

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

May 14, 2019

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, May 14, 2019.

Present were: Marilyn Brown, President  
Kevin L. Boyce, Commissioner  
John O'Grady, Commissioner

Also present on the dais were Paul Thies Prosecutor's Office; Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator; Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget; and Antwan Booker, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners.

President Brown called the meeting to order at 9:03 A.M.

Approval of the minutes of the April 2, April 9, April 16, and April 23, 2019 General Session, and the minutes of March 14, and May 2, 2019 Briefing Session. Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 341-19**, resolution awarding contract and approving contract bond to Kokosing Construction Company, Inc., for the 2019 Franklin County Resurfacing Program, Franklin County, Ohio (\$3,895,423.02) (Engineer), presented by Cornell Robertson, County Engineer, Engineer's Office.

Mr. Robertson: Commissioners, this resolution is the annual resolution for County road resurfacings. This package includes 23 miles over 19 sections in nine different Townships. It is double the amount of resurfacing the previous year. That is due primarily to the additional \$5 Motor Vehicle Registration fees.

Commissioner Boyce: With the gas tax increase that is being debated at the Ohio General Assembly, what do you project would be impacted?

Mr. Robertson: The estimate for County Engineers all across the state will have their revenues increased by \$1.5 million. That amount is substantial. We will be able to do

more resurfacing. The constituents can see immediate results. We will also use some of that money to feed into design. That money will begin to flow in July of this year.

The increase in this resolution comes from the motor vehicle registration fee.

Commissioner Boyce: The money that comes from the gas tax is distributed evenly among the 88 counties?

Mr. Robertson: That is correct, Commissioner.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 341-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 342-19**, resolution awarding contract and approving contract bond to Strawser Paving Co., Inc., for the Norton Road at Johnson Road Improvements Project, Franklin County, Ohio (\$1,895,174.15) (Engineer), presented by Mr. Robertson.

Mr. Robertson: Commissioners, this is a capital improvement project in the southwest part of the County. We will construct a single lane roundabout as a major safety improvement. We held a competitive bid on April 9<sup>th</sup>. We had six bidders and Strawser was the lowest and best bidder.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 342-19, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 343-19**, resolution approving street, storm and water improvement plans for The Farms at Jefferson Phase 1 & 2, Jefferson Township, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer), presented by Fritz Crosier, Chief Deputy Engineer, Engineer's Office.

Mr. Crosier: This resolution seeks approval of the streets, storm and water improvement plans for The Farms at Jefferson Phase 1 & 2 subdivision. This will allow the developer to begin installing the necessary infrastructure for the development of the subdivision.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 343-19, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 344-19**, resolution authorizing a one-year contract with the King Arts Complex to provide after school arts and STEM education programs (\$150,000.00) (Community Partnerships), presented by Dayna McCrary, Community Partnerships Coordinator, Community Partnerships.

Ms. McCrary: This resolution will fill a need in the King-Lincoln District. There are not a lot of after school opportunities for children. This program will serve 100 children to help them improve their attendance and focus on math and science and art enrichment for the out of school hours and additional summer programs.

Commissioner O'Grady: The programs we support every year for the youth during the summer helps the parents go to work knowing that their children are safe. These are critical things that we do every year.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 344-19, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 345-19**, resolution authorizing a contract modification and extension with Vision Service Plan (VSP) for vision plan administration services for the Franklin County Cooperative Health Improvement Program (Cooperative) (\$180,000.00) (Human Resources), presented by Jodi Leis, Assistant Director, Human Resources.

Ms. Leis: Vision Service Plan is the vision plan administrator for the Franklin County Cooperative Health Improvement Program. This contract amendment is a standard renewal. It extends the current contract until March 31, 2022. It also modifies the administration fee that we are paying from \$.92 to \$.86 per employee per month.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 345-19, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 346-19**, resolution authorizing a Business Associates Agreement (BAA) with CBIZ Benefits & Insurance Services, Inc. (CBIZ) for the Franklin County Cooperative Health Improvement Program (Cooperative) (Human Resources), presented by Ms. Leis.

