

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

April 9, 2024

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

Present were: Kevin L. Boyce, President (virtual; non-voting)  
John O'Grady, Commissioner  
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, Prosecuting Attorney's Office; and Lauren M. Graessle, Deputy 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 9:14 A.M.

Commissioner O'Grady: Good morning, everyone. As we mentioned last week, April is National County Government Month, and each week during this month, we'll be sharing information about county government and how your county government is working to serve every Franklin County resident every day. Last week, we learned about county government across the country, and today I'm glad to be able to share some information about our county that some of you may not know.

Franklin County is about the 30th-largest county in America, depending on how you count, and it's the largest in Ohio, with well over 1.3 million residents. It was founded 221 years ago this month on April 30; it's named after Benjamin Franklin and originally extended all the way north to Lake Erie. Today, our county encompasses 544 square miles, including more than 12,000 public roadways, and is governed by more than 50 independently elected officials and judges, 39 appointed boards, and 33 county agencies. The commissioners oversee an annual budget of more than \$2 billion and have about 1,500 employees, all of whom are working daily to help keep Franklin County a great place to live, work, or raise a family.

Keep an eye out throughout April for more great information about county government month, and especially, for our annual State of the County report, which will be out on April 24.

In the meantime, we have several special guests with us this morning, beginning with Brenda Rivers. Ms. Rivers is the Chief Executive Officer of the Child Development Council of Franklin County and serves on the Franklin County Children First Council and the Future Ready Five committee. She has served our community for over 30 years, and we are pleased to recognize her today. Ms. Rivers, we'd like to hear a little about your career and future plans, and then if you would please join us in front of the dais, we have a ceremonial resolution for you and would like to get some pictures together.

*Ms. Rivers made brief remarks of gratitude for the support from the board of commissioners over the last 30 years. Ms. Rivers spoke about the many services offered to children through Headstart and how it encompasses education but also healthcare.*

*Joy Bivens, Deputy County Administrator, commented briefly about Ms. Rivers's 30 years of service to Franklin County.*

*Commissioner O'Grady made brief comments of appreciation for Ms. Rivers's 30 years of service to Franklin County.*

Commissioner O'Grady: Thank you, Brenda. Also with us today are Chip Spinning of Franklin County Children Services, and Toshia Safford of the Center for Healthy Families. April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and Chip and Toshia are here to tell us a little bit about preventing child abuse and how we all can work to raise awareness. Welcome, both of you.

*Two [unnamed] Columbus State students, one from the Center for Healthy Families and The Black Girls' & Young Women's Collective and another on behalf of the Franklin County Children's Services and Youth Advisory Board Program, made brief remarks about the abuse and neglect specific to black girls outlining and urgent need to protect vulnerable children in our community. On Wednesday, April 10, 2024, they invited everyone to attend the Annual Child Abuse Prevention Breakfast featuring Dr. Amy Acton. They requested to make all outside lights blue and for all leadership across the city and county to wear blue and make a post on social media using the hashtag #ohiowearsblue2024 in support.*

*Mr. Spinning made brief remarks on this year's theme of Building a Hopeful Future Together.*

*Ms. Safford made brief remarks on how the need to support children and families does not end in April and urged support throughout the year.*

*Commissioner O'Grady commented briefly on how the issues facing children and families cross party lines and how the commissioners will wear blue.*

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**Resolution No. 0277-24**, authorizing a contract with Ohio Guidestone for Therapeutic Supervised Visitation (\$23,000.00) (Domestic Relations), presented by Barb Reeves, Deputy Director, Domestic Relations.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0277-24, seconded by Commissioner O’Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0278-24**, authorizing a consultant contract with Vision Government Solutions for appraisal analysis services (\$74,900.00) (Auditor), presented by Michael Stinziano, Franklin County Auditor.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0278-24, seconded by Commissioner O’Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0279-24**, authorizing and executing the acceptance of a subgrant award from Franklin County Public Health’s Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Overdose Data to Action (OD2A: LOCAL) Grant and the execution of the data use agreement between Franklin County Public Health and Franklin County Coroner’s Office (\$200,000.00) (Coroner), presented by Patrick McLean, Chief of Staff, Coroner’s Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0279-24, seconded by Commissioner O’Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Establishing, altering, and widening of Clouse Road, Township Road No. 347, Plain Township, Franklin County, Ohio, viewed – Engineer to file plans, as necessary.

