

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Briefing Session Minutes  
Thursday, November 14, 2024

President Boyce  
Commissioner Crawley

The purpose of the meeting was to review resolutions submitted for the November 19, 2024, 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 9:02 A.M.

ENGINEER

Terri Pritchard, Executive Assistant, Engineer's Office, offered a resolution for preliminary allocation and final encumbrance of County Motor Vehicle License Fee (\$5) Funds for the City of Columbus (\$2,200,000.00) (Engineer).

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

Terri Pritchard offered a resolution for preliminary allocation and final encumbrance of County Motor Vehicle License Fee (\$5) Funds for the City of Columbus (\$1,100,000.00) (Engineer).

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

Terri Pritchard offered a resolution requesting the Ohio Department of Transportation to reduce the speed limit on Hague Avenue, County Road No. 66, Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer).

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

Terri Pritchard offered a resolution authorizing a contract with Data Transfer Solutions, LLC., consultant, to provide expert knowledge, software, and services to support the asset inventory program (\$50,000.00) (Engineer).

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

### SHERIFF

Albert J. Smith III, Assistant Director of Finance, Sheriff's Office, offered a resolution authorizing a transfer of General Fund appropriations for the purchase of food, equipment, and supplies (Sheriff).

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

*Commissioner Boyce asked if this appropriation would cover costs until the end of the year. Mr. Smith said the appropriation would cover costs until the end of 2024.*

### FRANKLIN COUNTY DATA CENTER

Julie Lust, Chief Financial Officer, Data Center, offered a resolution authorizing a Supplemental Contract Agreement with SHI International Corp for the procurement of a work order tracking solution including estimates and billing (\$922.90) (Franklin County Data Center).

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

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

Emanuel Torres, Assistant Director, Economic Development and Planning, offered a resolution to review of petition to annex 0.5 +/- acres from Blendon Township to the City of Columbus Case #ANX-18-24 (Economic Development and Planning).

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

### JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

Bart Logan, Assistant Director – Communications, Job and Family Services, offered a resolution approving agreements with the Community Mediation Services of Central Ohio and The Legal

Aid Society of Columbus for housing stabilization services and legal assistance (\$335,000.00) (Job and Family Services).

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

Bart Logan offered a resolution approving a subaward agreement with Momentum-Excellence, Inc. for youth artistic enrichment programming (\$69,999.00) (Job and Family Services).

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

Bart Logan offered a resolution approving contracts with the House of Hope for Alcoholics, Inc. and Maryhaven, Inc. for residential and non-residential treatment services (\$205,000.00) (Job and Family Services).

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

#### JUSTICE POLICY AND PROGRAMS

Caitlin Looney, Deputy Director of Justice Services, Justice Policy and Programs, offered a resolution authorizing the Franklin County Administrator to accept receipt on behalf of Franklin County an FY 2024 Byrne Discretionary Community Project Grant award from the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention to support the One Door initiative (\$963,000.00) (Justice Policy and Programs).

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

Caitlin Looney offered a resolution authorizing the Franklin County Administrator to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the ADAMH Board of Franklin County for the implementation of the Landlord Incentive Program authorized by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (\$40,000.00) (Justice Policy and Programs).

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

Caitlin Looney offered a resolution authorizing a subgrant award agreement with The Cornerstone Promise Inc. for the continued support of the BRIDGE respite housing program under the FY 2022 Justice Assistance Grant (\$60,000.00) (Justice Policy and Programs).

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

Caitlin Looney offered a resolution authorizing the Franklin County Administrator to sign all acceptance documents and waivers related to the receipt of Franklin County's FY 2023 Title II Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act Formula and Planning grants from the Ohio Department of Youth Services (\$210,000.00) (Justice Policy and Programs).

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

### PUBLIC FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Darla Reardon, Director, Public Facilities Management, offered a resolution authorizing Contract Extension #2 and Modification #2 with R & S Halley and Company, Inc. DBA Darby Creek Nursery & Landscaping to provide snow removal services at designated Franklin County Facilities (\$250,000.00) (Public Facilities Management).

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

Darla Reardon offered a resolution authorizing execution of an Agreement with Schooley Caldwell to provide Design Professional Services associated with the planning, design, selective renovation, and new construction of the Franklin County Critical Master Plan Implementation Project Bundle 1 (\$1,675,000.00) (Public Facilities Management).

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

### PURCHASING

Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing, and Andrena Austin, Economic Equity Administrator, Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion, offered a resolution approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$2,113,617.03) (Purchasing).

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

Megan Perry-Balonier offered a resolution approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$14,177.66) (Purchasing).

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

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Michael Ruehrmund, Assistant Director of Community Appointments, Board of Commissioners, offered a resolution appointing William P. DeMora to the Franklin County Parks and Recreation Board of Trustees (Board of Commissioners).

