

## FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Briefing Minutes  
October 19, 2017

President O'Grady  
Commissioner Brown  
Commissioner Boyce

The purpose of the meeting was to review resolutions submitted for the October 24, 2017 General Session. These notes are a synopsis of the meeting.

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

### DOMESTIC RELATIONS

Barb Reeves, Deputy Director, Domestic Relations, offered a resolution authorizing appropriation adjustments for various operating costs.

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

Commissioner Boyce: It seems there are a lot of budget adjustments around this time, is this normal?

Kenneth Wilson, County Administrator: It's typical in the fourth quarter. In a couple of weeks, OMB (Office of Management and Budget) will be sending out correspondence to all the agencies for the annual omnibus that would include a smorgasbord of all of these types of adjustments.

Commissioner Boyce: As we think of next year's budget, do these decisions get worked into the equation in terms of carryover funds and gaps that were from loss of revenues that we're having this year? Do we ever say no in terms of filling those gaps, in terms of consideration for the following year in terms of losses of revenues and just balancing those things?

Mr. Wilson: Commissioner, generally speaking we rarely decline requests for the adjustments, because many times the adjustments are needed for purposes of balancing funds to prevent a particular line item from being negative. But as far as the 2018 budget is concerned, many of these adjustments are reflected through OMB annual year end estimates for 2017 projections. For Domestic Court for example, we look closely at assign counsel and how that's finishing the year.

Zak Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget: Usually Commissioner, we try to get the questions answered ahead of time, before we would present the resolution for the Board's consideration.

Commissioner Brown: But then you look at all of that as you're crafting the budget for 2018.

Mr. Talarek: Correct. In this case, Ms. Reeves and I have had frequent conversations to discuss the appointed counsel because of the trend throughout the year and to be able to incorporate not only for this year and the projects, but for next year's budget request as well.

Commissioner Boyce: Great.

Ms. Reeves: We were also able to cover our \$125,000 of the deficit from transferring surplus funds from our fringe benefit line items. We certainly try to look internally to see what we can supplement for that deficit.

Commissioner Brown: I think most of our agencies do that in a really responsible way. We've been very fortunate to have relationships with all of our different office holder's agencies that understand the constraints that we have and know how to work within those constraints.

Commissioner Boyce: Thank you.

Mr. Wilson: That way we are able to avoid using supplemental appropriations and having to transfer money from contingencies. For this time of year, we have to closely analyze agency's actual staffing levels versus vacancy credits that are built in various budgets.

Erik Janas, Deputy County Administrator: I would like to add, this time of year when County Administration is going through the budget requests from the individual agencies, sometimes the opposite occurs where there might be a request for 2018 that we think they have the ability to do in 2017.

## ANIMAL CONTROL

Deb Finelli, Assistant Director, Animal Control, offered a resolution authorizing a two year contract between the Franklin County Board of Commissioners and the Columbus Health Department for a rabies control program.

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

Ms. Finelli offered a resolution authorizing a four year contract between the Franklin County Board of Commissioners and Franklin County Public Health for a rabies control program.

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

Commissioner Brown: We can't get the contracts to be the same?

Ms. Finelli: No.

Commissioner Brown: Ok.

## JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

Joy Bivens, Director, Job and Family Services offered a resolution approving a subaward agreement with Ohio Association of Foodbanks for the management of Work Experience Program for the Food Assistance Employment and Training Program (\$707,952.36).

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

Commissioner Brown: Do they now have the capacity to this with the cuts that they've had?

Ms. Bivens: The way that I'm looking at this Commissioner, is for our population we fund them in order to manage our population and they put into their contract what they need as far as being able to manage that particular population. I know over that last contract period, they served over 2,000 referred Job and Family customers.

Commissioner Brown: So they'll still be able to do that. Good, because it's important. We were very upset that they had that cut.

Ms. Bivens offered a resolution approving a subaward agreement with the Columbus Urban League for the I Am My Brothers Keeper Program (\$181,699.71).

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

Commissioner Boyce: Director, you and I have had extensive conversations about this program in particular and my questions have always been around data collection. Where are we in terms of money that we've invested in it, more importantly the results we're getting out of it, do we have the data?

Ms. Bivens: In the spirit of transparency and truthfulness Commissioner, when the program started it was a goulash of stew and everyone wanted a lot of things. What we've tried to do is simplify it to make sure there were some things that were measurable. In meeting with the Kirwan Institute and the Urban League, what I've asked them to do is let's look at our learning circle data from what we've done up until this point. Our learning circle data gives us the data that you are referring to. Right now 99% of the boys that have participated in this program have a negative interaction with law enforcement.

As we go back where they were testing at before they started this program and where are they testing at now, we need to decide what is realistic data.

Mr. Wilson: Director, that was good because we've added Title II funding from Homeland Security to specifically address this minority impact with the Juvenile Justice System.

Commissioner Boyce: My experience in my ten (10) months here with the Director has been zeroed in on results and I can appreciate that and I'm very confident that the direction you're headed is in the right place. It's one thing to provide services for the child, but then if we're not also aligning the other services at home with mom or dad or whatever issues maybe there, then we could be exacerbating the system even more because the kid doesn't have the full throttled support around him. I know we talk about data, single mom, she has three (3) kids, this kid is most at risk, he's getting these services, but mom also needs X. Job and Family Services has that, but it's over here in this bucket so we've got to make sure she's linked there and Urban League has this and we've got to make sure she's linked there. It's hard to go back and look at that, but I know we're going to be thoughtful about how to do that at some point.

Ms. Bivens: Commissioners, just so you know, with the partnership with the Urban League and all of the other programs that they have entrenched in their organization, which was one of their objectives, they were working with the young men but also if there were needs that were identified with the parent as far as workforce they would try to engage the parent in getting them into their other programs. I can go back and pull that data if it exists, but going forward we're going to try and make sure this is impactful versus just enrichment.

