FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

March 14, 2023

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room, at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, March 14, 2023.

Present were: John O'Grady, President

Kevin L. Boyce, Commissioner Erica C. Crawley, Commissioner

Also present on the dais were Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator; and Brittany A. Razek, Clerk to the 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 O'Grady called the meeting to order at 9:12 A.M.

Commissioner O'Grady: Good morning. Today we're recognizing National Agriculture Week, which starts next week on the 21st. U.S. farmers are expected to increase their yield by 70% by the year 2050. More crops are needed because our world population of 7.8 billion people is expected to add another two billion people in the next three decades. Agriculture is and has been a cornerstone of our national economy. And this population growth means agriculture's role in our economy will also grow. Today, we will pay tribute to National Agriculture Week. The President of the Franklin County Farm Bureau, John Hummel and Vice President Lauren Prettyman, is here to tell us more about the importance of agriculture. I also understand the federation has numerous guests with them. I would like to recognize the bureau's Organization Director, Melinda Lee, and several Franklin County Farm Bureau members, including Dwight Beougher, Jack Orum, Katherine Harrison, Nick Zwayer, Denise Johnson, and Chuck Hines.

John Hummel, President, Franklin County Farm Bureau: Good morning. I am the Farm Bureau President, and I am a full-time farmer in Franklin County. We chose a few facts about agriculture to share with you that we thought you might find interesting. As the world population soars, the greater the demand for food, fiber, and fuel. We need to understand how our food, fiber, and renewable resources are produced. The role that agriculture plays in Ohio's economy and in Franklin County's economy is tremendous and essential.

Mr. Hummel (cont.): Almost everything that we eat and wear on a daily basis, and an increasing number of fuel sources and bioproducts, are produced in the agriculture sector. This is from the census in 2017, so it may be a little outdated, but the number of farms in Franklin County is 408, and the number of acres in Franklin County that are in production is a little over 52,000 acres. The average farm size is 128 acres. We appreciate the County Commissioners taking the time to recognize this powerful week for our community.

Melinda Lee, Organization Director, Franklin County Farm Bureau: The census is done every five years, so the updated numbers will come out this year, but that is why the numbers that we have are outdated. I just wanted to share a little bit about Farm Bureau and why we wanted to come here today to speak to you about agriculture. You do not have to be a farmer to be a member of the Farm Bureau. We do a lot within our community to support youth. We are very involved with the fair, and we work with Extension, especially with their Master Gardners program. We have had tours out there, and last year we invited our members to come out there with us, and we plan to do that again. We like to share with people where our food comes from. There is a lot of farming in Franklin County, and some people don't realize that. During National Agriculture Week, I encourage you to check us out on Facebook. We are going to be sharing a lot of different facts about agriculture in Franklin County and in the state of Ohio. We have some baskets that we would like to give to the Commissioners today that have some local products in them from our members, including popcorn grown in Franklin County by Jim Kuhlwein and eggs from Harrison Farm. We also included some handouts that contain more information about Farm Bureau and facts about agriculture. We are super excited to share a little bit of Franklin County agriculture with you all.

Commissioner Crawley: Thank you for being here today. I love Ag Week. Even before I was in an elected office, I was designated a friend of the Farm Bureau by continuing to support the work of our farmers in Franklin County and in the legislature across the state of Ohio. Here in Franklin County, one of the newer members of the Local Food Board is Mr. Aaron Hopkins, a Black resident on the east side of Columbus who is a master farmer. He has dedicated his work to getting youth involved in all things agriculture, especially in the urban farming setting. Franklin County continues to support our youth by giving them opportunities to learn all about agriculture. We partner with OSU and OSU Extension, and our most recent program is the Urban ROOTS program, which we see not just as an agricultural program for youth in Franklin County, but also as an antiviolence program. Kids from seventh grade all the way through high school can learn all things agribusiness, environmental science, animal science, and urban farming. I am really proud of the work that the Extension is doing with the Board of Commissioners and the local school districts. Agriculture is not just plows and cows; technology is part of farming, and there are jobs available there. These programs open people up to a way of life that provides produce and fuel sources for all of us. Thank you for all that you do at the Farm Bureau, especially what you do to keep youth engaged and involved.

