

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

June 27, 2023

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room, at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, June 27, 2023.

Present were: John O'Grady, President  
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, Prosecuting Attorney's Office; 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 O'Grady called the meeting to order at 9:17 A.M.

**Resolution No. 0516-23**, authorizing a COVID-19 Recovery Grant with The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center to provide support for a pandemic floor (\$3,200,000.00) (Community Partnerships), presented by Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget.

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

Jay Anderson, Chief Operating Officer, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center: On behalf of our faculty, staff, and learners, we would like to thank the County for supporting the Medical Center and this investment into our new inpatient tower. This \$3.2 million will be transformational for what that building will be able to achieve. You have challenged us throughout the entire process, and you have asked about the importance of the building and of this investment. I would like to talk briefly about the building. There are two major themes I want you to consider. Number one, why are we building this new building? About half of the building is a replacement of 440 beds in our other facilities that were built in the 1950s and 1980s. Those buildings are no longer contemporary for what the county and its residents would expect of us as their premier academic medical center.

Mr. Anderson (cont.): Part of our responsibility is to make sure that we have contemporary facilities. Second, we all know the growth that we are experiencing. We want to thank you for the foresight that you have had in making so many investments that have attracted many companies and families to come to our communities. We have a responsibility as your state medical center to meet those demands. The additional 400 beds are going to enable the growth that our community is going to need. It probably will not allow all of the growth, but it will be a first step to meeting the needs of our communities. We are excited about this project. This is the largest project The Ohio State University has ever taken on. I would like to share a couple of fun facts about the facility. In the tower, which is just about to be enclosed, there is twice as much steel as is in the Eiffel Tower. There is twice as much concrete in the building as in the Horseshoe. We are proud of the challenge that each of you gave us to build something new and have foresight and lead into the future. We have the responsibility to take this investment and use it incredibly well. We are happy to be accountable to you and return anytime to share our progress. Dr. Thomas will share a little more about how we will directly use your investment.

Dr. Andy Thomas, Wolfe Foundation Chief Clinical Officer, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, and Senior Associate Vice President for Health Sciences: During the pandemic, I served as the Zone 2 lead for the State of Ohio, helping hospitals in thirty-six counties across the Central, Southeastern, and South Central parts of Ohio. Even though the COVID pandemic is, in many ways, the impetus for this new partnership around this funding, the cooperation with Health Commissioner Mazzola and Dr. Miller Sullivan goes back many years. We collaborated regarding H1N1, ebola, zika, mumps, etc. We work with them routinely, but COVID-19 was just the most recent time we have had the chance to partner with the County and the City on these efforts. Had the pandemic come along twelve months later into our planning, it would have been too late to make some of these changes. We have made some room changes based on what we have been able to learn and integrate from the first six to nine months of the COVID-19 pandemic. What we have learned from this pandemic has impacted how we look at technology, space, and the flow of patients. With a respiratory illness, you often need negative airflow, which means the air from the room is exhausted directly from the building to the outside so that it doesn't spread in the hallways or into other patient rooms. We always had a small percentage of the rooms on that floor equipped to have negative airflow, but now we have extended that to the entire floor. We put in a number of facilities projects in the early days of the pandemic to provide space to keep nurses safe as they went into ICU rooms. These spaces allowed them to don and doff their PPE without being exposed to the patient. We will now be building those spaces into each of these rooms. We are also putting technology in the rooms to allow family members to visit patients virtually when we must have reduced visitation. As we all know, that was a huge struggle during COVID, not just for patients and their families, but also for our staff, who served as comfort and caregivers for patients beyond their medical needs when their families were not allowed to visit. We hope we never get back to that again, but now we will be more prepared if we do. Our partnership with the County goes back many years on these sorts of issues, and we appreciate you allowing us to retrofit the design to meet the needs of the next pandemic, should one occur.

Commissioner Crawley: I do not have any questions. I think I asked all my questions when I met with your team after the proposal came across my desk. I really appreciate you all being here this morning. People might ask why the County would invest \$3.2 million dollars, given this project exceeds \$1 billion. In comparison, \$3.2 million seems insignificant. But for us at the County, it is invaluable when we think about our preparedness and continuing to meet the needs of our neighbors. God forbid there is another pandemic or epidemic, but if we see another, we will be prepared. Thank you for your partnership and your continued service to every resident, every day. Thank you for ensuring that all of our residents not only survive but thrive.

