

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

April 23, 2024

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, April 23, 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; Joy Bivens, 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 Crawley called the meeting to order at 9:12 A.M.

Commissioner Crawley: Good morning, everyone. Let's start our General Session for April 23, 2024. We've been talking all month about how it is National County Government Month, and I'm excited to share that we're now just a day away from the release of our annual State of the County report and luncheon. The report will be available first thing tomorrow morning at [Report.FranklinCountyOhio.Gov](https://Report.FranklinCountyOhio.Gov). It's organized around our six core principles of good governance and has some great videos and other interactive features. Best of all, everyone will be able to enjoy the luncheon program live streamed on the commissioners' Facebook page. We'll discuss our work as equity champions and the future of DEI, some community partner recognition, and the presentation of our annual Every Resident Everyday Awards for Excellence in Public Service. Just go to the commissioners' Facebook page to RSVP for the video event, and you can stream it live at noon tomorrow. Before we get into our regular agenda today, we've got some special guests with us. First is Jennifer Fish from the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District to tell us a little bit about Earth Day and what we can do to celebrate locally and to help conserve Franklin County's natural beauty and natural resources for generations to come. Welcome, Ms. Fish.

Jennifer Fish, Director, Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District: Thank you, I am Jennifer Fish, Director with Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District. Today, I have Tori Robinson,

who is our AmeriCorps member and Grace Chaffin, who is our outreach intern for the summer. Thank you for inviting me today to speak to celebrate not only Earth Day but, this week is now being referred to as Earth Week. Earth day is a great time to think about how you use the land that we live on. With the increased population growth that is coming to Central Ohio and climate change events, we are going to need to use all the land that we live, work and play on to provide ecosystems services. We need to provide that space for soaking in the rainwater, using the land and resources, improve our drinking water, wildlife habitat and the overall quality of life. One way we can do this is with rain gardens. We are promoting rain gardens. A rain garden is a depression in the ground where we plant native plants and shrubs, and you can redirect rainwater to that depression. The rainwater soaks in instead of running off to our streets which carries pollution to our storm's drains. People don't know that storm drains go directly to our streams. Whatever we can do to keep pollution out of the storm drains is good and the more we soak in the rainwater into the land, the less it is going to flood and create erosion problems and create issues for residents in Franklin County. There is also economic benefits and we recently worked with Earth Economics. They used local data in their economic model to demonstrate the benefits of what a one-acre rain garden would be. With their calculations, they estimate that a raingarden creates up to \$74,000.00 in benefits, annually. That includes noise pollutions, flood regulation, biodiversity habitat, neighborhood scenery, avoided management costs, carbon sequestration, and avoided emissions from infrastructure. There is a way to value them, and they are a great value to us. We do offer \$50.00 rebates to residents who participate in an online class and then they get \$50.00 towards a rain barrel, compost bin, and native plants to put on their property to help soak in that rainwater. If anyone needs assistance with that, we are happy to talk with you to meet our end goal of making sure we are using as much of the land in Franklin County as possible for ecoservice systems. Thank you so much for your time.

Commissioner Crawley: Thank you, Ms. Fish. I have one quick question. Does Ohio have a designated native plant that we recognize?

Ms. Fish: Yes, the native plant is recognized statewide at the statehouse. I don't know but I will find out. We need one. If we don't, I will put that up the chain. I think that is a great idea.

Commissioner O'Grady: It's not the buckeye tree?

Ms. Fish: The buckeye tree is native, there you go. Planting a buckeye tree is a fabulous idea and yes, that would be our state native plant.

Kenneth Wilson, County Administrator: I verified it, it is the buckeye tree. 1953 it was declared by the state legislature.

Joy Bivens, Deputy County Administrator: Thank you so much. How do our residents find out about acquiring these, is there a website they can go to?

Ms. Fish: Yes, we make it easy. You can to Google "community backyards.org" and you will reach the website or call the office at (614) 486-9613, and we can direct you. We work with people rather

they have web services or not. We have options for people to participate. I do have stickers, and you can put them on your laptop, water bottles, and I have extra handouts too.

Commissioner Crawley: Thank you, Jennifer. It's always a pleasure to have you with us in session. Happy Earth Day.

Kenneth Wilson, County Administrator: Commissioner Crawley, if I may? Since it is Earth Week, and while we were talking about Ohio facts, we might as well add that the State of Ohio's official flower is a carnation with a crimson tint.

Commissioner Crawley: Our next guest is Terra Purdy, from OhioHealth Sexual Violence Services, to tell us a bit about Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Welcome, Ms. Purdy.