Commissioner Boyce: Food security is probably the number one measure of the quality of life on the globe. Access to nutrition and a healthy diet is a part of nearly every measurement of the quality of life. There are challenges that farmers face today to provide that security to all of us, including environmental changes.

Commissioner Boyce (cont.): I saw on the news this morning a discussion about allergy season and why it is going to be more aggressive this year, and the underlying cause of that is weather pattern changes. Seed availability is another challenge that we face. I remember being on a trip to Switzerland years ago, and there was a discussion about seed shortages for growing crops around the globe. Another issue is runoff. I grew up in Central Ohio, and today's Central Ohio is not the Central Ohio that I grew up in. There were farms everywhere when I was growing up. Part of the negative impact of the development and growth that we are seeing now is the runoff that impacts our farming. To build on what Commissioner Crawley was saying, thank you for what you do and what you represent, and thank you for hanging in there because it is a fight for the quality of life for all of us, and we do not take that lightly. I have never grown a thing in my life, but I am always willing to learn, and I love coming to the Farm Bureau's events and being reminded of how hard your members work on our behalf.

Commissioner O'Grady: Thank you for being here today and reminding all of us about this conversation. The pandemic over the last few years has separated us in a couple of ways. Generally, we get together with all of the elected officials in the spring and have a meeting with the Farm Bureau, which we always look forward to. We usually come and meet with you at the fair, as well, but our schedules have conflicted over the past few years. All three of us on this Board are very involved with our National Association of Counties, and that schedule has conflicted with our meeting with you. We miss being at the fair every year and having lunch with you all and the Commissioners' Pie Contest. In a lot of ways, the work that we do here integrates with the work that you all do, so even though we have not met a lot lately, we still continue to do the work for the same cause. Last week, I had the opportunity to meet with one of our sister cities in Odense, Denmark, and I learned that Denmark leads Europe in food production and agriculture. They are the number one producer, even though it is a very small country. The population of Denmark is half the population of Ohio, and geographically, I believe it is about the size of Ohio. Sixty-one percent of their economy is based on agriculture. Jutland is the mainland, which is attached to Germany, but then Denmark is also a nation of islands. Jutland is a main contributor to their agricultural production. Funen is where our sister city, Odense, is located, and it is also a big part of their agricultural production. Everywhere we went, they were very proud of their agriculture, so we were very well-fed while we were there. Denmark is a big leader in the culinary world because of their production; they are owners of nineteen Michelin stars. It was great to get to learn about our partner in that part of the world, and we are excited to lead a delegation to go back there next year. While on that international stage, it was beneficial for me to have the knowledge that I have learned from partnering with you all over more than fifteen years of being a County Commissioner, so thank you for that. Finally, I just wanted to add that years ago, we passed a resolution that allows people in our unincorporated areas to have a combination of chickens, ducks, and rabbits. I haven't bought eggs in a grocery store in a long time because a little boy across the street raises chickens. He comes over every couple of weeks to deliver farm fresh eggs. We appreciate you being here today to remind everyone about the importance of farms, especially those in an urban setting like here in Franklin County. We have a ceremonial resolution that we would like to present to you.

Commissioner O'Grady: We have the pleasure of welcoming some of the county's most impressive young artists. The Franklin County Artists and Scholars Recognition Program honors high school students who exemplify excellence in the arts and academics. Twenty-four students from ten school districts have earned this accolade. Their art represents a variety of mediums, from the studio, videography, visual and digital art, as well as theater and music. We are honoring eleven students this morning. The other artists were recognized last month. Let's start by welcoming our good friend and partner, Tom Katzenmeyer, President and CEO of the Greater Columbus Arts Council.