Commissioner O'Grady: We appreciate the continued partnership with the University and the Medical Center. Ohio State is a first-class facility, and the facilities need to continue to stay current and updated. It is important to stay in touch with all of the ever-changing needs that come with medical advances. It is not only important for the University, but it is important for the community, the state, and the region. As a patient who has needed those facilities, it is nice to be in a community that has them right here in our backyard. People travel across the state, region, country, and sometimes the world, to access the care that is available at Ohio State. I am also a patient at the Cleveland Clinic, and to have two facilities like this in the same state is pretty amazing. Because the Cleveland Clinic is there, it drives the Wexner Medical Center to be better. We are proud to be a part of this and to be able to move this resolution forward this morning.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0516-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

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**Resolution No. 0511-23**, authorizing a lease modification and extension with the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS), Bureau of Motor Vehicles for the Clerk of Courts East Auto Title branch (\$1.00) (Clerk Of Courts), presented by Shawn Rieder, Director of Fiscal Services, Clerk of Courts.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0511-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0512-23**, authorizing the Franklin County Engineer to enter into a contract modification with The Mannik Smith Group, Inc. for construction inspection services, in the amount of \$21,000.00, for a revised contract amount of \$393,837.00 (\$21,000.00) (Engineer), presented by Brad Foster, Chief Deputy Operations Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0512-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0513-23**, authorizing the Franklin County Engineer to enter into a contract modification with Terracon Consultants, Inc. for construction inspection services, in the amount of \$27,735.00, for a revised contract amount of \$226,624.00 (\$27,735.00) (Engineer), presented by Brad Foster, Chief Deputy Operations Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0513-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0495-23**, postponed on June 20, 2023, authorizing the County Administrator to sign agreements on behalf of the Board of Commissioners to provide data to Falcon Correctional and Community Services Inc. for the purpose of improving inmate health operations (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 0495-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0496-23**, postponed on June 20, 2023, authorizing a supplemental appropriation within the LETF Federal DOJ Fund to purchase vehicles for the Recruitment, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Division (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 0496-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0514-23**, authorizing the County Administrator to sign an equipment loan agreement to allow the use of athletic training and recovery equipment from The Ohio State University, on behalf of its School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, to the Franklin County

Sheriff's Office (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 0514-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0515-23**, authorizing the Franklin County Administrator and the Director of Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security to execute a License and Use Agreement with the Franklin County Convention Facilities Authority for a possible Emergency Response Center and authorizing the Director of Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security to be the designated Agent for administration purposes (Emergency Management Agency), presented by Jeffrey J. Young, Director, Emergency Management Agency.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0515-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0517-23**, authorizing a one-year grant agreement with the Rise Together Innovation Institute in support of their strategic roadmap (\$2,500,000.00) (Community Partnerships), presented by Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0517-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0518-23**, authorizing COVID-19 Recovery Grant Agreements to various Franklin County nonprofit organizations to assist with various capital improvement and expansion projects (\$3,701,000.00) (Community Partnerships), presented by Curtis Brown, Community Partnerships Administrator, Community Partnerships.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0518-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0519-23**, authorizing a grant agreement with Tech Corps Ohio for support of the Tech Corps hackathon (\$60,000.00) (Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion), presented by Tameca Bumper, Economic Equity Administrator, Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion.

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

Lisa Chambers, National Executive Director, Tech Corps: Thank you for your continued support of Tech Corps and our work to prepare our next generation of the workforce. As many of you know, Black and Brown students are significantly underrepresented in the field of computer science, which causes a strain on our workforce. With the introduction of Intel into our space, we will not be able to fill these jobs unless we cast a wide net and ensure we prepare students early. We believe that the technology workforce pipeline begins in fourth grade. We are deeply grateful for your continued support. This hackathon is an amazing experience. While it is only one day, it is such an impactful experience for the students who participate. We have seen students whose technology journey started at the hackathon who are now employed in technology roles with employers like JPMorgan Chase and Nationwide.

Commissioner Crawley: Thank you for all you do for our youth and for exposing them to STEM and STEAM opportunities, especially in tech. I agree that the earlier they can be exposed, the more time they have to decide on what path they want to take, and it really fosters their excitement and learning. I want to highlight that in the previous Resolution that we passed for Community Partnerships, part of the \$3.7 million included \$750,000.00 for Girl Scouts. That is for the new campus that they are building for STEM and learning called the STEM Leadership Center and Maker Space. I appreciate my colleagues and this administration for understanding the opportunities we can provide our youth for learning, especially in the tech and STEAM fields. I am really excited about the hackathon; I know it is always a success. Every year, the ask has increased, but the number of children participating has also increased. Thank you for all that you continue to do.