Ms. Leis: This resolution authorizes a Business Associates Agreement (BAA) with CBIZ. CBIZ will be conducting a medical claims audit on behalf of the Franklin County Cooperative. As a result of that, they will be given access to certain protected health information. The BAA holds CBIZ to the same standard of privacy the plan is held to when handling this protected health information. All parties are in agreement that this BAA needs to be in place before the audit.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 346-19, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 347-19**, resolution approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$1,031,976.93) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing.

Ms. Perry-Balonier: Good morning Commissioners, Megan Perry-Balonier, Interim Director of the Purchasing Department. The resolution before you requests your approval of 105 purchase orders.

Included in this resolution are 25 eligible POs totaling just over \$121,000. These are defined as POs in which Small & Emerging Business Enterprises are likely to participate. Of these POs, 13 were awarded to SEBEs totaling \$61,100.08, which is 52% of the eligible PO volume and 50% of the eligible PO dollar value. These purchase orders have been precertified as to the availability of funds by the County Auditor.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 347-19, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 348-19**, resolution authorizing a one-year contract with Future Ready Columbus to provide education and training to strengthen early childhood education for vulnerable children in Franklin County (\$400,000.00) (Board of Commissioners), presented by Ms. McCrary.

Ms. McCrary: We are thrilled to be presenting this resolution for Future Ready Columbus. We are focusing on the vulnerable children and providing high quality early childhood educational opportunities. We have Jane Leach here to say a few words about the work they will be doing with our funding.

Jane Leach, Executive Director, Future Ready Columbus: Good morning, Commissioners. At Future Ready, we are focusing on the challenges and opportunities with children from prenatal to five years old. We work with many professionals and providers in the field and have recognized that there are six drivers for success. If we address those six drivers, we know that our children will be ready for kindergarten success. This is an indicator for them on track to graduate from high school. These six drivers include:

- Basic needs
- Access to healthcare and mental healthcare
- The teacher quality
- Access to quality childcare
- Investing in the families
- Help build community commitment to children.

If you approve this resolution, you will be investing in trauma informed care, the lives of fathers and vocabulary development. This weaves into the 2020 StepUp 2 Quality mandate. I will leave with you our strategic plan to review.

Commissioner O'Grady: All of what you discussed are things we have been investing in for years. This is great stuff.

President Brown: We have a public speaker. Rev. Charles Leister, B.R.E.A.D., Organization. Please come forward and make your statement.

Rev. Leister: Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Rev. Charles Leister. I am the senior pastor of New Beginning Christian Center and the Co-President of B.R.E.A.D. We support your efforts to provide means to strengthen early childhood education for vulnerable children in Franklin County, yet it is equally important to ensure that these same children have a safe, decent, and affordable home to provide the stability that they need. You must act now and increase the conveyance fee to the maximum \$4.

On Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, B.R.E.A.D. congregations in Franklin County with membership of over 20,000 of your constituents, hosted one of the largest community meeting to address the housing crisis in Central Ohio.

After the Nehemiah Action, I and close to 2,600 in attendance went away disappointed. As I considered why, I realized that it was due in part to the fact that none of you chose to attend. Whatever the reason, I still wondered why. I was reminded of a parable in the scripture of the wheat and the tares and one passage in particular: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way."

President Brown: I do not like to interrupt, but in this case I feel I must. We have spoken about the reasons on why I could not attend and I am offended that you are using this public forum to talk about the reasons on why we did not attend. Each of us have talked to you privately. This is unfair of you when we spoke privately with you.

Commissioner O'Grady: We have heard you on this issue every week since January. I have hosted many of your members on this issue. To say that we have not heard you on this issue is disingenuous. Whether we agree with you or not is a different issue. You want us to raise the conveyance fee to the max. I had conversations with some of your members after last week's Session about the tactics of B.R.E.A.D. For you to keep coming down here every week is not productive. Raising issues that are important to the community is productive. To continue to be engaged is productive. Your tactics are bullying. I meet with you often and I refuse to be bullied. We think the issues are important are well. To tell us how to conduct our business and to think that your organization knows the issues better than we do is not right. If we would've come to your Nehemiah Action meeting, we would not have been given fair time at the microphone. We are trying to solve as best we can, the housing crisis of Franklin County. To act like we are not is disingenuous. We are doing what we can. We intend to put tens of millions of dollars towards this issue. More than any of our partners.

Commissioner Boyce: Mr. Talarek, what is our annual contribution towards affordable housing, as it stands today? I would include what we do with the Community Shelter Board.