Tom Katzenmeyer, President and Chief Executive Officer, Greater Columbus Arts Council: Thank you for doing this. I want the students, their parents, and the teachers that are here to know that the County Commissioners have supported the arts for years and years. Over the last four years, they have entrusted the Greater Columbus Arts Council to do the grant-making in the arts on behalf of the Commissioners and the County. We are very grateful for that support. As I mentioned the last time I was here, it is the GCAC's 50th year, and it is a great year for the arts. We have the Arts Festival coming up on the riverfront from June 9th through June 11th. With good weather, we will have 500,000 people there, and I hope you will all come. I have given each student my business card so that they can stay in touch with me as their careers flourish. If they leave to go to school, I would love for them to come back here and work in the arts here. I would like to introduce you all to Dr. Betty Hill, who is a 30-year Columbus City School employee. She coordinates all things arts for the district, and she is a legend. In fact, I am working on a tremendous community project with her right now. It is great to see you here representing your district, Dr. Hill.

Commissioner O'Grady: Before we move on to recognitions, I wanted to say that my trip to Denmark last week was not all about food. I also took your challenge, and I took as many photos of public art as I could while I was in Copenhagen and Odense. Some of their public art is brand new, and some is very old. I would also consider the architecture in Denmark to be public art. They have some very old buildings and architecture, some that date back as much as a thousand years, and they also have some brand-new, cutting-edge architecture. Now, to the artists with us today. When I announce your school, we invite you to join us at the podium; please introduce your students and feel free to share more about their art and academics. If they are graduating this year, we'd like to hear about their future plans. Once the students have been recognized, we ask everyone to join us for a picture.

School District	Artist(s)	School Official(s)
Worthington City	Ruthie Wolf	Laura Zelch, School Counsel, Worthington District
Schools	Casey Harden	
South-Western City	Viv Rodriguez	Zach Ward, Assistant Principal, Grove City H.S.
Schools	Nathaly Mojica	Steve Faris, Principal, Central Crossing H.S.
	Anna Sinyuk	
	Alexandria Pinto	

School District	Artist(s)	School Official(s)
Columbus City	Skyler Davila	Betty Hill, Supervisor, Unified Arts K-12
Schools	Isabelle Gosser	
	Chyann Reeves	
	Carter Robinson	
	Ackiem Parnell	

Commissioner Boyce: To the students, parents, teachers, and administration at these various schools, congratulations, and good luck to all of you. My son is a sophomore studying Graphic Arts at Arts Center in Pasadena, but he is also learning about business and entrepreneurship and the different aspects of the creative economy. I know that all of you have the perfect mindset about balancing art with other aspects of life because they all go together very well. I want to encourage you and congratulate you for all of your accomplishments; you are very impressive. Thank you for being here today, and good luck!

Commissioner Crawley: Thank you to all of the teachers, parents, and administrators for supporting these students and the various forms of art. I have a daughter who is a freshman at the University of Kentucky studying poli-sci, but she is also trying to figure out how she can continue to move forward with musical theater and ensemble, which inspire her and bring her joy. I have told her that you do not always have to choose. The students here are examples of how you can do multiple things and still move forward with your form of self-expression. I am excited for you to progress in your careers in arts, whatever that looks like. And you may not even know what that looks like right now. Even at my age, I am still trying to figure out what life looks like for me, and I do not know what I want to do with my future. So, it is okay if you do not know exactly what you want to do; you will land right where you are supposed to be when you are supposed to be there. I got to spend some time last week with pre-K children, and I had a speaking engagement with the Girl Scouts, and during both events, I was asked what inspires me. The students who are here today inspire me, as do the pre-K children and the girls in the Girl Scouts, because you all are not our future leaders; you are our leaders of today. In this room today, we have salutatorians and musicians and future Governors and early childhood specialists who will be teaching our next generation. I am inspired by each and every one of you, and I am happy to support the arts in every form as a member of this Board of Commissioners. I look forward to seeing how all your futures progress. I would love to see you come back here to Franklin County to share your talents, gifts, and skills with all of our residents. Thank you so much for being here, and congratulations.

