

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

March 28, 2023

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room, at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, March 28, 2023.

Present were: John O'Grady, President
Kevin L. Boyce, 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 9:17 A.M.

Commissioner O'Grady: Good morning, everyone, and thank you for being with us today. As you know, March is Women's History Month, and we've been pleased to have speakers in General Session each week to talk about women's history in Franklin County. Today, we're proud to welcome Susan Reid as our guest. Ms. Reid lives here in Central Ohio and had a front-row seat to a monumental accomplishment in aviation history. That's because her sister was Jerrie Mock, a Columbus resident who was the first woman to fly solo around the world in 1964. If you have been to John Glenn Columbus International Airport, you have likely seen and read about Jerrie Mock. Welcome, Ms. Reid. Thank you for being here to share your story with us today.

Susan Reid: Good morning, and thank you. It is an honor to be here today to tell you a little bit about my sister. For those who do not know, back in 1964, she followed her dream and became the first woman to make a solo flight around the world. A lot of people think that Amelia Earhart was the one to do that, but Amelia got lost back in 1937. I was at a party at Jerrie's house not long after she returned, and people asked why Jerrie had been successful while Amelia had not been. Amelia had a man with her to navigate, and he was also a pilot. Jerrie replied that she was smart enough not to take a man along to navigate, so she was successful. She wrote a book about her flight, and she wrote it herself. I know because I helped edit the book. On this day in 1964, she was in Santa Maria, flying to Casablanca. Jerrie set a lot of aviation records, and I am wearing the medal from the last one that she received. It was given to me in her honor when she was inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame in Dayton at the Air Force Museum this past September.

Ms. Reid (cont.): Oh, what a thrill that was! I am always so honored to be able to speak about my sister and her accomplishments. She had a dream when she was seven years old. She took a ride in a Ford tri-motor airplane, and when the plane landed, she told my parents that when she grew up, she was going to be a pilot and she was going to fly around the world. In school, when she studied about other countries, she told her classmates that she was going to be a pilot because she wanted to see the pyramids and ride a camel and fly around the world. They laughed at the time, but some of them were at the airport in 1964 when she returned from her flight with a sign that read, "Welcome Home Jerrie, Class of 1943." She won many awards, and I have a photo of her that was used when she was inducted into the First Flight Society in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina at the Wright Brothers Memorial. My mother was a Wright, so we carry that on. Jerrie named her plane "The Spirit of Columbus," and I wear a badge that says "Spirit of Columbus." The Columbus Foundation honors her yearly and uses "The Spirit of Columbus," as its theme. We all grew up in Newark, Ohio, but Jerrie lived most of her adult life in Columbus. She made her flight while living in Bexley. April 17th marks the anniversary of the landing of her flight, so if you watch the news on that day, you will see someone being honored with the Spirit of Columbus Award, which was named for her. The winner will also receive a little maquette of her statue. It is wonderful that she receives all these accolades, many of which are so late. People forgot about her because the Vietnam War was going on, and President Kennedy had just been assassinated, but we are doing more now to recognize her. Her airplane is at the Smithsonian, and there is a new display that just opened up to recognize planes of that type. That is in Washington, D.C., and I hope to see it soon. She set many aviation records in that plane and in another one after that. She had a dream, and she tried to encourage everyone to work for their dreams, as well. She has inspired many people. I do talks about her, and one woman who was 83 years old approached me and told me that my sister inspired her to start taking flying lessons. If you get a chance, read her book, and there are videos on YouTube that you can watch to find out more about my sister and her accomplishments. She was a little bit shorter than me, but I always looked up to her. It was always a thrill to be with her and ride with her in that plane that went around the world. She had a lot of wonderful and exciting experiences, including when she went to Saudi Arabia and Egypt. In Egypt, she flew into a secret military base that was not on the charts. Every place she went, there was something different to celebrate. She was gone 29 days and had 19 stops. I would be happy to answer any questions you have.

Commissioner Boyce: Did she carry food on the plane? Was it an open cockpit?