Commissioner Brown: But if that kid goes home to a bad situation or trauma filled situation, it's the whole family in coordinating and making sure all those services are there and how do you route that around that child.

Commissioner Boyce: And family.

Mr. Wilson: Those wrap around services are important, because some of the early data we learned early on that food insecurities were an issue with kids in the program.

Commissioner Brown: But it's also in their families too.

Mr. Wilson: In the family there were a number of cases highlighted. We found out that behavior health issues undiagnosed was a challenge facing many of these boys. But as Director Bivens has said, we've learned some lessons, but now I think we do hear loud and clear a need to refine.

Commissioner Boyce: This conversation is a microcosm of this broader poverty conversation that we've been talking about. We use the term wrap around services around that family and all of the other partners, and mapping that out for the families that are so vulnerable, fallen through the cracks or just have one or two members of their family that need some very specific services. We've got this new Behavior Health Center going up with Nationwide Children's and there are so many opportunities to create a better system.

Ms. Bivens: Within that system, it's a system but it's a multi-system. I don't have to always come to Central Columbus to get the resources that I need. If I do, there's a system in Reynoldsburg that connects me to some of the resources that I may need, so everyone's aware and educated on what's available to them versus some of our other population in the county. If you don't live in Columbus you don't know that Nationwide Children's Hospital has all these things going on or Urban League. How do we educate other parts of the county so they can get the same access to these same resources? They need a system where they're at as well.

Mr. Wilson: We need linkages. Judge Gill and her restorative justice service program, Whitehall is the latest community to expand to their program and trying to have a holistic approach of embracing young people in the schools to prevent them from having that contact with the juvenile justice system.

Commissioner Brown: Do you think that the conversation Saturday with the Pastors and the challenge that was given when I talked with the Black Ministers was helpful?

Ms. Bivens: I think it was. I think it is what was needed to be said at this time where we're at in our society.

Commissioner Brown: If they could just extend what we're doing out into the community. Thank you for what you're doing.

Ms. Bivens: We are going to look at national models, I am working with the County Administrators as well as Commissioner Boyce, and we are going to get this right. It's just going to take some time to look at what is that sweet spot, what really works as it relates to this particular population.

## CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

Lori Torriero, Assistant Director, Child Support Enforcement, offered a resolution authorizing the execution of a subgrant agreement with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to receive funds under a pass-through grant to enhance visitation (parenting time) between children and non-custodial parents.

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

Commissioner Brown: This is great. Thank you.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

Mark Paxton, Interim Assistant Director, Economic Development and Planning, offered a resolution approving the subordination of a restricted covenant to a Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Loan to Homeport for the Bending Brooks apartments.

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

Commissioner Brown: What will this do to the prices of the units?

Mr. Paxton: They have to be within HUD standards. Typically what happens, the HUD dollars amount slightly over time, but they will have to adhere to that per their restrictive covenant.

Commissioner Brown: Are you ok with this?

Mr. Paxton: Absolutely.

## PUBLIC FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Jim Goodenow, Director, Public Facilities Management, offered a resolution in support of sustainability2050 and Franklin Countys commitment to preserve and protect natural resources and pursue initiatives that will have positive impact on the environment.

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

Commissioner Brown: Have we met all of the requirements to be part of the pact?

Mr. Goodenow: We will, and passing this resolution is one of those requirements.

Commissioner Brown: Good.

President O'Grady: Who's our local champion?

Mr. Goodenow: It would be the PFM agency.

President O'Grady: So it would be Darla Reardon, Assistant Director, Public Facilities Management?

Mr. Goodenow: Yes, that's correct.

Mr. Goodenow offered a resolution authorizing a Right of Entry Agreement with Resource International, Inc. to perform geotechnical testing on property generally described as located at 1600 Alum Creek Drive, Columbus, Ohio.

Mr. Goodenow 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 (\$339,255.64).

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

Commissioner Brown: Mr. Kuespert, when do you cut off?

Mr. Kuespert: December 5, 2017 will be the last PO resolution.

Commissioner Brown: Ok.

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Zak Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget, offered a resolution authorizing General Fund supplemental appropriations related to the arena lease.

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

Commissioner Boyce: What's the link to the casino money?

Mr. Talarek: There's a lease with the Convention Facilities Authority for the purchase of the arena for the Blue Jackets.

Commissioner Boyce: So they have the revenue from the casino?

Mr. Talarek: We have a certain percentage. This year it's 27% and it will increase over the next five years to a maximum of 32% of casino receipts. So when we receive the quarterly distribution we'll process a payment within five (5) days to the Convention Authority for that specific percentage.

Commissioner Boyce: So it's the revenue from the casino, but it's for leasing space as opposed to debt service?

Mr. Talarek: It's part of a lease agreement, so it's technically a lease payment that we're making to the Convention Authority.

Mr. Wilson: The monies are received by, not only from us, but the City of Columbus. That money is paid to CFA and then that money is received by the CFA and then it's applied to operating expenses first, then it's applied to CapEx and then it's applied to a state loan. Lastly if there's anything else left it goes to Nationwide who granted the loan.

Commissioner Brown: They're the primary loans that are the last to get paid. You should give Commission Boyce a copy of the agreement.

Commissioner Boyce: I would love to see that. When was this done?

President O'Grady: Late 2010 early 2011.

Mr. Wilson: I'll get you the sub-lease agreement that was approved in 2011.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:41 A.M.

**(Signature page follows.)**

These minutes are a summary of the Commissioners' Briefing Session for October 19, 2017.





**JOHN O'GRADY, PRESIDENT**



**MARILYN BROWN**



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

Prepared by: Victoria Caldwell, Acting Clerk