

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

April 4, 2023

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room, at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, April 4, 2023.

Present were: 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 Boyce called the meeting to order at 9:11 A.M.

Commissioner Boyce: Welcome, everyone, to the Franklin County Board of Commissioners' April 4th General Session meeting. As it is every year, April is National County Government Month. There are 3,069 counties in America. County governments impact the lives of every American, including in Louisiana, where they're called parishes, and in Alaska, where they're called boroughs. There are almost 38,000 elected county officials across the country and more than three-and-a-half million county employees that help keep our country's local governments running smoothly. Each week this month, we'll be talking about some of the ways that counties matter in the lives of all Americans, and what a great job our employees do for our residents every day here in Franklin County. Also, be on the lookout later in April for our annual State of the County report, which details some of our accomplishments for last year and big plans for the year to come. The State of the County is our opportunity to report our work and ensure that our residents have access to the work that we do. When we come to General Session, we pass a lot of resolutions, and we are appropriating funds for different resources in the community. Sometimes, the public does not see the end result of the resources to which we are appropriating funds, but I can assure you that if you have ever driven across a bridge, or if you or your family have ever needed services, or if you have interacted with our court system, I could go on and on, you have been touched by the resources of Franklin County. County governments were formed even before many state governments and city governments were formed. It is one of the oldest forms of local government in the history of America, so we have a lot to be proud of and a lot to be thankful for.

Commissioner Boyce (cont.): We should share a factoid about Franklin County each week, something obscure that people may not know about the county. I can't think of any off the top of my head. Commissioner Crawley, do you have anything?

Commissioner Crawley: The land on which the county resides is home to the Myaamiaki Tribe of the Miami Nation.

Commissioner Boyce: That is a great factoid; I am not sure I knew that. Thank you for sharing that. There are so many great things about the rich history of Franklin County and the people that make up this community. From the very beginnings of Lucas Sullivant surveying the land and plotting out Central Ohio to the first African American resident, Arthur Boke, who we have a bridge named after, there is so much to learn. Commissioner Crawley and I have discussed establishing a Hall of Fame for Franklin County to recognize some great residents who have made us what and who we are today. I look forward to hearing more about county government, so this will be a fun month.

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Approval of the minutes for the March 21, 2023, General Session; and the March 23, 2023, Briefing Session. Commissioner Crawley moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The minutes were approved by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0258-23, authorizing contract amendments with Quicket Solutions Inc. to amend the scope of services for the Franklin County Clerk of Courts (Clerk), the Tenth District Court of Appeals, Court of Common Pleas – General Division, Court of Common Pleas – Domestic Division and Juvenile Branch, and Court of Common Pleas – Probate Court (collectively, the Courts) and the Court of Common Pleas General Division (\$15,000.00) (Clerk Of Courts), presented by Adam Luckhaupt, Director of Information Technology, Clerk of Courts.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0258-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0259-23, Resource International, Inc., consulting engineers, appointed to assist the Franklin County Engineer with construction inspection services for the Ferris Road at Walford Street mini-roundabout project, Clinton Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$87,951.00) (Engineer), presented by Cornell Robertson, Engineer, Engineer's Office.

Mr. Robertson: Before I present this resolution, I want to start by wishing you all a Happy National County Government Month and Happy Infrastructure Day. Every day is Infrastructure Day at the Franklin County Engineer's Office.

Mr. Robertson (cont.): Lastly, we are a day early, but tomorrow is National Read a Roadmap Day, so I have provided you all with the latest and greatest Franklin County highway map and road atlas. We update them every two to three years. It is required by Ohio Revised Code that County Engineer's issue updated roadmaps. Sometimes folks ask me why we do this, since everything is electronic now, and this is a waste of paper. I quickly remind them that the Franklin County highway map always has a signal and never loses charge; you can always count on it.

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

Commissioner Crawley: I have a question because I am thinking about my own kids. Do you visit schools and teach kids how to read maps? Because they rely on Google Maps and Ways, but as you mentioned, a map never loses its charge. What kind of training is available for students?