Ms. Reid: The cockpit was closed, and there is a picture in the book that shows the plane. She took snacks with her, including Girl Scout cookies. When she left some places, she was not allowed to take any food with her. Her first stop was Bermuda, and the weather was so bad that even the commercial flights were grounded, so she dealt with weather delays, as well.

Commissioner Boyce: Ms. Reid, thank you so much for sharing the story of your sister. This is a story that I was not aware of, and I like to pride myself on my knowledge of history, especially Columbus's history. I am going to do some reading because I would love to learn more about Ms. Mock. I want to point out that it is that kind of history that makes Franklin County and Central Ohio so rich and unique. There are all kinds of gems in our history, like the story of Jerrie Mock.

Commissioner Boyce (cont.): We need to do a better job of instilling that into our education system and into the general ecosystem of Central Ohio so that people know those stories and they are never forgotten. The contributions that women have made to our quality of life, in general, are something that makes this month fun. To learn stories that have not been as prevalent in history as they should be is exciting. I cannot wait to read this book and learn more. I am sure I will be mentioning Jerrie in speeches at some point because I think this is a big deal.

Commissioner O'Grady: We really appreciate you being here today. Being a frequent traveler, I have seen and read the stories of your sister at the airport over the years. When we dedicated the John Glenn Columbus International Airport to Senator Glenn, I got to introduce Senator Glenn. After the dedication, we had lunch, and Senator Glenn told me the story of your sister. He talked about his history with Port Columbus and how he fell in love with aviation. He talked about when he learned of the story of your sister because it was around the same time as his orbit. He took a lot of pride in her flight. I thought that it was cool that this famous, internationally-known astronaut and politician was talking about Jerrie Mock, who was fairly little-known at the time. She was an aviation giant of Columbus.

Ms. Reid: That is wonderful. Thank you for sharing that story with me. Ohio is the Birthplace of Aviation. The Wright Brothers are our cousins. We have lost the documentation, but we are sticking to the story!

Commissioner O'Grady: We also have Senator Glenn and Neil Armstrong and all of the others that have helped build such a great tradition here. Your family is a part of that. We appreciate you coming here today and sharing with us.

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Approval of the minutes for the March 16, 2023, Briefing Session; and the February 22, 2023, Administrative Briefing Session. Commissioner Boyce moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The minutes were approved by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0232-23, authorizing the purchase of audio-visual equipment, installation services, and SaaS services for 30 courtrooms from SI Technologies LLC dba New Era Technology (\$2,424,265.26) (Court of Common Pleas), presented by Susan Bedsole, Deputy Court Director, General Division, Court of Common Pleas.

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

Commissioner Boyce: Does that include any wayfinding resources? I know that when I am interacting with that building, people are often trying to find where they are going and navigate where they need to be.

Ms. Bedsole: That is not included in this project, but we are a part of the wayfinding project that the County is currently working on. We have had multiple meetings that will enhance the wayfinding signs that we have in our building. We do know that people struggle with wayfinding here. The project associated with this resolution is for the audio-visual in the courtroom only. But as you said, we need to enhance our wayfinding within this building, as well as how to get to this building.

Commissioner Boyce: As long as you are a part of the wayfinding project that the County Administrator and PFM are working on, that is good. This complex has a lot of visitors to the courts, and they are always lost over here, so that will be helpful.

Commissioner O'Grady: Does this have anything to do with the video arraignments?