Commissioner O'Grady: I am the youngest of twelve kids, and I have creative siblings, but I am not creative. My wife and kids are all creative and talented, but I was the jock growing up. Nevertheless, I have an appreciation for the arts and I always have. Years ago, when Commissioner Brown brought up the idea that we should celebrate artists and scholars like we celebrate athletes, I thought it was a great idea. We appreciate you and all that you bring to our community. We could not have a thriving community or a strong economic community without a strong arts community.

Commissioner O'Grady (cont.): We cannot have a strong economic community without a strong human services community. It all goes hand-in-hand. If we do not have a strong arts community, then businesses do not want to do business here. It is vitally important. Having a strong public arts community is something that we are working on all of the time, which is why I was walking around Copenhagen and Odense taking pictures of public art. What you do is important, and who you are is important to this community. We want to reiterate that if you go away to college, we would love for you to come back here. It is important to believe that there is something here for you when you are done going to school. Thank you all for being here today.

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Approval of the minutes for February 7, February 21, and February 28, 2023, General Sessions; and the February 16 and February 23, 2023, Briefing Sessions. Commissioner Boyce moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

PUBLIC HEARING: Final hearing for establishing, altering, and widening of Cleveland Avenue, County Road No. 75, from Huy Road, Township Road No. 79, to Cooke Road, County Road No. 80, Clinton Township, Franklin County, Ohio.

Commissioner O'Grady: I would like to open the Public Hearing. Would anyone like to speak regarding this Public Hearing? Seeing none, I will close the Public Hearing and have the Clerk read the resolution into the record.

Resolution No. 0182-23, final hearing for establishing, altering, and widening of Cleveland Avenue, County Road No. 75, from Huy Road, Township Road No. 79, to Cooke Road, County Road No. 80, Clinton Township, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer), presented by Cornell Robertson, Engineer, Engineer's Office.

Mr. Robertson: Before I present this resolution, and thinking about the Farm Bureau and the National Farm Bureau week that is coming up, I want to give a quick reminder that the Franklin County Fair is going to be from Monday, July 17, through Sunday, July 23, this year. I would also like to make a plug for the Engineer's Office, and hopefully, the students will watch this recording. The Franklin County Engineer's Office employs graphic arts designers, and we have a youth program to which students can apply for summer employment. We are currently filling those positions and offer an hourly rate of somewhere between \$17/hour and \$22/hour. We are trying to be competitive because we know how hard it is to attract the workforce.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0182-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0183-23, approving roadway, grading and drainage plans for Pegasus Estates, Jackson Township, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer), presented by Cornell Robertson, Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0183-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0184-23, authorizing a transfer of General Fund appropriations for the addition of three full-time Victims Witness Advocates (Prosecuting Attorney), presented by Joelle Nielsen, Director, Victim Witness Assistance Unit, Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0184-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0185-23, authorizing Contract Extension #3 with ComProducts, Inc. dba B&C Communications for the provision of Maintenance and repair of Fixed, Mobile and Portable Radio Equipment (\$110,272.00) (Sheriff), presented by Albert J. Smith III, Assistant Finance Director, Sheriff's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0185-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0186-23, authorizing the acceptance of a gift from The Estate of Kathryn D. Denton (\$8,000.00) (Animal Control), presented by Lionel Hamilton II, Fiscal Officer, Animal Control.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0186-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0187-23, authorizing Community Partnership Grant Agreements with various statutory partners for calendar year 2023 (\$2,959,781.00) (Community Partnerships), presented by Brittany Stricklen-Hillyard, Community Partnerships Coordinator, Community Partnerships.

Ms. Stricklen-Hillyard reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0187-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0188-23, authorizing Community Partnership Grant Agreements with statutory partner The Ohio State University Extension for calendar year 2023 (\$225,000.00) (Community Partnerships), presented by Brittany Stricklen-Hillyard, Community Partnerships Coordinator, Community Partnerships.

Ms. Stricklen-Hillyard reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0188-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner Boyce abstaining.

