

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

April 2, 2024

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, April 2, 2024.

Present were: Kevin L. Boyce, President
Erica C. Crawley, Commissioner

Also present on the dais were Kenneth N. Wilson, 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; 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 9:05 A.M.

Commissioner Boyce: Before we get started with our usual Tuesday agenda, I am pleased to recognize that April is National County Government Month. Throughout the month, we will be taking every opportunity to celebrate county government and highlight all of the things that we do this and every month to help serve and support Every Resident, Every Day, in Franklin County. Later this month, we look forward to the release of our annual State of the County report, and this morning, I'm excited to share some information with you about county government across the nation.

There are 3,069 counties in America and every American lives in one of them, though some places call them boroughs, parishes, or shires. Counties own and maintain 45% of all of America's roads, 34% of its airports, and, especially notable this week, 38% of bridges. There are also 1,592 county health departments across the nation, and every two years, counties fund and oversee nearly 100,000 polling places.

There are also nearly 38,000 elected county commissioners and other officials in America and 3.6 million county employees, all working to help keep local government running smoothly for our residents. We are glad to help celebrate them this April and look forward to sharing more with you about how county government works and what your county government is up to as the month goes on.

I had the pleasure of serving elected office at the local level as a city council member, state legislator, and as a state-wide office holder, State Treasurer. There is no place like the county in terms of our ability to meet the needs of our constituents. That is what I love about county government. When I got here seven years ago, I was overwhelmed by seeing departments like Jobs and Family Services, Office on Aging, and many others be on the front line of where the residents need them the most and being part of a system that works every day to ensure, like Commissioner Crawley likes to say, the residents cannot just survive but, thrive. I love when she says that because it is really a sincere and authentic value set of the county. I see it every day, and for those who do not know what the county government does, I encourage you to look at the website and learn about it. When I first ran for commissioner, people would say, “What does a county commissioner do?” It is not as mainstream as offices like the mayor, city council, or ones you see a lot. The county commissioners and the county are over here part of the downtown, but there are so many parts that are part of your everyday quality of life, and I would argue that it is the thing that drives a lot of the quality of life. It will be fun to highlight county government, and I believe that county government was the first form of local government even before the State of Ohio was created. There were counties in Ohio that had an earlier establishment date. Counties have been around longer than any other form of government running local communities. That is a true testament to what we do.

Commissioner Crawley: Thank you, President Boyce. I want to echo what Commissioner Boyce said about people not knowing what commissioners do, and that happened when I was running for office in 2022. People asked, “What do you do?” They still ask that which is why we made a concerted effort to highlight the work we are doing for the people and, more importantly, the resources available for non-profits, businesses, and residents. As I said in my Coffee and Conversation with Crawley, contact us, we work for you. We were able to expand our services and programs for youth. That brings me joy, and I know it brings my colleague’s joy. We will continue to highlight all the resources available for our community, as well as the people behind all of the work and all of our county employees. The commissioners set the tone and the vision for the county, but our employees and staff really implement it and do the work. We cannot serve our residents as electeds if not for our employees and staff. I know we have tried to fly under the radar and take a back seat to our work, and that is why the City of Columbus, for one, but many cities in Franklin County, continue to be at the forefront. Thinking of the budget, we have a larger budget and what we can do. You can see how government works for the people, and it does not have to be long and drawn out like at the state level; it is definitely at the local level – the county level. They say all politics are at the local level, and this is a tremendous gig that we get to be in these seats. I am so excited for county government month and highlighting what Franklin County, commissioners, and administration are doing. It definitely involves service, progress, and excellence every single day.

Resolution No. 0259-24, authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding for the continuation of support for the Franklin County Municipal Court Specialty Dockets (\$980,000.00) (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Caitlin Looney, Deputy Director of Justice Services, Justice Policy and Programs and Judge Jodi Thomas, Franklin County Municipal Court.