Terra Purdy: Thank you for inviting me here today for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. I am here to speak on behalf of OhioHealth Sexual Assault Network of Central Ohio. I have Community Partnership Director, Rebecca Barbeau with me, and my name is Terra Purdy, and I am the manager of OhioHealth Sexual Violence Services. I want to give you the services that we offer to survivors and co-survivors of sexual assault violence. Our department, OhioHealth Sexual Assault Service includes SARNCO and forensic nursing program. In over 22 emergency departments, our forensic nurses provide forensic care to survivors of sexual violence, felony domestic violence, human trafficking, child abuse and neglect, elder abuse and neglect, and child sexual abuse. Our SARNCO advocacy program provides emotional support, crisis response and community response information to survivors and co-survivors of sexual violence. The full scope of our services includes 24-hour hospital advocacy in over 22-plus emergency rooms across Central Ohio. The trained hospital advocates provide 24/7 confidential emotional support, validation, active listening, safety planning, safety supplies, and much more. The advocates remain with the survivor until they are discharged unless otherwise directed by the survivors. All of this is survivor led. We have a 24-hour statewide helpline where advocates provide crisis response, emotional support, safety planning, safety supplies, coping and resilience skills, all free of charge to the survivor. Helpline advocates give community referrals as well, such as housing, food assistance, mental health, survivors information and justice system resources. We have after-care advocates who offer accompaniment and support through the court process, law enforcement interviews and additional follow-up appointments. Aftercare survivors assist the survivors in completing the crime victim's compensation application, immigration forms, protection orders and additional paperwork. Recently, SARNCO has started to offer peer support groups in both Spanish and English. We have an embedded advocate at The Ohio State University to provide support, advocacy and aftercare services. The prevention program resides in colleges, such as Otterbein, Ohio State, Ohio Dominican, high schools, middle schools, and we offer programs such as bystander intervention training, engaging men, rape misconceptions, consent and boundaries, and teen dating violence. We have outreach throughout the State of Ohio, offering writing workshops for survivors, bi-monthly networking events, presentations to organizations and businesses and participation in community events. Our training is accredited by the National Advocate Credentialing Program, and this is a 40-hour sexual assault advocacy training, four times a year. It is open to anyone interested in becoming a volunteer advocate in any of SARNCO's service lanes or community partners interested in learning more about supporting survivors and their community. The training

program also organizes and hosts an annual sexual awareness conference that is open to the public. This year's conference was titled "Shattering the Silence, Empowering the Voices of those Unheard." The conference was well attended, and we had 220 participants virtually and in-person. Even with our robust programming, expansive community collaboration and over 30 years of service, we are just scratching the surface of the public health crisis that is sexual violence. Last year, the CDC reported that over half of women and 1 in 3 men, will experience sexual violence involving physical contact during their lifetime. Unfortunately, right here in Franklin County, we are seeing the direct impact of those statistics. Since January 1, this reporting only goes through March, we have seen 141 sexual assaults survivors in Central Ohio emergency departments. A total of 964 people has received services from SARNCO since January 1. These numbers may seem daunting, but together as a community, we can support survivors and provide survivors and co-survivors with support and advocacy they deserve. If you are wondering how you can help, consider spreading the word about SARNCO services and our free training opportunity. Volunteer yourself to be an advocate, donate to our program, support legislation that supports survivors and/or increases funding for services like ours. We are grant funded. Most importantly, if you know of a survivor or co-survivor in need of support, refer them to our helpline to begin our journey at (844) OHIO-HELP. Like Coretta Scott King said, "The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." Thank you for your time and this valuable opportunity.

Commissioner Crawley: Thank you. We really appreciate that and want to acknowledge Alicia's Law that was just reintroduced last week by my former colleague Representative Juanita Brent, which was originally sponsored and championed by Representative Janine Boyd. I am skipping on Alicia's last name, but she was a part of Delta Sigma Theta, and they came down and advocated, did a press conference celebrating her life, and bringing awareness to domestic violence, sexual violence, and she was murdered at the hands of her ex-husband. Thank you for all you continue to do, SARNCO continues to do, and the space to support those who have been impacted by sexual violence and domestic violence.

Joy Bivens, Deputy County Administrator: Thank you, for our residents that are listening, is there a website or telephone number for those dealing with this type of situation?

Ms. Purdy: Yes, the number is (844) OHIO-HELP and that is the statewide help number. You can call that and that will start the process of what type of service you might need. They can direct them to the hospital, aftercare, or even SARNCO.com. It is OhioHealth.com/SARNCO. That will give you all the services and hear us on ads and billboards in the community thanks to a new marketing campaign.

