners of property abutting the Borrer Road from Quail Creek Boulevard to State Route 104 project, Jackson Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$116,158.00).

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

Mr. Crosier offered a resolution approving street, storm and water improvement plans for the Villages at Jefferson Run Phase 1, Jefferson Township, Franklin County, Ohio.

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

### JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

Bart Logan, Administrative Officer, offered a resolution approving a subaward agreement with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Columbus, Inc. for Summer Youth Enrichment Programming (\$250,000.00).

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

Zak Talarek, Director, OMB: Commissioners, we would like to add one more resolution, it's related to the subgrant agreements that the state requires counties to enter into for Human Services funding, so these are the separate agreements for Job and Family Services, Child Support Enforcement and Children Services. Job and Family Services just got their documents yesterday and it's due by June 7, 2019 to the state. June 4<sup>th</sup> would be the last General Session Agenda to have that approved. With your permission, we like to add that on Tuesday and Job and Family Services would present that.

President Brown: Ok.

### VETERANS SERVICES

Robert Bramlish, Executive Director, Veterans Services, offered a resolution authorizing a contract with LifeCare Alliance to provide home-delivered meals and emergency care to low-income, chronically ill, disabled and homebound Veterans, spouses, and surviving spouses (\$48,900.00).

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

Commissioner O'Grady: These are also for prepared meals?

Mr. Bramlish: Yes sir.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

Mark Paxton, Community Development Administrator, Economic Development and Planning, offered a resolution adopting the 2019 Housing & Urban Development Annual (HUD) Action Plan and amending the County's 2018 Annual Action Plan.

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

President Brown: Mark, I know we've done this every year, do you expect as you get into the next five year plan that there are going to be major changes in the program itself? Have you gotten word from HUD?

Mr. Paxton: Really it's been a process. President Trump has tried to cancel out these programs the last couple years, so it really depends on who's in charge. We are going to a National Convention in June, and I'll be glad to provide any information. They are supposed to be giving us policy updates about President Trump's intentions for 2020.

President Brown: That would be good to know.

Mr. Paxton: Essentially it's held by the National Community Development Association Board members and they are the ones fighting the battle to maintain funding levels along with you.

Commissioner O'Grady: The first two years of his administration we went down and spent time. Every committee hearing we went into they were coming after CDBG, coming after HOME and coming after all these dollars. We made it through and now with majority in the House, it's a question of the next election, what the results of the next election are.

President Brown: I think we'll be ok, but it's hard to know.

Mr. Paxton: Certainly, it's a very popular program.

Commissioner O'Grady: Both Congressman Stivers and Congresswoman Beatty are big supporters of these programs.

President Brown: They always support these programs.

Mr. Schimmer: One difficulty we keep running into, at least in this administration is the timeliness of our payments. They're getting later and later in the year, and so with non-profits knowing where their funding source is, it is a little difficult.

President Brown: That's what I've heard. Let us know if there are things we should be doing.

Mr. Paxton: I'll be glad to bring materials we get from the conference.

Mr. Schimmer offered a resolution authorizing an Economic Development Agreement with Columbus 2020 to conduct economic development activities on behalf of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners (\$1,000,000.00).

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

Commissioner O'Grady: The goal was 150,000 net new jobs over the decade and I know we've far surpassed that.

Mr. Schimmer: I think we're over 300,000.

Commissioner O'Grady: Over 300,000 net new jobs, when the goal 150,000. Kenny's been talking about the focus now changing from growth to prosperity and inclusivity. We had a long conversation as it relates to our poverty work that we've been doing, so a lot of connectivity.

Mr. Schimmer: There is and Commissioners, that nine years gives us an illustration of how things change. I remember when they first started, they were about job creation specifically and community development did not enter into the equation. Now that's become more and more of the important part of what's being done.

President Brown: When I first started on the Board, the members often talked about needing to recruit new people to come into the region and it was often that I would say, we have people here who need jobs, and they would then say, we need to recruit new people to come into the region, we have a hard time recruiting people to come into the region. We have people who need jobs and there was always that tension. Mayor Coleman at the time and I were the only ones saying, we have people here who need jobs. Now they're talking about just that.

Mr. Schimmer: It's also really important to say it early, so it gets established. One of the things I have very much enjoyed about Kenny McDonald and his leadership at 2020 is that he is trying his best to stay in his lane and that has served him well. His quote is, "we need to do the blocking and tackling".

President Brown: That is what they needed at the time.

Commissioner O'Grady: Certainly now without question, the recognition that we can't be one of the most prosperous communities in the country when we have a segment of the population that is struggling in poverty. They are very much anxious to partner and to work to solve this issue. So we are looking forward to that.

## PURCHASING

Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing offered a resolution approving the updated purchasing policy regarding the requirements for all purchases made under the authority of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners.

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

President Brown: It puts it up front in the process.

Ms. Perry-Balonier: It does.

President Brown: I like that.

Ms. Perry-Balonier offered a resolution authorizing a first contract modification for thirty-three (33) Providers for Consolidated County Transportation Services (Lift, Non-Lift and Escort).

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

Ms. Perry-Balonier offered a resolution approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$7,042,481.86)

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

#### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Kris Long, Deputy County Administrator, offered a resolution reappointing Stephen S. Francis, Esq., and McCullough Williams, III, to the Franklin County Parks and Recreation Board of Trustees.

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

Ms. Long offered a resolution appointing Jeremy Gildow to the Workforce Development Board pursuant to the requirements of the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act 2015.