Resolution No. 0189-23, authorizing an Economic Development Agreement with the Greater Columbus Sports Commission to encourage economic development and tourism through the attraction, retention, and promotion of sporting events on behalf of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners (\$200,000.00) (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Emanuel Torres, Assistant Director, Economic Development and Planning.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0189-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0190-23, adopting the HOME Investment Partnerships-American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) Allocation Plan (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Genee' Cosby, Community Development Administrator, Economic Development and Planning.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0190-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0191-23, authorizing the first contract extension with Byers Ford, LLC for the supply and delivery of fleet automobiles (\$1,000,000.00) (Fleet Management), presented by Charlotte Ashcraft, Director, Fleet Management.

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

Commissioner Boyce: Given the chip shortage, are any of our vehicles missing certain features? Or do we get complete cars that serve the purpose for which they were purchased?

Ms. Ashcraft: Any vehicle that we receive is complete with all chips necessary. That is why there is such a delay in receiving them. We ordered thirteen police cruisers last year, and we received twelve. The City of Columbus ordered one hundred and received nineteen due to the chip shortage.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0191-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0192-23, approving a contract with GetCR8V, LLC for work experience and design services for the Achieve More and Prosper program (\$45,000.00) (Job and Family Services), presented by Vivian Turner, Chief Administrator, Job and Family Services.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0192-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0193-23, approving an amendment for a COVID-19 Recovery Grant with the Greater Columbus Helping Hands, Inc. for college and career preparation programming (\$225,482.30) (Job and Family Services), presented by Vivian Turner, Chief Administrator, Job and Family Services.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0193-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0194-23, authorizing the execution of the Pre-Award Conditions and acceptance of the Franklin County FY 2022 Services-Training- Officers-Prosecutors (S.T.O.P.) Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Block Grant Award and granting authority to the County Administrator to sign all acceptance documents and waivers related to the Grant Program

(\$631,544.15) (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Ruchelle Pride, Director, Justice Policy and Programs.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0194-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0195-23, authorizing the execution of the Pre-Award Conditions and acceptance of the Franklin County FY 2022 Services-Training-Officers-Prosecutors (S.T.O.P.) Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Administrative Grant Award and granting authority to the County Administrator to sign all acceptance documents and waivers related to the Grant Program (\$20,595.25) (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Ruchelle Pride, Director, Justice Policy and Programs.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0195-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0196-23, authorizing the execution of the Pre-Award Conditions and acceptance of an FY 2022 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Award and granting authority to the County Administrator to sign all acceptance documents and waivers related to the Grant Program (\$34,605.97) (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Ruchelle Pride, Director, Justice Policy and Programs.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0196-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0197-23, authorizing a Supplemental Contract with Johnson Controls Fire Protection LP for the provision of security services for the Franklin County Board of Elections (\$16,400.00) (Public Facilities Management), presented by Darla Reardon, Director, Public Facilities Management.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0197-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0198-23, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$5,493,131.22) (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 Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0198-23, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

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Brittany A. Razek, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, read one (1) journalization into the record:

Case Number ANX-07-23, an expedited type 2 annexation petition, ANX-07-23, was filed with the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department on March 8, 2023. The petition is requesting to annex 98.7-acres from Jackson Township to the City of Grove City. The petition will be considered by the Board of Commissioners on April 11, 2023. Site: 4614 Rensch Road (PID #160-002653); Rensch Road (PID #160-000156).

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Resolution No. 0199-23, of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners to convene into Executive Session to confer with the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office concerning pending or imminent litigation (Board of Commissioners).

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0199-23, to convene into Executive Session to confer with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote, and the Commissioners convened into Executive Session at 10:39 A.M.

At 11:43 A.M., Commissioner Boyce moved to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Crawley, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. No substantive action was taken upon exiting Executive Session, and with no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:43 A.M.

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(Signature Page Follows)

These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' General Session meeting on Tuesday, March 14, 2023.

JOHN O'GRADY, PRESIDENT

KEVIN L. BOYCE

ERICA C. CRAWLEY

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO

Submitted by:

Lauren M. Graessle

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