Commissioner Crawley: Just with the statistics you gave January through March, that is more than one person a day that has come to an emergency room for health and support. That is unbelievable.

Ms. Purdy: Yes, and all ages, genders, races. It crosses all lines.

Commissioner O'Grady: We have been partnering with OhioHealth for years. Thank you for being here today and the work you do.

Ms. Purdy: Thank you, and I have flyers and information that I will leave.

Commissioner Crawley: Next, we have our Director of Justice Policy and Programs, Ruchelle Pride, along with some special guests to talk with us about Second Chance Month and National Reentry Week. Welcome, Director Pride.

Ruchelle Pride, Director, Justice Policy and Programs: Thank you, good morning, commissioners, and county administration. My name is Ruchelle Pride, Director of Justice Policy and Programs. First, I want to thank you all for inviting us here today for April being Second Chance Month and bringing focus to National Re-entry Week. Important work has been happening every day in Franklin County with your support to improve the lives of justice impacted residents and we are excited to highlight our progress while challenging the community to walk with us in serving every resident every day. Every year more than 650,000 people are released from state and federal prison. The local jail sees an average of 19,000 releases every year and 95% of individuals sent to jail or prison are returning to the community to become our neighbors. With the support of the Franklin County Commissioners and County Administration, we are seeing movement in the mountain of justice reform and providing humancentric, restorative practices implemented for our impacted residents. We know re-entry is challenging to individuals and their families and we know not everyone has equitable access to resources that can help aid in life changing incarceration when it happens and post release. Today and every day, we make it our business to ensure that those impacted by the justice system are a top priority. We have hosted events with our partners this month, and have been excited in the engagement and outreach and today, we are hosting, right across the hall in meeting room A, a all hands on deck resource fair that will support those who are looking for second chance employment opportunities, computer training programs, and our Job and Family Services will be onsite to assist with any of those benefits or resources that a resident might need. We will also have Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles onsite for amnesty work and reinstatement of important, vital records. We understand it takes a village and today we brought the village together to serve our residents, but it is important to note, we cannot do this work in a vacuum. Community Partners are an integral part of this and today, I have with me, one shining star who I want to say a few words, as it relates to their own lived experiences and the opportunities, they have created for others in giving them a second chance. Mr. Tim Richardson, he is our Director of Programs for the Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program, and Tim is a force to be reckoned with and a voice moving justice work in our community.

Tim Richardson, Director of Programs, Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach: Thank you, I am humbled. Every day, we work to put emphasis on second chance, and we have several programs and today, I am going to highlight our program Tree of Life. It is a day to recognize those who lost a loved one to an act of violence. We do it every year and this year it will be August 10. We bring the community together under one umbrella to create a circle of support and accountability. Everyone does the back-to-school drive, and we take it a bit further because we know our little boys and girls are out there struggling. When I was young and went back to school, I want a new pair of shoes, and we have partnered with Buster Douglas and other stakeholders to raise funds for the children so they can have a nice pair of shoes when they go back

to school. We meet the parents and know some of the challenges they have. We meet them at Footlocker, purchase the shoes and if they go over \$100.00 than the parents cover the overage. We also highlight mothers of murdered children. We show that we grieve with them. We make sure restored citizens are serving the community. We cook the food fresh and have a cookout like steak, chicken, macaroni, and greens. We provide other resources and will meet them where they are at. If they need insight on health, business, education, we ask for those stakeholders be in attendance. Last year, we had it at Linden Recreation Center and this year it is at Driving Park. Every day when we are out in the community, hands on and in the trenches, meeting people and letting them know we understand. Sometimes, people can be cynical and that comes from trauma and if you do not understand it, it might throw you off. I understand it. I am a restored citizen and recently I learned about ACE, which is Adverse Child Effect. I know that most of the community are suffering from that and sometimes the family in the home are suffering too, and do not know how to respond. I am helping a young man now that was just released, and he was sentenced to 26 [years] to life, and he served 33 years. He was 17 years old, and now all he wants is to work. Some of the jobs are superficial and that paycheck he received was \$173.00. I encourage him, pick him up, buy bus passes, and tell him to keep putting the resume out there. I attend some of the interviews with him. That is what we do, and I appreciate the opportunity but, every day I put emphasis on second chances. Thank you.