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

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*The Deputy Clerk noted that one (1) journalization is expected at General Session on Tuesday, November 19, 2024.*

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## COUNTY ADMINISTRATION UPDATE

Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator: There will be a Press Conference today at 10:30 a.m. for the Tap Inn Center. The event is a collaboration between the Commissioners, the City of Columbus, Franklin County Municipal Court, and other local partners, and the grand finale will kick off the 2025 Budget.

Commissioner Boyce: Some of the questions that have arisen over the last six months regarding spending cuts and other factors, I want to make sure that we have a real opportunity not only to be transparent to the public, which I believe we always are, and continue to be as prudent as I believe we have been given our rating. Let us continue to raise the bar, and I will be looking for transparency throughout the process that allows the public to own as much of this budget as we do and understand that we are spending it on their behalf, for their benefit. It is our job to illustrate and demonstrate that in the budget process. Let us take an opportunity to do more than we already do.

Commissioner Boyce (cont.): We had cuts and do not know what to expect from the new [federal] administration or director, but we should consider that now. In my other life, we look at the economic indicators daily due to implications. Those indicators are saying a lot, and if you look at the second federal cut, the third is believed to be coming and a hundred basis points in the last 45 to 60 days. Those are usually indicators of a recessionary environment or components trying to impact. We should be thoughtful about that in our budget. We have a robust rainy-day fund, but the idea of having a rainy-day fund is that you do not use it. I am concerned about the economic environment. We need the ability to do some planning that we discussed and to think about not just spending but also our priorities on a policy level. Conversations are happening now in Columbus, and the state, and we need to begin to plan and organize our thoughts. I do not feel that the [County] Administration and the commissioners are on the same page.

County Administrator Wilson: We are discussing a Policy Retreat because big items exist. I have also asked the offices to hold an Administrative Session to discuss emergency housing and what we are being asked and look at making decisions.

Commissioner Boyce: Do you have someone studying, evaluating, or examining what the announcements would implicate in our budget? Are we considering what that means and watching what the statements are? This is to get ahead of it.

County Administrator Wilson: We will be monitoring that, and we will be going through some transition as Autumn Mitchell, who as a policy analyst, will be moving on to the State of Ohio Development Department. We will have an open position.

Kris Long, Deputy County Administrator: Kevin Pangrace, Director, Government Affairs, will be reaching out to each of your offices on the offensive and defensive side to start those broader conversations that we are engaged in at both the state and federal levels and make sure we are engaged and on the same page as the three of you.

Joy Bivens, Deputy County Administrator: On Monday, I met with the NAACP and community to discuss the cuts that went out and explained to them that we are going back to the original funding strategy pre-COVID. We were serving a number [of residents] through Job and Family Services post-COVID through Medicaid, food assistance, and cash assistance. However, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) and the State Tax Incentives have disappeared, and we are now back to the original funding stream. From my understanding, they understood, and there were no questions. People asked about unused ARP money that the State of Ohio may hold. On Thursday, November 21, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., Commissioner Boyce will be convening a Soul Talk, targeted primarily for men, but women are also encouraged to attend. The topics will be mental health and relationships.

Commissioner Boyce: This will be a series of Soul Talks, and we will try to change it up, have both genders, and still focus on men's mental health and access to resources. At one point, I would like to think about a Men's Summit and an ideal session where we would focus on policy leaders and elected officials. Commissioner Crawley would be ideal for providing insight and having a healthy conversation.

Commissioner Crawley: I want to address the meeting with the NAACP and Commissioner Boyce's point about planning and being proactive instead of reactive. What are we doing about the farm bill, and do we have a contingency plan? We should always be proactive, understand that things could go either way and have a plan for whichever way it goes. The other day, I said we should be proactive and communicate what we are doing instead of being reactive or defensive. I was speaking at a debate yesterday on food insecurity with Cardale Jones, and I asked how many people know what a county commissioner does, and only three people raised their hands. We will need to prioritize based on the community's needs.

Deputy County Administrator Bivens: I know we could have done things differently as far as communicating Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cuts, and we need to continue to meet with state officials. We do not know how that impacts the county until they tell us.

Depending on how many residents may come through the doors this year, we have to forecast and take advantage of the 200% [of the poverty level] and increase the workload.

County Administrator Wilson: We will focus on that during the budget process, looking for principles and having a retreat. How do we prioritize amongst our corporate partners? You cannot check it off, but you must triage it as we march forward. One last point, I would like to welcome the newest member of Team Franklin County. Commissioner Crawley's Policy Manager, Cheryl Penn. Welcome Cheryl. Again, the Tap Inn Center Press Conference is today at 10:30 a.m., and Budget Hearings begin at 1:00 p.m.

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There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 A.M.

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**(Signature Page Follows)**

These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' Briefing Session for Thursday, November 14, 2024.



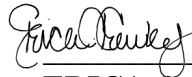
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**KEVIN L. BOYCE, PRESIDENT**



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**JOHN O'GRADY**



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

Submitted by:



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Melissa K. Kohler  
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners