

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

March 5, 2024

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room, at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

Present were: Kevin L. Boyce, President  
John O'Grady, Commissioner

Also present on the dais were Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator, Joy Bivins, Deputy County Administrator; Kris J. Long, Deputy County Administrator; Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget; Jeanine Hummer, First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Chief Counsel, Prosecuting Attorney's Office; and Toya Williams, Executive Assistant County Administration, Board of Commissioners.

*Using hybrid meeting technology, participants were also able to access General Session via Zoom conferencing, by dialing (929) 436-2866, Meeting ID:978 8790 2896; Passcode:628826, or by joining at: <https://franklincountyohio.zoom.us/j/97887902896>*

Commissioner Boyce called the meeting to order at 9:03 A.M.

Commissioner Boyce: Before we get to our regular agenda, we have some special guests that I am pleased to recognize. March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, which brings attention to the varied and unique experiences of our residents with developmental disabilities. It's a time to celebrate their achievements, advocate for their rights, and promote understanding and inclusivity throughout the community. Everyone, regardless of their abilities, has the right to be respected, embraced, and provided with opportunities to thrive. This month is a reminder of the value, rights, and aspirations of those with developmental disabilities. Here to tell us more about Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is Dot Yeager, Superintendent of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Welcome, Ms. Yeager. Congratulations on your new post.

Dot Yeager, Superintendent, Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities: Thank you. It is a pleasure to be here, Commissioner Boyce, Commissioner O'Grady, Administrator Wilson, DCAs, and others. So, our agency began in 1967 as proof of our changing society with increased acceptance and inclusion. At that time, children with developmental disabilities didn't go to school, and adults lived in large, isolated institutions. Today, our vision is for people with developmental disabilities to live, learn, and work in our communities, to the extent of their abilities, in a safe and healthy manner and that the community will be well informed about

developmental disabilities and will be accepting of individuals as Commissioner Boyce so eloquently stated. So, what is a developmental disability? It begins with a diagnosis of a severe chronic disability, which could be mental, physical, or both, which manifests before the person reaches age 22 and is likely to continue indefinitely, and results in what we call a functional limitation and changes at different ages. So, at age 3, it's one delay. At age 6, it's two delays. At age 6 or older, there are three functional limitations in major life activities, such as learning self-care mobility, and at age 16, economic self-sufficiency comes into play. How do we impact and support people with a developmental disability? Early diagnosis is important. We use individualized support therapies and educational and occupational training, and we do this through partnership and collaboration with early intervention from birth to three [years of age]. We are strong partners with Franklin County Family and Children First Council, Help Me Grow. There are 2,000 referrals every year. We also partner with Nationwide Children's [Hospital], The Ohio State University's Nisonger Center, Childhood League, Dahlberg (Gibson Learning) Center, Easter Seals, and the YMCA. For ages 3 to 5, we have a preschool program that serves 400 students. We're very proud of our long history of inclusive, collaborative classrooms with the Child Development Council Headstart. That's been a place since 1991, and in 2001, that grew to include Columbus City Schools, the YMCA childcare, and The Ohio State University's Nisonger Dental Clinic at our Johnstown Road location. Also, with Franklin County Family and Children First Council for children with intensive needs, we are partnering with those multi-system youth with Franklin County Children Services and the ADAMH Board. And, as we mentioned at the beginning, services for children have evolved over time. In the beginning, there were segregated schools, and now federal and state directives want children to be served in the least restrictive environment, and so our focus of the school program that we run is on students aged 14 to 22 to help them prepare for their life after school, and the first option we are seeking for them is integrated employment, not segregated employment. We have a team of service coordinators who assist all of the people we serve with the support that they need. So, for adults, we're assisting with housing, transportation, and employment, community recreation, including the Special Olympics, which is a national program. We are very proud here in Franklin County, as with these other things we've mentioned, they began in a segregated environment. It has shifted over time to be more inclusive and more integrated, and in 2013, the Special Olympics began what they call unified sports; we're very proud that in 2014, the Columbus Crew began participating in a unified soccer program where athletes with and without disabilities compete together. So, again, thank you for bringing me here to talk a little bit about DD awareness month. Our theme this month is All Means All: all abilities, all voices, all of us.

*Commissioner Boyce shared that he has a nephew who participates in the programs offered by Ms. Yeager's work. The outcome has been nothing but positive.*

*Commissioner O'Grady stated that we all have people in our lives who have developmental disabilities and that it has been great to see the agency's evolution over the years; offering words of gratitude to be shared with those working at the agency.*

Commissioner Boyce: Thank you so much for being here today.

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Approval of the minutes of the January 2, 2024, Organizational Meeting; the December 12, 2023, and January 2, 2024, General Sessions; and the December 7, 2023, Briefing Session. Commissioner O’Grady moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0184-24**, authorizing General Fund support to the Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District for calendar year 2024 (Board of Commissioners), presented by Brad Foster, Franklin County Engineer, Engineer’s Office, and Jennifer Fish, Director, Franklin County Soil and Water.

Mr. Foster and Ms. Fish reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner O’Grady moved to approve Resolution 0184-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0185-24**, authorizing appropriation adjustments for easement related expenditures within the Stormwater Management Program (Drainage Engineer), presented by Brad Foster, Franklin County Engineer, Engineer’s Office.

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

Commissioner O’Grady moved to approve Resolution 0185-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0186-24**, Mead & Hunt Inc., consulting engineers, appointed to assist the Franklin County Engineer by providing detailed engineering design services for the Frank Road 7.31 over Early Run bridge project, Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$338,421.00) (Engineer), presented by Brad Foster, Engineer, Engineer’s Office.

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

Commissioner O’Grady moved to approve Resolution 0186-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0187-24**, approving a contract modification with TRC Companies, Inc. for detailed design services for the Cooper Road 1.82 over Noble Run bridge project, an increase of \$95,079.00, for a revised contract amount of \$195,079.00 (\$95,079.00) (Engineer), presented by Brad Foster, Engineer, Engineer’s Office.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0187-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0188-24**, Various drainage improvements within Franklin County, Ohio, declared necessary (Engineer), presented by Brad Foster, Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0188-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0189-24**, for report (1st) of the Franklin County Engineer, establishing sums of compensation for a portion of the owners of property abutting the Schleppe Road 0.60 over Bevelhymer Ditch Improvement project, Plain Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$10,000.00) (Engineer), presented by Brad Foster, Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0189-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0190-24**, for report (9th) of the Franklin County Engineer, establishing sums of compensation for a portion of the owners of property abutting the Cleveland Avenue from Huy Road to Cooke Road Improvement project, Clinton Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$300.00) (Engineer), presented by Brad Foster, Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0190-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0191-24**, supporting the Sheriff's Office to add three (3) additional participating agencies to the Countywide DUI Task Force (Sheriff), presented by Albert Smith III, Assistant Finance Director, Sheriff's Office.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0191-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0192-24**, authorizing a grant contract between the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging and Franklin County Office on Aging for services under the National Family Caregiver Support Program (\$256,048.00) (Office on Aging), presented by Laurice Cohens, Assistant Director and Chief Financial Officer, Office on Aging.

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

*Joy Bivins, Deputy County Administrator, requested the data for Franklin County placement and stated that a meeting with the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) should be held to avoid duplicating efforts.*

*Chanda Wingo, Director, Office on Aging, responded that based on the census data, approximately 280,000 children in Franklin County live in a grandparent's home. Thirty percent of them are solely responsible for young people, and thirty percent are below the federal poverty level.*

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0192-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0193-24**, authorizing the County Administrator to execute an agreement with Columbus Fashion Alliance to support a workforce development program which focuses on retail readiness and entrepreneurship training (\$1,107,302.25) (Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion), presented by Tameca Bumper, Economic Equity Administrator, Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion, Damika Withers, Chief Economic Equity Inclusion Officer, Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion, and guest, Yohannan (Yogi) Terrel, CEO, Columbus Fashion Alliance.

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

*Joy Bivins, Deputy County Administrator, asked if the resolution was for 28 young people and how someone outside of the area would access the resource.*

*Mr. Terrel confirmed and stated it is also for 12 brands. He went on to state that The Columbus Fashion Alliance is active in the community and on social media; partnering with other nonprofits, career centers, [Columbus] Parks and Rec, My Brother's Keeper, the A.M.P [Achieve More & Prosper] program, and outreach in neighboring counties.*

*Ms. Bivins went on to state that CFA should connect with Health and Human Services to see if there is an opportunity for service dollars.*

*Mr. Terrel invited the board to come visit a mural made especially for the county by a Black artist highlighting CFA's partnership with Franklin County on March 23, 2024.*

*Commissioner Boyce made brief remarks on how the CFA is an economic development initiative.*

*Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator, noted that it is great to see the growth of this program from its inception and how Columbus is a smart, open, and inclusive place.*

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0193-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0194-24**, authorizing three subgrant awards and contracts for services to provide public safety and crime reduction initiatives under the FY2023 Justice Assistance Grant (\$211,068.00) (Justice Policy and Programs) presented by Melissa Pierson, Chief Operating Officer, Justice Policy and Programs.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0194-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0195-24**, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$12,234,367.88) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing, and Tameca Bumper, Economic Equity Administrator, Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0195-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0196-24**, authorizing a First Amendment to the Contribution and Cooperation Agreement with the Central Ohio Transit Authority for transit services supporting the Franklin County Correctional Centers (\$494,500.00) (Board of Commissioners), presented by Kris Long, Deputy County Administrator, Board of Commissioners.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0196-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.


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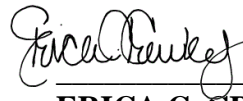
There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 A.M.

**(Signature Page Follows)**

These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' General Session meeting on Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

  
7/31/2024  
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**KEVIN L. BOYCE, PRESIDENT**

  
7/28/2024  
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**JOHN O'GRADY**

  
8/7/2024  
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**ERICA C. CRAWLEY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

Submitted by:

  
7/29/2024  
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**Brittany A. Razek**  
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

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