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

**Resolution No. 0280-24**, establishing, altering, and widening of Clouse Road, Township Road

No. 347, Plain Township, Franklin County, Ohio, viewed – Engineer to file plans, as necessary (Engineer), presented by Terri J. Pritchard, Executive Assistant, Engineer’s Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0280-24, seconded by Commissioner O’Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0281-24**, Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc., consulting engineers, appointed to assist the Franklin County Engineer by providing engineering design services for the Johnstown Road at 17th Avenue, and I-670E Off-Ramp Improvement project, Mifflin Township, City of Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio (\$557,917.00) (Engineer), presented by Terri J. Pritchard, Executive Assistant, Engineer’s Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0281-24, seconded by Commissioner O’Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0282-24**, Woolpert, Inc., consulting engineers, appointed to assist the Franklin County Engineer by providing engineering design services for Innis Road, County Road No. 171, from Cleveland Avenue, County Road No. 75, to Westerville Road (SR3), Clinton Township and Mifflin Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$194,091.00) (Engineer), presented by Terri J. Pritchard, Executive Assistant, Engineer’s Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0282-24, seconded by Commissioner O’Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0283-24**, awarding contract and approving contract bond to J & J Schlaegel, Inc. for Alton & Darby Creek Road 1.88 over Clover Groff Ditch (\$1,408,907.68) (Engineer), presented by Terri J. Pritchard, Executive Assistant, Engineer’s Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0283-24, seconded by Commissioner O’Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0284-24**, authorizing the procurement of Google Maps Interface services (\$2,400.00) (Franklin County Data Center), presented by Julie Lust, Chief Financial Officer, Franklin County Data Center.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0284-24, seconded by Commissioner O’Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0285-24**, authorizing supplemental appropriations and a contract with the Franklin County Probate Court for adult guardianship services (\$472,500.00) (Office on Aging), presented by Laurice Cohens, Chief Financial Officer, Office on Aging.

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

*Commissioner Crawley inquired about the number of cases referred for adult guardianship services between the Franklin County Probate Court and the Office on Aging and the details surrounding the case management process. Ms. Cohens responded that there have been over 150 referrals.*

*Caroline Rankin, Assistant Director, Office on Aging, responded to Commissioner Crawley’s question on the case management process, stating that adult cases historically come in and there has not been any family involved in the care of the person and that these cases tend to be guardians of last resort. These adults receive ongoing case management services, including medical decisions, which ensures they can live safely and successfully in the community.*

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0285-24, seconded by Commissioner O’Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0286-24**, authorizing the acceptance of a gift from Brittany J. Campbell (\$10,000.00) (Animal Control), presented by Lionel Hamilton II, Fiscal Officer, Animal Control.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0286-24, seconded by Commissioner O’Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0287-24**, approving a contract agreement with Columbus Council on World Affairs for cultural fluency training (\$57,000.00) (Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion) presented by Perla M. Martinez, DEI Administrator, Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0287-24, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0288-24**, approving a contract agreement with Dr. Leonard Taylor for diversity, equity, and inclusion training (\$26,750.00) (Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion) presented by Perla M. Martinez, DEI Administrator, Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion.

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

*Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator, made brief remarks commending Ms. Martinez and the Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion for their work in Franklin County and for Franklin County employees.*

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0288-24, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0289-24**, review of petition to annex 1.94 +/- acres from Madison Township to the City of Groveport Case #ANX-06-24 (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 Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0289-24, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0290-24**, to adjust the boundaries of Montgomery Township, thereby making them conform to the boundaries of the City of Columbus Case #ANX-07-24 (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 Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0290-24, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0291-24**, approving three (3) contract extensions for on-site case management services between the Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services and Mt. Carmel East Hospital, Mt. Carmel St. Ann's Hospital, and Mt. Carmel Grove City Hospital (\$323,708.25) (Job and Family Services), presented by Carmen Barnes, Deputy Director, Job and Family Services.