Commissioner O'Grady: I love the work that Tech Corps does, and I love that we support that work. A vast majority of this kind of tech work is being done in Taiwan, and it is great that we have Intel here to do that work, but we have a huge amount of catching up to do. It is going to take the U.S. years to catch up in this field, so the fact that you are starting so young with these kids is fantastic.

Joy Bivens, Deputy County Administrator: I am a big fan of yours, and I really appreciate the work that you all do. I believe these dollars are making a generational impact. I appreciate that you are always willing to align with us in whatever we pull you into.

Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator: I very much appreciate the partnership we have had over the years. I remember a young woman who went through our program and went on to work for JPMorgan Chase. I will never forget her sharing her story with us at General Session. In some ways, that planted the seed for Tech Women of Color.

Mr. Wilson (cont.): We are continuing to dream big for our youth, particularly our youth of color, so they have more opportunities to be something they might not have thought they could. Through this exposure, they can see that they can be scientists, engineers, certified computer software engineers, and more. They can become experts in artificial intelligence. All of these opportunities are there. We want to ensure that we operate as an inclusive community. We are up against something that is very stubborn: poverty. According to studies, poverty was the fourth leading cause of death in 2023. That is an amazing challenge for us to overcome, but through partnerships like yours, I am optimistic that we are going to continue to be innovative and make a difference. We will be able to keep up with the growing population in our community.

Ms. Chambers: You all have allowed us to focus on a population of students who are often left behind in terms of these opportunities. When we talk about generational change, they are changing their lives and the lives of their parents and their families. We had a student come to us last week to sign up for our Summer Youth Employment Program who brought her brother with her. She is now employed in technology, and she got her start in this space at Tech Corps, not at school. We are very grateful for the lives that we are changing.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0519-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0520-23**, authorizing an Affordable Housing Development agreement with KCG-Ascent Ventures, LLC to receive funding through the Magnet Fund Program to assist the development of an affordable housing project (\$1,350,000.00) (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.

*Reverend Charles Leister, BREAD/New Beginning Christian Center, 3424 S. Hamilton Road, Columbus, Ohio, 43232, offered comments in support of the resolution.*

Commissioner Crawley: Thank you for your remarks, and I appreciate the continued advocacy of BREAD. I have the honor and privilege of serving on this board with two great colleagues and an administration who wake up every single day and try to figure out what we can do to help our residents and neighbors in Franklin County. There is not a day that goes by that we are not talking about housing. I am proud of the investments that we have made and that we continue to make, whether it is in our shelters, the YWCA, the YMCA, the Community Shelter Board, and so on. We just gave the Community Shelter Board a little over \$2 million last week. Last week, we had Resolutions for our Emergency Rental Assistance program. We understand that the eviction numbers are higher than what they were pre-pandemic.

Commissioner Crawley (cont.): We understand that people still experience more month than money. We will continue to invest in efforts to reduce this. We are proud of our Magnet Fund, and we are way ahead of schedule with it. Economic Development and Planning has been charged with setting a new goal and starting a new initiative to support our residents when it comes to housing, especially for those individuals and families who are at 50% Area Median Income (AMI) and below. I also want to say that it is not just about housing. Housing is the elephant in the room that we address every day, but the other thing we address is making sure that when people get into a safe, affordable place to live, they can maintain it. So, we invest in workforce development and in individuals who find themselves unemployed or underemployed to give them opportunities to move up an economic mobility ladder so they can be self-sufficient. I am proud of our investments in Tech Women of Color, Building Futures, Driving Futures, Roads2Work, County Futures, and Women at Work. As much as there is a need for housing, there is a need for people to be able to have an income and take care of themselves. They should not have to decide whether to eat that day or pay a bill. Your remarks about our American Rescue Plan dollars are not lost on us. I met with individuals from BREAD last month, and I talked about how people do not understand the county's needs. So, while it would be nice to say we have spent all of our American Rescue Plan dollars, I am glad that we have not. We have until next year to appropriate them and until 2026 to expend them. Every single day, there is a new emergency in this county. Housing is at the forefront, but when it comes to taxpayer dollars, we are fiduciary and responsible. We need to ensure that when emergencies arise, we can meet our neighbors' needs. We cannot anticipate every scenario, and we need money to be able to respond to what comes. An example is Sawyer Towers, for which we used American Rescue Plan dollars. You will not find bigger advocates for housing for our 1.3 million residents than what you see here at the Franklin County Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0520-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

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Commissioner O'Grady: I want to take a moment to recognize a guest we have with us today in the front row. His name is Marco Miller, and he is from the Central Ohio Retired Firefighters. Thank you for coming today; we appreciate you being here. I would also like to thank you for everything firefighters do for us daily throughout the community.