Mr. Robertson: We are happy to visit schools, and we do that quite often. Our cartographer, Ben McCown, is very passionate about his work on this map. He loves to meet with kids in the classroom to explain the map and how to use it. If you know of any classrooms or schools that would like to have us attend, we will be happy to do that.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0259-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0260-23, Greenman-Pedersen, Inc., consulting engineers, appointed to assist the Franklin County Engineer with construction inspection services for the Norton Road at Kropp Road-Grove City Road roundabout project, Pleasant Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$218,866.00) (Engineer), presented by Cornell Robertson, Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0260-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0261-23, HNTB Ohio, Inc., consulting engineers, appointed to assist the Franklin County Engineer by providing engineering services for the County Engineer's Electric Vehicle Plan (\$37,814.00) (Engineer), presented by Cornell Robertson, Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0261-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0262-23, EnviroScience, Inc., consulting engineers, appointed to assist the Franklin County Engineer by providing engineering services for the Genessee Avenue Drainage Improvement project (\$24,000.00) (Engineer), presented by Nick Soulas, Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0262-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0263-23, EnviroScience, Inc., consulting engineers, appointed to assist the Franklin County Engineer by providing engineering services for the Leib and Parker Ditch Drainage Improvement project (\$46,500.00) (Engineer), presented by Nick Soulas, Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0263-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0264-23, DGL Consulting Services, LLC, consulting engineers, appointed to assist the Franklin County Engineer in performing a feasibility study for the Williams Road, County Road No. 123, at Spangler Road, County Road No. 241, Improvement project, Madison Township, City of Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio (\$56,710.00) (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: Who is responsible for putting up the actual signal? Is that us?

Mr. Soulas: It would be us and/or the City of Columbus because part of the intersection is located in the City of Columbus. But yes, that is part of the duties of the Engineer's Office.

Commissioner Boyce: Is that for all traffic lights?

Cornell Robertson, Engineer, Engineer's Office: There are about 69 intersections in Franklin County that are specifically the jurisdiction of the Franklin County Engineer's Office regarding the signals. Obviously, there are far more than that number of signalized intersections, so it is based on the various incorporated limits. The City of Columbus has a lot of jurisdiction over many traffic signals in Franklin County, as do the cities of Hilliard, Gahanna, Westerville, and so on.

Mr. Robertson (cont.): Most of these municipalities have their own engineering divisions. The unique thing about the Franklin County Engineer's Office is that we can work anywhere within Franklin County utilizing intergovernmental agreements, whereas the individual municipalities are bound by their corporate limits. This particular intersection is primarily in an unincorporated part of Franklin County, making it the primary jurisdiction of our Engineer's Office. Therefore, we will take the lead on this project. I know that there is a lot of jurisdiction along Williams Road in the City of Columbus. In fact, the City of Columbus has submitted an application for a RAISE Grant on the federal level, and hopefully, they will be successful in that application. The federal government is currently considering it.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0264-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

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Cornell Robertson, Engineer, Engineer's Office: I thought of an interesting factoid about Franklin County to share. Franklin County, itself, is about two months younger than the state of Ohio. It was carved out of Ross County, which extended all the way north to Lake Erie at the time. The legislation was passed on March 30th for Franklin County to be in existence starting April 30th of 1803.

Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator: Does this atlas or map contain how many culverts there are in Franklin County?

Mr. Robertson: I do not know that we have that listed, but I can tell you that we have about 370 bridges that are in the primary jurisdiction of the Franklin County Engineer's Office. One is the Lane Avenue bridge over the Olentangy River, right on the campus of The Ohio State University. That is a bridge that we are very proud of, and it turns twenty years old on November 14th of this year.

Mr. Wilson: I thought you might know about the culverts because what is unique about them is that each one I have seen has a stamp on it with your name as the County Engineer.

Mr. Robertson: That is correct. That is telling folks that that bridge is safe to travel across. We have inspected each of the bridges every year. It is almost one bridge per day if you lay it all out.

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Resolution No. 0265-23, authorizing a supplemental appropriation within the Rotary Fund associated with vehicle maintenance (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 Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0265-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0266-23, authorizing a contract with Proteam Solutions, Inc. (PSI) to provide project management services in the delivery and implementation of the Huntington National Bank lockbox solution for the Franklin County Treasurer's Office (\$288,000.00) (Treasurer), presented by Jaclyn Treadwell, Budget and Purchasing Coordinator, Treasurer's Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0266-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0267-23, authorizing a contract agreement with Netcare Corporation for various expert forensic psychological evaluation services (\$40,000.00) (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: Are we winding down the Netcare contract, given that organization's trajectory?

Ms. Wingo: This was our first time entering contract with Netcare. Previously, we had an unofficial agreement, so we were working to make sure that we have an agreement. But it is not necessarily because we are winding down. We just never had an official agreement before, and we were sending our residents there for expert evaluation, so we wanted this to be documented.

Commissioner Boyce: That makes sense. I understand they are making some substantial changes, so I am trying to figure out the connection between their timeline of change and our contract with them. Can you reach out to my office so that I can better understand their situation? I am okay with this resolution, but I am curious about the timeline of the changes that they are making to their organization.