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

*Speaker Slip: Sister Gemma Doll, The B.R.E.A.D. Organization, made brief comments commending the commissioners on the conveyance fee increase that has helped 2,000 families, a goal met seven years ahead of schedule. Sister Doll also recognized the commissioners and thanked them for their \$8MM allocation of Rescue Plan funds for housing. Sister Doll stated that safe housing creates safer neighborhoods, allowing children to grow up healthy and improving their school performance, and urged the commissioners to allocate more of the Rescue Plan funds to affordable housing. Sister Doll invited the commissioners to attend B.R.E.A.D.'s annual Nehemiah Action at the Celeste Center on the Ohio State Fairgrounds on May 21, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. to publicly celebrate the Franklin County Board of Commissioners.*

*Commissioner Crawley commented briefly on affordable housing and the additional work being done by the Franklin County Board of Commissioners on housing at every income level. Commissioner Crawley stated that the General Fund and Magnet Fund dollars are also used for affordable housing in addition to the conveyance fee and the Rescue Plan.*

*Commissioner O'Grady commented briefly on the importance of affordable housing and the incredible partnerships to help combat the root issue in the community.*

*Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator, commented briefly on how housing is directly connected to health and praised the commissioner's work on affordable housing. Mr. Wilson mentioned that the board of commissioners awarded nearly \$51MM in reallocated rental assistance dollars and committed in 2023 to developing 572 affordable housing units through the Magnet Fund.*

*Commissioner Boyce (virtually) shared brief comments on how counties have historically not delved into affordable housing because they do not do much zoning for land usage and how Franklin County's untraditional approach, making these types of investments in housing, is fundamental to enhancing the human service value set that counties do traditionally support.*

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0291-24, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0292-24**, approving a contract amendment with Advocacy and Communications Solutions, LLC for consultation services to develop an early learning childhood strategy and provide planning support for redeveloping the former Franklin County Corrections Center site to serve as a high-quality early learning center (an increase of \$237,999.00) (\$309,999.00) (Job and Family Services), presented by Carmen Barnes, Deputy Director, Job and Family Services.

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

*Joy Bivens, Deputy County Administrator, thanked the commissioners for their vision to redevelop the former Franklin County Corrections Center site into a state-of-the-art Early Learning Center.*

*Commissioner Crawley commented briefly on how Franklin County is the only county in the country to create a learning lab in place of an old corrections center.*

*Commissioner O'Grady praised Commissioner Crawley for always thinking about the children and pointed out how this work provides a different path for young men.*

*Commissioner Boyce (virtually) echoed Commissioner O'Grady's praise for Commissioner Crawley.*

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0292-24, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0293-24**, approving a subaward agreement with the Columbus Urban League for the Reentry HUB program (\$200,000.00) (Job and Family Services), presented by Carmen Barnes, Deputy Director, Job and Family Services.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0293-24, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0294-24**, authorizing a modification to a memorandum of understanding with Columbus Public Health for support of justice programs including issuance of vital records (\$25,000.00) (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Melissa Pierson, Deputy Director, Justice Policy and Programs.



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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0294-24, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0295-24**, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies. (\$1,078,633.91) (Purchasing), presented by Traci Mathew, Assistant Director, Purchasing, and Tameca Bumper, Economic Equity Administrator, Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0295-24, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0296-24**, appointing Toni Bell to the Franklin County Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services Board (Board of Commissioners), presented by Lauren M. Graessle, Assistant Director, Community Appointments.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0296-24, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0297-24**, appointing Agata Brenneman to the Ohio Children's Trust Fund Central Ohio Regional Prevention Council (Board of Commissioners), presented by Lauren M. Graessle, Assistant Director, Community Appointments, Board of Commissioners.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0297-24, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0298-24**, appointing Lois Carson to the Franklin County designated Tax Incentive Review Councils (TIRCs), and Community Reinvestment Authorities (Board of Commissioners), presented by Lauren M. Graessle, Assistant Director, Community Appointments, Board of Commissioners.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0298-24, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0299-24**, appointing Tenesha Hartgrove to the Columbus-Franklin County Finance Authority Board (Board of Commissioners), presented by Lauren M. Graessle, Assistant Director, Community Appointments, Board of Commissioners.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0299-24, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0300-24**, of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners to convene into Executive Session for the purpose of considering personnel matters and to confer with the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office concerning pending or imminent litigation (Board of Commissioners).

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0300-24, to convene into Executive Session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official and 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 O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, and the Commissioners convened into Executive Session at 10:32 A.M.

At 11:01 A.M., Commissioner Crawley moved to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady, which was 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 11:01 A.M.

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**(Signature Page Follows)**

These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' General Session meeting on Tuesday, April 9, 2024.



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**KEVIN L. BOYCE, PRESIDENT**

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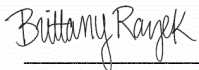
**JOHN O'GRADY**



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

Submitted by:



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**Brittany A. Razek,  
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners**

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