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

Judge Jodi Thomas: Good morning, commissioners and county administrators. On behalf of the judges of the Franklin County Municipal Court, but more specifically, the judges that preside over the Specialized Dockets, including Judge D'Varga, who presides over the Recovery Court, which is one of the Drug Courts that deal with everything but opiates; Judge Skinner, who presides over the M.A.V.S. Court, which stands for the Military and Veterans Service Program; Judge Russo, who presides over the L.I.N.C. Court Docket, which stands for Learning to Identify & Navigate Change, which is the mental health court docket and myself. I preside over the H.A.R.T. Program, which stands for Helping Achieve Recovery Together, the opiate-specific drug court, and the C.A.T.C.H. program, which stands for Creating Autonomy Through Collaborative Healing, the Human Trafficking Survivors Docket. We want to thank you, the commissioners, not only for your continued financial support, which helps keep the Specialized Dockets running but for recognizing the value these programs bring to the citizens of Franklin County. I have been involved with the Specialized Dockets since their inception in 2004, and I have never been more proud of what we are accomplishing inside these courtrooms with the participants. Specialized Dockets are certified by the Ohio Supreme Court and undergo regular review to ensure they align with the evolving best practices and, most importantly, the community's needs. Our teams work hard to receive this certification and have been recognized as model programs to be viewed by other courts around the State of Ohio and the Country. Franklin County Municipal Court works collectively with all of its justice and community partners to support the participants and address the issues that brought them into the justice system. This community is blessed with a wealth of recovery resources. These funds support critical staff in linking these services to those that need the most support. This investment affects not only the lives of those engaged in the Specialized Dockets but also the communities where they live. These programs strive to assist the whole person and their families. By providing holistic support around education, employment, medical, and housing needs, the impact ripples through their families and communities. The dockets have evolved to use jail as a last resort, truly. We recognize that incarceration is not a feasible or effective approach to non-compliance. When we have to interface with the jail, our staff has a great rapport with them to facilitate smooth releases when transitioning participants to treatment or safe housing. This is crucial in those beginning days of their recovery. We appreciate your continued support, as without it, these programs would not be possible. We are saving lives. Thank you for this opportunity to speak today.

Commissioner Boyce: Thank you, Judge. Thank you for this work, too. We had the last few years building our new jail institution; we had discussions about diversion, crisis, and crisis management and the best way to facilitate and accommodate the needs of someone going through a scenario or situation. This is exactly that kind of partnership. It is right to have an investment that supports not just creating more jail cells but also creating more opportunities to help people escape the crisis and have successful lives. Deputy County Administrator Bivens, do you have a comment?

Joy Bivens, Deputy County Administrator: Good morning, everyone. Thank you, Commissioner Boyce. One of the things I would like to see is the Poverty Blueprint Plan, which is our North Star that is more aligned with our perspective on how we can be more intrinsic on the wraparound. Many times, we get caught up in just providing the services. Since we are being more intentional about aligning and tracking individuals. If we could get time with each of the judges so they are familiar with the plan going forward, that would be fantastic, and we can collectively work together.

Judge Jodi Thomas: Absolutely, we would welcome those conversations.

Commissioner Crawley: Thank you, President Boyce. Thank you, Judge Thomas, for being here and for all you do in this phase. I was first introduced to Specialty Dockets sixteen years ago, with a drug court when I was down in Atlanta and then when I came to law school with our veterans docket. I see how transformational they are and how they can change lives. You see individuals as individuals and understand the complex issues that brought them in front of your bench. I echo Deputy County Administrator Bivens' point about wraparound services. I see how that can be helpful. I know you work with community partners to support our residents who come before you and the resources we can provide to maintain and track them for data purposes. We must ensure they can be self-sufficient and continue on a successful journey. I would love to see that. Thank you for your work here; the courts continue to create necessary specialty dockets. Thank you.