Ms. Bedsole: No. Our video arraignments utilize that technology, but we already have that in the two courtrooms that we use for video arraignments. This resolution would allow us to conduct video arraignments in any of our courtrooms. This will enhance the rest of our courtrooms to be equal to the two larger courtrooms we upgraded in 2020 when we transitioned to video arraignments.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0232-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0233-23, authorizing a second amendment to the Contract with Hoover Blanket Inc. dba Main Street Computing for the provision of dog licensing software (Auditor), presented by Trenton Weaver, Staff Counsel, Auditor.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0233-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0234-23, authorizing a contract with 3SG Plus, LLC for the purpose of creating a custom export application for the Board of Revision (\$101,592.00) (Auditor), presented by Trenton Weaver, Staff Counsel, Auditor.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0234-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0235-23, authorizing an agreement with Paul Werth Associates, Inc. to provide public relations consulting (\$25,000.00) (Coroner), presented by Amanda Alvarez Wright, Director of Operations, Coroner's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to postpone Resolution 0235-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was postponed until General Session on April 11, 2023, by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0236-23, authorizing an agreement with Columbus Public Health for Mass Prophylaxis Dispensing Private Point of Dispensing Program (Coroner), presented by Amanda Alvarez Wright, Director of Operations, Coroner's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0236-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0237-23, Arcadis U.S., Inc., consulting engineers, appointed to assist the Franklin County Engineer in performing a feasibility study for the Rings Road, County Road No. 33, at Cosgray Road, County Road No. 39, Improvement project, Washington Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$97,700.00) (Engineer), presented by Nick Soulas, Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0237-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0238-23, The Kleingers Group, consulting engineers, appointed to assist the Franklin County Engineer by providing detailed engineering design services for the Walnut Street, County Road No. 19, at New Albany-Condit Road, SR605, Improvement project, Plain Township, Franklin County (\$385,260.00) (Engineer), presented by Nick Soulas, Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0238-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0239-23, authorizing a contract with Hall’s Construction Materials Testing, Inc. to provide consulting services (\$50,000.00) (Engineer), presented by Nick Soulas, Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer’s Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0239-23, seconded by Commissioner O’Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0240-23, authorizing supplemental appropriations and providing additional positions related to the acceptance of the Conviction Integrity Unit under Resolution No. 0054-22 (Prosecuting Attorney), presented by Jeanine Hummer, First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Chief Counsel, Prosecuting Attorney’s Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0240-23, seconded by Commissioner O’Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0241-23, authorizing the acceptance of Federal Homeland Security Funds from the State Homeland Security Program – Law Enforcement Grant and the continuation of a full-time position in the Sheriff’s Rotary Fund (\$140,000.00) (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 0241-23, seconded by Commissioner O’Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0242-23, authorizing First Contract Modifications and Extensions with nineteen (19) Providers for Cooperative Residential Services (\$2,500,000.00) (Office on Aging), presented by Chanda Wingo, Director, Office on Aging.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0242-23, seconded by Commissioner O’Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0243-23, approving two (2) contracts and one (1) novation agreement for Senior Adult Day Services and Senior Home Support Services (Office on Aging), presented by Chanda Wingo, Director, Office on Aging.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0243-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0244-23, authorizing supplemental appropriations and the addition of staff to support the operations of the animal shelter (Animal Control), presented by April Ricciardo, Assistant Director, Animal Control.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0244-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0245-23, authorizing a IV-D contract with the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office (\$440,836.98) (Child Support Enforcement), presented by William Peltcs, Assistant Director, Child Support Enforcement.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0245-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0246-23, recognizing the 2022-2023 Racial Equity Council members and implementation of three Racial Equity Council recommendations (Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion), presented by LeAndra Trikouros, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Administrator, Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion.

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

Commissioner Boyce: Thank you for your service and your work. You are definitely going beyond the call of duty, and you are making a difference in the bigger picture of the legacy of Franklin County. It takes a long time and a lot of resources to unwind, which, unfortunately, is a systemic issue we are trying to address and erase.

Commissioner Boyce (cont.): In my time as a County Commissioner, I know that Commissioner O’Grady has been a champion and passionate about this work, as was Commissioner Brown before Commissioner Crawley got here. What I love most about this acknowledgment is the progress we are making. Just a few years ago, we did not have the progress we have today, and I am very grateful to know that at every layer of Franklin County, people are engaged in our progress and work. You will look back several years from now and know that what you represented made a difference. What you are doing makes a difference. Thank you for your service.