Ruchelle Pride: We have another young lady that could not be here today because she is under the weather. We also want to recognize Marvetta Froe-Shelton, President and CEO, Breaking Barriers. They provide evidence-based mentorship, advocacy, and support services to justice-involved youth, and her work has served over 800 individuals inside and outside of this work. We do have a special recognition certificate for Mr. Richardson, and I will accept Ms. Marvetta's, on her behalf. We want to thank you for the work you do, and this month is very special as it is Tim's 10-year anniversary of coming home. He has been doing the work every day. We present this to you, Tim, on behalf of the board of commissioners and County Administration, and the Office of Justice Policy and Programs.

Commissioner Crawley: Thank you, all. Please join us up front here for some pictures.

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Approval of the minutes of the January 16, January 23, and January 30, 2024, General Sessions; and the January 18, and January 25, 2024, Briefing Sessions.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The minutes were approved by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0327-24**, authorizing an agreement with MAPSYS, Inc. to provide professional services to support the implementation of the new Court Case Management system (\$1,000,000.00) (Clerk of Courts), presented by Adam Luckhaupt, Director of Information Technology, Clerk of Court's Office.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0327-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0328-24**, authorizing an amendment to the Services Contract and Statement of Work with Intellinetics Inc. for professional services related to the conversion of document image files to the new Odyssey Court Case Management System (\$90,712.00) (Clerk of Courts), presented by Adam Luckhaupt, Director of Information Technology, Clerk of Court's Office.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0328-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

*Commissioner Crawley: We have a Public Hearing for Resolution 0329-24. Can the Clerk please read the Public Hearing?*

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Establishing, altering, and widening of Alkire Road, County Road No. 11, at Demorest Road, County Road No. 25, Jackson Township, Franklin County, Ohio, viewed – Engineer to file plans, as necessary.

*Commissioner Crawley 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. 0329-24**, establishing, altering, and widening of Alkire Road, County Road No. 11, at Demorest Road, County Road No. 25, Jackson Township, Franklin County, Ohio, viewed – Engineer to file plans, as necessary (Engineer), presented by Brad Foster, P.E., P.S., Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0329-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0330-24**, authorization for the Franklin County Engineer to enter into a reimbursement agreement with the City of Columbus for the Central College Road at Ulry Road

Improvement project, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer), presented by Brad Foster, P.E., P.S., Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0330-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0331-24**, authorizing participation in the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) contract for road salt, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer), presented by Brad Foster, P.E., P.S., Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0331-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0332-24**, report (1st) of the Franklin County Engineer, establishing sums of compensation for a portion of the owners of property abutting the North Hague Avenue Sanitary Sewer Improvement project, Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$5,500.00) (Engineer), presented by Brad Foster, P.E., P.S., Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0332-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0333-24**, report (1st) of the Franklin County Engineer, establishing sums of compensation for a portion of the owners of property abutting the Brown Road at Dyer Road Improvement project, Jackson Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$3,249.00) (Engineer), presented by Brad Foster, P.E., P.S., Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0333-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.



**Resolution No. 0334-24**, authorizing an addendum to the CSC ServiceWorks, Inc. Lease Agreement for Laundry Equipment (\$166,060.80) (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 O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0334-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0335-24**, authorizing the County Administrator to accept a promotional offer through Cellco Partnership, d/b/a Verizon Wireless (Franklin County Data Center), presented by Julie Lust, Chief Financial Officer, Data Center.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0335-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0336-24**, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$1,728,254.50) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing, and Damika Withers, Director, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0336-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0337-24**, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$72,485.96) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0337-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0338-24**, approving a License Agreement with SP Plus Corporation for the parking facility located at 75 East Main Street (\$1,628,460.00) (Board of Commissioners), presented by Kris Long, Deputy County Administrator, and Jesse Armstrong, Deputy Director of Business, Claims, and Real Estate, Prosecutor's Office.

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

Commissioner O’Grady moved to approve Resolution 0338-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0339-24**, directing the Clerk to submit the referendum petition to the Franklin County Board of Elections (Board of Commissioners), presented by Jeanine Hummer, First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Chief Counsel, Prosecutor’s Office.

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

Commissioner O’Grady moved to approve Resolution 0339-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

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

As was journalized during Briefing Session on Thursday, April 18, 2024, the 2024 committee assignment for the Board of Commissioners regarding the Franklin County Investment Advisory Board has been updated to assign Kris Long as designee for Commissioner O’Grady. The noted assignment will be filed with today’s meeting minutes for the record and will be distributed to our internal and external partners who may be impacted by this selection.

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**Resolution No. 0340-24**, 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 O’Grady moved to approve Resolution 0340-24, 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 Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, and the commissioners convened into Executive Session at 9:54 A.M.

At 10:58 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 10:58 A.M.

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**(Signature Page Follows)**

These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' General Session meeting on Tuesday, April 23, 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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