Judge Jodi Thomas: Thank you so much.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0259-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0260-24, authorizing the transfer of real property to the City of Columbus for the maintenance of right-of-way along Fisher Road, County Road No. 22, Franklin County, Ohio (Board of Commissioners), presented by Brad Forster, Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0260-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

PUBLIC HEARING: Establishing, altering, and widening of Norton Road, County Road No. 3, and Owen Street, Township Road No. 1582, Prairie Township, Franklin County, Ohio, viewed – Engineer to file plans, as necessary.

Commissioner Boyce opened the Public Hearing and asked if anyone would like to speak. Seeing and hearing none, Commissioner Boyce closed the Public Hearing, and the resolution was read into the record.

Resolution No. 0261-24, establishing, altering, and widening of Norton Road, County Road No. 3, and Owen Street, Township Road No. 1582, Prairie Township, Franklin County, Ohio, viewed – Engineer to file plans, as necessary (Engineer), presented by Bradley Foster, Engineer, Engineer’s Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0261-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

PUBLIC HEARING: Establishing, altering, and widening of Amesbury Way, Township Road No. 1874, and Schoolhouse Lane, Township Road No. 1932, Prairie Township, Franklin County, Ohio, viewed – Engineer to file plans, as necessary.

Commissioner Boyce opened the Public Hearing and asked if anyone would like to speak. Seeing and hearing none, Commissioner Boyce closed the Public Hearing, and the resolution was read into the record.

Resolution No. 0262-24, establishing, altering, and widening of Amesbury Way, Township Road No. 1874, and Schoolhouse Lane, Township Road No. 1932, Prairie Township, Franklin County, Ohio, viewed – Engineer to file plans, as necessary (Engineer), presented by Bradley Foster, Engineer, Engineer’s Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0262-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

PUBLIC HEARING: Establishing, altering, and widening of Charing Cross Street, Prairie Township and City of Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio, viewed – Engineer to file plans, as necessary.

Commissioner Boyce opened the Public Hearing and asked if anyone would like to speak. Seeing and hearing none, Commissioner Boyce closed the Public Hearing, and the resolution was read into the record.

Resolution No. 0263-24, establishing, altering, and widening of Charing Cross Street, Prairie Township and City of Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio, viewed – Engineer to file plans, as necessary (Engineer), presented by Bradley Foster, Engineer, Engineer’s Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0263-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0264-24, granting approval to declare equipment obsolete and no longer needed for Franklin County use, and authorizing sale of said equipment (Engineer), presented by Bradley Foster, Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0264-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0265-24, plans approved for the rehabilitation of the structures on Trabue Road 10.77 over Scioto River and 10.89 over Scioto Pointe Drive; Norwich Township and Perry Township, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer), presented by Bradley Foster, Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0265-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0266-24, requesting the Ohio Department of Transportation to reduce the speed limit on Feder Road, County Road No. 22, Prairie Township, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer), presented by Bradley Foster, Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0266-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0267-24, authorizing an agreement between the Franklin County Sheriff's Office and the Aladdin Shrine Center for the use of their facilities for a graduation ceremony (\$1,120.00) (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 Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0267-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0268-24, authorizing an addendum to the Jail Management System implementation, license, and maintenance agreement with Intellitech Corporation (\$565,135.00) (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 Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0268-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0269-24, authorizing forty-three (43) grant Agreements with various non-profit organizations that will provide services and programming in order to promote and support access to the Social Determinants of Health for seniors in Franklin County (\$3,693,001.20) (Office On Aging), presented by Laurice Cohens, Assistant Director, Chief Financial Officer, Office on Aging and guests, Charles Gehring, President and CEO, LifeCare Alliance, and R. Taylor Reed, Executive Director, Charitable Pharmacy.

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

Mr. Reed discussed how this resolution supports the needs of the Franklin County community seniors, and with many having health concerns, this helps seniors use their medicine effectively, eat, and exercise to have a vibrant and full life. Mr. Reed touched on how this enables them to connect with case managers and answer their questions which will allow them to listen for clues that maybe a senior is not adherent to their medicine and get them routed into the charitable pharmacy. Mr. Reed thanked the commissioners for their support.