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**Resolution No. 0521-23**, authorizing a novation agreement and a subaward amendment with the Derrick L. Owens Group, LLC for adult court diversion alternative services (an increase of \$99,000.00) (\$459,000.00) (Job and Family Services), presented by Vivian Turner, Chief Administrator, Job and Family Services.

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

Derrick L. Owens, President and Chief Executive Officer, Derrick L. Owens Group, LLC: The Owens Group was born out of a vision by City Attorney Michael Bivens. When he took office, he came to me and said that he wanted his court to be different. He did not want it to be the traditional hamster wheel, where people come in and take charges, and no assistance is offered. We dug deep to figure out how to help clients, not just have them come to court and have a charge removed. We wanted to ensure that those clients moved forward and were able to be self-sufficient, as well as getting their records sealed. We were born in 2019, and we have served over 2,000 clients alongside Job and Family Services and Justice Policy and Programs. Thank you to this Board of Commissioners for your continued support. I also want to thank Michael Bivens for his efforts to do all he can to make the community safer.

Michael Bivens, City Attorney, City of Whitehall: While this idea was born in the Whitehall Mayor's Court, the Owens Group deserves all the credit for carrying the water and doing the work. One of the things that I always battled against as a practicing lawyer doing defense work was the false ideology of pedantic thinking. That is the inability to look at things from the big-picture perspective. Once I was elected as the Whitehall City Attorney, I made it my mission to attack this issue from a big-picture perspective. As a criminal defense attorney, there were many times when clients received a piece of paper giving them the task of contacting an agency and setting an appointment. Still, by the time we came back to court, they could not fulfill those duties, and we could not get the case diverted. We did not invent diversion, but we changed how it was delivered. With the Owens Group, in particular, we have a culturally competent champion of this service in the courtroom. Because of the delivery method, the individuals in the justice community are rising together and fulfilling their duties. The trap door has been taken away. They are meeting someone in the courtroom with the cultural competency, heart, and vision to help them in the moment. Since they have been in the Whitehall Mayor's Court, we have serviced over 1,000 to 1,500 justice-involved clients. Because of the wrap-around services, I am proud to say that out of all of those people, I have a zero percent recidivism rate for the cases in the Whitehall Mayor's Court. The investment that the County is making into this program works; the data is there, and it is clear. Thank you for caring about the justice-involved residents of Franklin County.

Commissioner Crawley: I appreciate all you do to help our neighbors who may have found themselves in a situation and need opportunities to do something different and make better choices. Thank you, City Attorney Bivens, for your vision and leadership and for finding a partner who is just as committed to serving our residents and helping them get on a better path. Thank you for your partnership.

Commissioner O'Grady: Thank you for all this great work. We appreciate everything that you all are doing.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0521-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0522-23**, approving a COVID-19 Recovery Grant and TANF subaward agreement with the Central Community House of Columbus, Inc dba, Central Community House for the Transit Arts youth engagement and employment program (\$219,661.76) (Job and Family Services), presented by Vivian Turner, Chief Administrator, Job and Family Services.

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

Tammy Forrest, Executive Director, Central Community House of Columbus: I am honored to be here among so many amazing partners. Transit Arts is sometimes pigeonholed as an arts program, and as Ms. Turner mentioned, it is so much more than that. It is an innovative model that has the culminating impact of employment, after-school violence prevention, and arts programming together. It has been found to be the holistic model that is needed to support youth in Columbus and Franklin County. We are entering the 32<sup>nd</sup> year since Transit Arts' inception in the Short North. Because of this, we have witnessed long-term impacts on generations of participants. One former participant we spoke to is now a parent of a current participant. He reminded us that our program kept him out of the justice system while his six other siblings, who were not a part of our program, were all incarcerated. In 2022, 90% of participants improved or maintained positive behavior, social-emotional skills, and self-esteem. We are building creative skills, support systems, and relationships, and we are a safe space for healing. The Disrupter Series is new and will provide a safe space for youth to be free from the stereotypes that result from adultification. It has intimate, smaller group settings that ensure youth are heard and can learn from one another. It is going to have a specialized focus on young people who are impacted by violence or who are experiencing high-risk factors. I am honored to be here today with Jahmal Joyce, the Lead Artist at Central Community House. He came to Transit Arts as a participant and is now with us as an employee.