Ms. Wingo: We will be happy to do that.

Jeanine Hummer, First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Chief Counsel, Prosecuting Attorney's Office: In response to your inquiry regarding Netcare Services, they have terminated their 24-hour crisis center that allowed various entities to come forward and do an evaluation. RI is now performing that through an agreement with ADAMH. That particular component has been reduced from their previously-provided services. But they continue to provide these other services, such as those provided to the Office on Aging, the Sheriff's Office, and Probate.

Ms. Wingo: I also want to add that this is more for our seniors who do not have a medical provider or do not have access to get these evaluations done on their own.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0267-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0268-23, authorizing the acceptance of a gift from the estate of Kathryn D. Denton (\$6,225.13) (Animal Control), presented by Lionel Hamilton II, Fiscal Officer, Animal Control.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0268-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0269-23, authorizing an Economic Development Agreement with the Greater Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau to promote Franklin County as a tourism destination (\$3,025,000.00) (Economic Development and Planning), presented by James Schimmer, Director, Economic Development and Planning.

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

Brian Ross, President and Chief Executive Officer, Experience Columbus: Before I begin, I want to say Happy County Government Month. I have a factoid about Franklin County to share; I believe the Clippers are the only county-owned Minor League team in the nation. Today is opening day, so I hope everyone has their tickets! Regarding this resolution, I want to thank the Commissioners, Administrator Wilson, and Director Schimmer, for all of your support and involvement as we grow the travel economy in Franklin County. The travel economy consists of 43 million visits per year and 75,000 jobs, which is 1 in 15 jobs in Franklin County. In 2022, we had \$6.7 billion in direct visitor spending. The following are some highlights from 2022. We booked 386 conventions, meetings, trade shows, and sporting events for future years, representing over 363,000 room nights, and hosted 47 site visits that could possibly have 175,000 room nights in the future. We hosted 244 groups, which contracted 241,000 rooms, representing \$134 million in direct visitor spending, supporting 2,500 jobs, and bringing in \$8.4 million in local taxes.

Mr. Ross (cont.): The Hilton Columbus 402 opened to provide a much-needed 1,000-room hotel connected to the Convention Center, which allows us to be more competitive in the industry. The ICMA Conference was the first big group we welcomed to the new hotel. That was a big win for the city, and we want to thank you for your partnership. We have had a tremendous start to 2023. We hosted PCMA at the beginning of January. We have over \$100 million of economic impact in potential business that we are currently working on, and I anticipate it will grow. March was a wonderful month. We had the Arnold Sports Festival in town and five concerts at Nationwide Arena in March, which I believe is a record. We also hosted the NCAA Men's and Women's Tournaments for the first and second rounds. We were the only city that was able to do that. We have 244 groups booked in 2023, and we are looking forward to a tremendous spring and summer as we welcome festivals into Franklin County and Columbus. I hope you have had an opportunity to read the article featured in Forbes entitled "Why You Should Plan a Spring Trip to Columbus, Ohio: A Hidden Gem in Plain Sight" by Katie Chang. This article shares our dynamic and unique assets as a destination and how that compares to other "sunny cities" for spring break. This will be the first full year of Common Thread, our only downtown retail district in the city's core. We are also looking forward to hosting the U.S. Conference of Mayors in June, and I would like to thank you for your partnership in that. The Columbus Metropolitan Library is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. COSI just won its fourth straight award for being the number one science museum in the U.S. If you visit now, you will see the King Tut exhibit, which is very exciting. Then, as we begin next year, we will have the U.S. Olympic figure skating competitions in January. We are progressing towards some other key initiatives, including our Diversity Apprentice Program. We will have seven cohorts complete the program this month, bringing us to eighteen cohorts. We are on pace to hit thirty-six cohorts by the end of this year, which would be four times any other community. We also just published the city's first Accessibility Guide for attractions, hotels, and transportation. A perception study is one of the key initiatives we are working on in 2023. We are collaborating with the Columbus Partnership, the Columbus Downtown Development Corporation, and Ohio State to understand what residents, visitors, meeting and event organizers, students, and business corporate location executives think of our community and how we can better position ourselves to be more competitive as we grow. We are also working with Jones Lang LaSalle to understand how we optimize the business we are doing in Columbus, so that when we have meetings and events, as individual travelers and business travelers, we can optimize that segmentation to succeed in generating prosperity. Administrator Wilson is a co-chair of the current initiative to get us into the top amongst our competitors. These are just a few highlights, and there are plenty more where those came from.

Commissioner Crawley: Thank you for all you do in promoting the City of Columbus and Central Ohio. We really appreciate it.