Mr. Gehring spoke of how proud he is of Franklin County and how we are the only metropolitan area in the top 100 markets that still has no waiting list and accepts everyone into the meals program. Mr. Gehring added that Franklin County has ten Wellness Centers and a Senior Farmers Market, and services are more critical now than ever. He recently spoke to a board chair in a large California city who indicated that they have 3,000 people on a waitlist. Cincinnati, Toledo, and Cleveland have a minimum of 1,500 people on waiting lists to receive senior services like meals and transportation. Mr. Gehring emphasized that Franklin County does not have that problem due to the ongoing support of the commissioners.

Commissioner Boyce thanked Mr. Reed and Mr. Gehring and noted that we are all in this together, especially during COVID and how it showed what the county was made of. Commissioner Boyce reiterated how Franklin County is a great place to live, work, and raise a family, but the work continues, and he recalled how his grandmother utilized their services and how critical it was to the family's lives.

Commissioner Crawley thanked Mr. Reed and Mr. Gehring and noted that the first volunteering opportunity was with Meals on Wheels, and how she made relationships and saw the living conditions and for the county to support these organizations where no wait list exists. Commissioner Crawley noted Franklin County could not do what they do without partners like them and thanked them for serving the residents.

Joy Bivens, Deputy County Administrator, thanked Mr. Reed and Mr. Gehring for their advocacy and work for seniors. She noted that by the year 2030, Franklin County will have more seniors than kindergartners. Deputy County Administrator Joy Bivens asked if volunteers were still needed for Meals on Wheels and how interested individuals could get in contact if they wished to serve.

Mr. Gehring noted that, yes, volunteers are still needed. Interested persons can go to Lifecare Alliance and click on the volunteering link or call (614) 278-3130. Mr. Gehring emphasized that Franklin County has one of the highest volunteer rates in the country but always has a need.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0269-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0270-24, authorizing an extension agreement with the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center Department of Emergency Medicine for case management services (Office On Aging), presented by Laurice Cohens, Assistant Director, Chief Financial Officer, Office on Aging.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0270-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0271-24, authorizing professional service contract agreements with Deborah Nutter and Esteban Barrera for peer support and case management services for residents served via SAFER Station (\$51,000.00) (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Caitlin Looney, Deputy Director of Justice Services, Justice Policy and Programs.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0271-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0272-24, authorizing a professional service contract agreement with Evan Rooney for peer support services for residents served through the Franklin County pre-release medication assisted treatment program (\$35,000.00) (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Caitlin Looney, Deputy Director of Justice Services, Justice Policy and Programs.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0272-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0273-24, approving a contract agreement with Raising the Bar Performance Group for racial equity and related training and management consulting and coaching services (\$469,750.00) (Human Resources), presented by Laura Repasky, Director, Human Resources, Perla Martinez, Administrator, Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion, and guest, Courtnee Carrigan, CEO, and Senior Consultant, Raising the Bar Performance Group.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0273-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0274-24, authorizing a contract with Columbus Running Company, LLC (CRC) for event management services for the Franklin County Cooperative Health Improvement Program (Cooperative) (\$43,800.00) (Human Resources), presented by Jodi Leis, Assistant Director, Human Resources.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0274-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0275-24, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$7,052,405.65) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing Department, 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 0275-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0276-24, adopting the Disposal of County Owned Personal Property Policy (Board of Commissioners), presented by Kirs Long, Deputy County Administrator, Board of Commissioners.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0276-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

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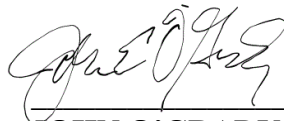
There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:54 A.M.

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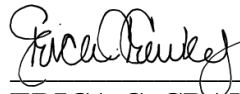
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These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' General Session meeting on Tuesday, April 2, 2024.

KEVIN L. BOYCE, PRESIDENT

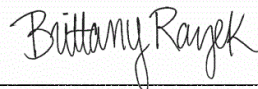


JOHN O'GRADY



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

Submitted by:



Brittany A. Razek,
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

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