Mr. Talarek: In terms of General Fund dollars, it is around \$6.8 million to the Affordable Housing Trust and the Community Shelter Board. There are additional dollars through Economic Development and Planning through three federal grants.

Commissioner Boyce: Would you say we invest between \$7-\$10 million a year?

Mr. Talarek: Yes, Commissioner.

Commissioner Boyce: When we met before, my specific question for the group that I met with was to help us to think of ways to administer these resources better. The way we have been doing business today, we are over 50,000 units short in affordable housing. The only suggestion we have gotten is do more of the same. We want a comprehensive strategy and plan that isn't just business as usual. You have yet to produce any ideas in that way. We have invited you to be at the table. I continue to request that element. You are a welcome partner in the conversation. That would be the productive approach. Anytime you raise taxes or fees, we take that seriously. We need research and information. We need to understand the depth of the impact. If we do raise the fees, what do we do with the money? Thank you for your input and challenge you to be partners with us.

President Brown: It is the tactics that are difficult for us, since you do not have the whole picture. We have heard you. I urge you to step back and give us the time to act. We will act. We are not going to be bullied into acting in a way that you may want us to. We are going to act in the best interest of all the residents. It may not be what you want, but it is going to be a comprehensive approach.

Rev. Leister: We want to work with you on this issue. We have been working with a lot of professionals in our research that deal with housing and finding recommendations from them. The estimation is over \$1 billion that needs to be invested. We appreciate what you have done. We thank you for the opportunities you have given us to meet with you. I would love to hear about the research you have and compare to be able to come up with solutions that will work for Franklin County. From our research, the conveyance fee is one of the main ways we can provide additional funding for this issue.

Commissioner O'Grady: I have never met a member of your organization that was a bully. As a group, the tactics are very much bullying. I meet with your organization because you are good at choosing issues that matter to the community. When I ran for County Commissioner in 2016, I was asked what are the most challenging issues for Franklin County. The two issues I identified were poverty and affordable housing. Those are the two issues we have been working on since 2016. We are close to rolling out our blueprint of what our actions are going to be on poverty and affordable housing. If we raise the conveyance fee to the max, what will our options be for future problems and crises? We would limit ourselves if we did raise it to the max. I do not think it will be strategic to do so.

Ken Wilson, County Administrator: Economic Development and Planning has been tasked to work on this plan. Our challenge is that the depth of this problem is much deeper than just increasing the conveyance fee. We would create disappointment for the community if the Commissioners would take that action and that action alone. For example, to currently support the needs of the Community Shelter Board and the Affordable Housing Trust, the conveyance fee that is levied right now does not do the job alone. Along with that, the Commissioners are using extensive federal dollars to aid this problem. Our levy agencies are partnering with us in dealing with this challenge. Our JFS is also helping with this. It would be unfair to try to create a community expectation by acting too soon and not look at something that is comprehensive in nature to make a difference. The community is not going to stop growing, so we need to be thoughtful and strategic. Taking one single action would not be the responsible thing to do today.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 348-19, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 349-19**, resolution authorizing a transfer of appropriations and the contribution to the City of Columbus in support of the Smart Cities Grant (Board of Commissioners), presented by Zak Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget.

Mr. Talarek: Back in 2016, the Board authorized the County Administrator to enter into agreements with the City of Columbus for the implementation of the Smart Cities Grant. As part of the commitment, up to \$4,000,000 by the County, it included a \$1,000,000 cash contribution which this resolution would transfer the appropriations from contingency to Economic Development and Planning in order to process that payment. Mandy Bishop is here to answer any questions you may have.

Mandy Bishop, Program Manager, Smart Columbus: I want to thank the Commissioners for the contributions and investment in transportation in Central Ohio. The investment made here today will continue to pay dividends in the future. I want to thank the County Engineer for their in-kind contribution as well.

Over the last three years, we have been working to develop and implement the projects. We are reaching our stride where we are launching our projects. We have our mobility assistance app for individuals with cognitive disabilities. We are launching our prenatal trip assistance app. We have other launches including a soft shuttle in the Linden community later this year.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 349-19, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 350-19**, resolution authorizing a contract with MAXIMUS Consulting Services, Inc. for the annual update to Franklin County's cost allocation plan and the Data Center's cost analysis and rate study (\$40,000.00) (Board of Commissioners), presented by Mr. Talarek.