Commissioner O’Grady: We appreciate all you are doing, both with the leadership you are demonstrating in the Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion and the leadership the Racial Equity Council members are showing in each agency. This work is important. It has always been important, but it is even more important these days when folks at the Statehouse are trying to stop what we are trying to do. That is happening in Statehouses all over the country. But this is the kind of work and leadership we feel our residents and our employees deserve. At the end of the day, it is the right thing to do. We appreciate everything that you all are doing.

Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator: I would like to commend the members of the Racial Equity Council, both past and present. I am looking forward to seeing additional cohorts. We had a conversation recently about adding a community service component to being a part of the Racial Equity Council. That is extremely important, as well. County Administration will continue to listen to what you all contribute because you are willing to step out in front to be Racial Equity Champions. As the Commissioners have stated, this work is more important now than ever because there are efforts to suppress talking about racial equity in our society. I want to compliment all of you and give a continuing shoutout to the Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion, a dedicated team of all women, which I wanted to point out as Women’s History Month concludes. You all provide the spark we need to continue our mission. We are on a quest to place this into the fabric of our DNA, and we want this to be a part of our legacy.

Damika Withers, Chief Economic Equity and Inclusion Officer, Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion: I want to extend my gratitude to the Racial Equity Council. Being part of the first Racial Equity Council and seeing this work coming to fruition has been a blessing, and it has been hard work. We talk about how the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. It is definitely a blessing to be part of the laborers who are doing the hard work in the field. I appreciate this Board’s continued commitment to racial equity, and we look forward to continuing our Racial Equity Council classes moving forward.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0246-23, seconded by Commissioner O’Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0247-23, authorizing an Economic Development Grant Agreement with Rev1 Ventures for support of the Entrepreneurial Services Provider Program (\$300,000.00) (Economic

Development and Planning), presented by James Schimmer, Director, Economic Development and Planning, and Kristy Campbell, Chief Operating Officer, Rev1 Ventures.

Mr. Schimmer and Ms. Campbell reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0247-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0248-23, authorizing a subgrant award agreement with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office for the provision of public safety and crime reduction initiatives under the FY 2022 Justice Assistance Grant (\$141,000.00) (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 0248-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0249-23, authorizing a contract for service with North Central Mental Health Services for case management related to the SAFER Stations program (\$36,000.00) (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 0249-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0250-23, authorizing a contract for service with Christopher Menapace for the purpose of providing subject matter expertise and evidence-based practices on first responder deflection models related to the SAFER Station program (\$10,450.00) (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 0250-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0251-23, authorizing a grant-funded contract for service with Jordan’s Crossing to provide case management, linkages to care, and drop-in center services to individuals at high risk for overdose and death due to substance use (\$125,670.00) (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 0251-23, seconded by Commissioner O’Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0252-23, approving Contract Modifications and Extensions with nine (9) Temporary Staffing providers for the Franklin County Board of Commissioners (\$500,000.00) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0252-23, seconded by Commissioner O’Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0253-23, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$15,784,088.12) (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 0253-23, seconded by Commissioner O’Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0254-23, authorizing a distribution from the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund for the support of various government services (Board of Commissioners), presented by Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0254-23, seconded by Commissioner O’Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0255-23, authorizing an Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding with the Franklin County Family and Children First Council (Board of Commissioners), presented by Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0255-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0256-23, authorizing a Memorandum of Agreement between the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, the Columbus Zoological Park Association, and the City of Columbus (Board of Commissioners), presented by Jeanine Hummer, First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Chief Counsel, Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

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

Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator: We have worked very closely with the Prosecutor's Office and the attorneys representing the zoo on this three-party agreement and Code of Regulations. We feel that this document will move the zoo forward. It affirms many of the things that this Board asked for going into the negotiations for a document that could be agreed upon. At this point, I fully support the revisions made to the three-party agreement and the Code of Regulations. I want to thank First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Jeanine Hummer, for all her assistance. I would also like to thank Deputy County Administrator Kris Long, who worked on both documents in a significant way. This agreement will be in effect through 2037.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0256-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. 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 10:25 A.M.

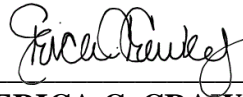
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These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' General Session meeting on Tuesday, March 28, 2023.

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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