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

Ms. Long offered a resolution appointing and reappointing members to the County Hospital Commission of Franklin County, Ohio.

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

#### BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Ed Leonard, Director, Board of Elections, offered a resolution declaring all the iVotronic voting equipment to be salvage equipment and authorizing the donation of 500 iVotronic DRE voting machines to Lake County Board of Elections.

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

President Brown: Any other communities across the state, nobody else would want that stuff?

Commissioner O'Grady: We share everything from Sheriff's cruisers; we share all kinds of stuff with other counties all the time. You might check with Megan Perry-Balonier.

Mr. Leonard: Through the association we can let some other organizations know. We are limited in who we are allowed to give it to.

President Brown: Right. I wonder if there are other smaller counties that might be able to use some of this stuff.

Mr. Leonard: It should be fairly easy for us because we know which counties in Ohio utilize the iVotronics and then from that, which ones are not moving to a new system until after 2020. In the meantime, we want to seek authority to donate to Lake County and to dispose of them.

Commissioner O'Grady: If you've got 4,000 machines and you're only giving up 400 or 500 of them at the moment, you might as well look to see if there's anybody else.

President Brown: I would see if there are others that could use them, but otherwise I'm ok with it. It would be nice if there are some other communities that could use them.

Mr. Leonard offered a resolution declaring all the electronic poll book batteries to be salvage equipment and authorizing their disposal.

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

Kris Long, Deputy County Administrator: Director Leonard, on the first Resolution, is that written broadly enough to allow you to move forward with the Resolution as written while you're still looking at other counties?

Mr. Leonard: The question will come if we need to donate to other counties. We may have to come back.

Ms. Long: Ok, but there's nothing that needs to be changed with this particular Resolution?

President Brown: Does it make sense to rewrite it to be Lake County, or other counties, so that you have the authority?

Ms. Long: I think that might be efficient.

President Brown: I would think it would be more efficient.

Commissioner O'Grady: Yes, just rewrite this one, and then we can pass it on Tuesday.

President Brown: Yes, why don't we do that so that you have the ability to do that.

Commissioner O'Grady: That way you don't have to come back.

President Brown: I'm ok with the donating to any other community or doing what we need to do to get them out.

President Brown: We do have a speaker that wants to speak on election related items, which is why we held this until the end. Mike Brickner, The Ohio State Director with All Voting is Local, welcome and thanks for being here.

Mr. Brickner: Thank you so much for allowing me to address you this morning. All Voting is Local is a non-profit, non partisan joint campaign formed with the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, The American Civil Liberties Union, the American Constitution Society, Campaign Legal Center and Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, five of the most well known voting rights organizations in the nation. Our charge is to work on the state and local level to help to expand the right to vote and work with local officials to help to enfranchise more people.

One of the things we did after the 2018 election was to begin to look at some of the local trends with Board of Elections and what happened in the November 2018 election. One of the first areas that I looked at was Provisional Ballots. For those of you that might be familiar, provisional ballots are essentially the case of last resort for a voter who shows up at his or her polling location and there is some sort of problem that the Board of Election, that the poll worker cannot resolve on the spot and so the voter is able to cast a provisional ballot and then the Board of Election verifies whether or not that ballot should be accepted or rejected. When looking at the state wide provisional ballot data, Franklin County very quickly became an outlier. Looking at the overall numbers for the number of provisional ballots that were cast in 2018, Franklin County is casting far too many provisional ballots even for its share of the electorate. When we starting looking at where provisional ballots were cast, who was most likely to cast those Provisional Ballots, we saw some very troubling trends. We looked at several different groups and we saw that voters who resided in majority black communities were 2 ½ times more likely to cast provisional ballots than those in white communities. When we looked at areas of high poverty, we saw that voters there were 4 times more likely to cast provisional ballots. When we looked at voters between the ages of 18-25, we saw they were 5 times more likely to cast provisional ballots.

So we are concerned that the provisional ballot system as it is working in Franklin County right now is perpetuating some very bad historical discrimination. Secondly looking at the number of rejected provisional ballots, these are ones that are not counted. Franklin County far outpaces other counties. When we look at the entire statewide total, over one in five rejected provisional ballots statewide came from Franklin County, nearly two-thirds of all provisional ballots statewide rejected due to a mismatched signature are from Franklin County and Franklin County provisional ballots rejected due to insufficient ID and cast in the wrong precinct, wrong polling location account for over one-third of the statewide totals.

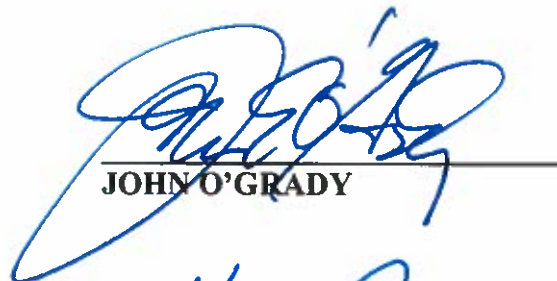
Mr. Brickner had a draft report and recommendations for the Board of Elections to accept. Mr. Brickner wanted to work with the Board of Elections to fully adopt a voter education program that addresses the issues outlined in the report he handed out.


There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:58 A.M.

**(Signature page follows.)**

These minutes are a summary of the Commissioners' Briefing Session for May 30, 2019.

  
Marilyn Brown  
**MARILYN BROWN, PRESIDENT**

  
**JOHN O'GRADY**

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

Submitted by: Victoria Caldwell, Clerk

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