Mr. Talarek: This contract will allow the County to recover indirect costs from federally supported programs and other non-General Fund agencies in 2020. The plan that was developed last year identified \$4.6 million in indirect costs to reimburse the General Fund, as well as \$2 million in Data Center charges from the agencies.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 350-19, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 351-19**, resolution authorizing the agreements between Franklin County and the Public Safety Answering Points for the disbursement of Wireless 9-1-1 grant dollars (Board of Commissioners), presented by Mr. Talarek.

Mr. Talarek: This resolution would authorize agreements with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, City of Columbus, City of Dublin and the City of Westerville. These are the four Public Safety Answering Points that are identified for funding for calendar year 2019.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 351-19, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 352-19**, resolution authorizing a transfer of funds from the General Fund to the Wireless 9-1-1 Fund for the payment of interest earnings from calendar year 2018 (Board of Commissioners), presented by Mr. Talarek.

Mr. Talarek: This resolution authorizes the distribution of earned interest earnings on the funds that are held on behalf of the Public Safety Answering Points for distribution. This year, the amount is approximately \$13,535 will be transferred from the General Fund to the Wireless 9-1-1 Fund for distribution.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 352-19, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 353-19**, resolution authorizing a supplemental appropriation and an interfund loan from the General Fund to the Westland Parcel TIF 1 Fund (Board of Commissioners), presented by Mr. Talarek.

Mr. Talarek: Commissioners, at the end of 2018, the Economic Development and Planning Department brought forth a resolution for the creation of the TIF for La Plaza



Tapitia project on the west side. Earlier this year, the Drainage Engineer authorized a contract for some storm water improvements underneath the parcel. This resolution would provide funding to reimburse the Drainage Engineer, pending receipt of the tax revenues beginning in 2021.

Commissioner O’Grady moved to approve Resolution 353-19, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 354-19**, resolution authorizing a transfer of funds for the payment of debt service (Board of Commissioners), presented by Mr. Talarek.

Mr. Talarek: This is our semi-annual resolution for the payment of the County’s debt service obligations. The resolution includes transfers of just over \$11.6 million, including \$10.1 million from the General Fund. The total payment includes \$20.3 million from the sales tax backed bonds that are held by the trustee.

Commissioner O’Grady moved to approve Resolution 354-19, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 355-19**, resolution approving an updated Debt Management Policy for Franklin County (Board of Commissioners), presented by Mr. Talarek.

Mr. Talarek: Commissioners, this resolution updates the County’s Debt Management Policy. The primary change is the addition of the diversity and inclusion provisions. The Franklin County Board of Commissioners recognizes the community benefit of creating an equal opportunity for all for vendors to participate in the County’s procurement process. The advancement of economic inclusion improves equity, economic mobility and quality of life for all Franklin County residents. Accordingly, the Commissioners will make a good faith effort, and encourage others, to utilize Small and Emerging Business Enterprises (“SEBEs” include small-, minority-, women-, veteran-, disabled- and LGBT-owned businesses) and diverse suppliers in all phases of procurement and contracting including formal competitive bidding, multiple quote processes and purchase orders.

Commissioner Boyce: I want to thank the administration for the follow up. This is very good language that is consistent with the values of the Commissioners. This is important and a strong statement.

Commissioner O’Grady moved to approve Resolution 355-19, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 356-19**, resolution of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners to convene into Executive Session for the purpose of considering personnel matters, (Board of Commissioners).

Commissioner O'Grady: Move to convene into Executive Session to consider the appointment, employment, promotion, or compensation of a public employee or official.

Commissioner Boyce: Second

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 356-19, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

The Commissioners convened into Executive Session at 9:56 A.M. Commissioner O'Grady moved to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Boyce at 11:55 A.M. The Board unanimously voted to come out of executive session. With no deliberative action taken and no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 A.M.

**(Signature Page Follows)**

These minutes are a summary of the Commissioners' meeting of May 14, 2019.

MARILYN BROWN, PRESIDENT

  
JOHN O'GRADY

  
KEVIN L. BOYCE  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO

Submitted by:

Victoria Reedwell, for Antwan Booker  
Antwan Booker, Clerk