Commissioner Boyce: Keep up the great work. The things you spoke about are points of growth for Central Ohio. You can go back to five or ten years ago, particularly in the hotel space, and you can see the change that Central Ohio has gone through since then.

Commissioner Boyce: When I first started on City Council a long time ago, we were so down on hotel beds in Columbus that we couldn't even compete with much smaller cities in that space. Today, we are starting to see Columbus growing up and being able to compete like we should on a national scale for venues like the NCAA Tournament. I think the best is yet to come for us. Thank you for all you do at Experience Columbus.

Mr. Ross: You are correct; we have so much more room to grow, but we will have to do that collaboratively. With all of us working together, there is no ceiling.

Commissioner Boyce: I would like to add that from a prudence standpoint, this is a good investment return. When you invest \$3 million in something and your return is nearly \$50 million, that is a very logical sequence of financial exchange. It begs the question of what more we can do, how we can grow that, and maximize Central Ohio as a destination. Not just for spring break but for weekend getaways, vacations in the summer, and more. Thank you for being a part of our Franklin County ecosystem, and please extend our gratitude to your staff.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0269-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0270-23, review of petition to annex 0.464 +/- acres from Blendon Township to the City of Columbus Case #ANX-10-23 (Economic Development and Planning), presented by James Schimmer, Director, Economic Development and Planning.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0270-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0271-23, authorizing a no cost extension contract of the sub-award issued to Franklin County Child Support Enforcement Agency through the FY 2019 Second Chance Act Addressing Needs of Incarcerated Parents and their Minor Children grant award from the U.S. Department of Justice (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 Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0271-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0272-23, authorizing a no cost extension contract of the sub-awards issued to Educational Service Center of Central Ohio and Legal Aid Society of Columbus through the FY 2019 Second Chance Act Addressing Needs of Incarcerated Parents and their Minor Children grant award from the U.S. Department of Justice (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 Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0272-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0273-23, authorizing the execution of fourteen subgrant awards and contracts to provide victim services and enhance law enforcement and prosecution under the FY 2022 Services-Training-Officers-Prosecutors (S.T.O.P.) Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Block Subgrant Grant Program, 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: Is there any kind of impact from that decrease?

Ms. Pride: Yes. These cuts have been incremental over the past two to three years. With the funding cut at the state level, we have to continue to ensure that it inadvertently supports the work and the data that shows the need in the community as it relates to these efforts. We have seen the impact of the funding decreases.

Commissioner Boyce: I would encourage you to meet with Administrator Wilson. I definitely want to understand the depth of those cuts and their impacts. If we can supplement those reductions differently to minimize any serious impact, I would like to make the appropriate adjustments and allocations to do so. I am interested in that conversation.

Commissioner Crawley: I know that you said there had been cuts at the state level, but we know that there were also cuts at the federal level over the past three years. Do you know if, under the new administration, that funding has been restored to the previous levels, or is it still lagging?

Ms. Pride: A fix was instituted in the latter part of 2021 and into 2022 to restore some of what was lost, but the time that it would take for those funds to transition into the actual community partners so they could deploy their services would be approximately one year. I will circle back to report where we are today at both the federal and state levels and where we could provide potential support as needed.

Commissioner Crawley: How many ARPA dollars have we used to support this work?

Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator: Over the last three years, we have been using ARPA dollars to supplement a number of these programs that have come forward through Justice Policy and Programs and Community Partnerships. The Office of Management and Budget and Community Partnerships can work on putting an updated list of those programs together.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0273-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0274-23, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$1,946,744.97) (Purchasing), presented by 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 Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0274-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0275-23, authorizing an agreement with Baker Tilly LLC for Financial Advisory 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 Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0275-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

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Brittany A. Razek, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, read two (2) journalizations into the record:

Case #ANX-14-23, an expedited type 2 annexation petition, ANX-14-23, was filed with the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department on March 28, 2023. The petition is requesting to annex 30.702 acres from Madison Township to the City of Columbus. The petition will be considered by the Board of Commissioners on May 2, 2023. Site: 0 Bachman Road, PID #181-001381.

Case #ANX-15-23, an expedited type 2 annexation petition, ANX-15-23, was filed with the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department on March 28, 2023. The petition is requesting to annex 63.851-acres from Madison Township to the City of Columbus. The petition will be considered by the Board of Commissioners on May 2, 2023. Site: 0 Bachman Road, PID #181-001379.

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There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:08 A.M.

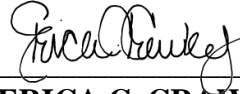
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These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' General Session meeting on Tuesday, April 4, 2023.

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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