Jahmal Joyce, Lead Artist, Central Community House of Columbus: I started out as a high school student in the same position as some students in the workforce program and Disrupter Series. I felt like an artist, but I did not feel like I had the confidence or experience to call myself an artist and be secure in myself. Transit Arts gave me that. They gave me my first paycheck as an artist, and some of those kids will be getting their first paychecks as artists this summer to come and participate, be in a safe space, and let their skills flourish. I think that is very impactful, and I look forward to our Disruptor Series, which starts on Saturday.

Mr. Joyce (cont.): This will give kids a place to avoid adultification and talk about violence they may have experienced. A lot of our students have experienced gun violence, or just violence in general. We are going to sit down with them with local artists and talk about coping strategies and foster a safe space for six weeks. At the end of the series, they will get a gift card. It is just a great program that I want more people to know about because it is important. Thank you for having me.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0522-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0523-23**, authorizing a Water Pollution Control Loan Fund Application to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Ohio Water Development Authority for the engineering/design phase of the Gladys-Inah Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project (Sanitary Engineers), presented by Ryan Stowe, Assistant Director, Sanitary Engineers.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0523-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0524-23**, authorizing Amendment #1 to the contract with Goodwill Industries of Central Ohio, Incorporated to provide housekeeping services at designated Franklin County facilities (\$524,000.00) (Public Facilities Management), presented by Vivian Alexander, Chief Operating Officer, Public Facilities Management.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0524-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0525-23**, authorizing a Supplemental Contract with Sauer Group, Inc. for the provision of coolers and freezer replacement services for the Franklin County Office Tower 16th Floor (\$352,730.00) (Public Facilities Management), presented by Vivian Alexander, Chief Operating Officer, Public Facilities Management.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0525-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0526-23**, authorizing a Supplemental Contract with Limbach Company, LLC for the provision of Air Handling Unit Replacement services for the Franklin County Sheriff's Substation (\$347,456.00) (Public Facilities Management), presented by Vivian Alexander, Chief Operating Officer, Public Facilities Management.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0526-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0527-23**, declaring personal property obsolete and no longer needed for Franklin County use, and authorizing sale, recycling and/or destruction of said personal property (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 0527-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0528-23**, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$3,104,185.23) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing, and Tameca Bumper, Economic Equity Administrator, Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0528-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Resolution to consider the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2024 Tax Budget for Franklin County.

Commissioner O'Grady: I would like to open the Public Hearing. Would anyone like to speak regarding this Public Hearing? Seeing none, I will close the Public Hearing and have the Clerk read the resolution into the record.

**Resolution No. 0529-23**, authorizing the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2024 Tax Budget for Franklin County. (Board of Commissioners), presented by Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0529-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0530-23**, based on the advice and notification of the Columbus Metropolitan Library Board of Library Trustees, to submit the question of an additional tax levy for public library services to the electors of the Columbus Metropolitan Library on the November 7, 2023 General Election (Board of Commissioners), presented by Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget.

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

Patrick Losinski, Chief Executive Officer, Columbus Metropolitan Library: We have compiled an extensive review packet for you to review. I think there is really sound planning by the library's Board of Trustees. We happen to have the benefit of Nationwide's Chief Financial Officer, Tim Frommeyer, serving as our Finance Chair. We believe the recommendation is sound from a financial standpoint, and it reflects the library's work over the last thirteen years since our previous levy in 2010. The library has delivered not only on a service level but also with the facilities we have provided, which are shining examples in all of the neighborhoods throughout Franklin County. Our planning and commitment to the community remain strong. We appreciate your consideration of this request to have our district voters vote on a levy this November.

Commissioner Crawley: Let me start by saying congratulations on 150 years. The library is in the county, and I know the name is the "Columbus Metropolitan Library," but the city is also in the county. With this going to the voters of Franklin County, I would like for the name to reflect the voters of Franklin County. In Toledo, they have the Toledo Lucas County Public Library. This is not my first time discussing this with our investments. I've talked about this with other organizations, and those organizations understand that as they expand to other parts of the county, they should reflect everyone in Franklin County, especially those who will be using their taxpayer dollars to support the ongoing work of the library. Based on your recommendation, we just made an appointment to your board not too long ago, and we continue to support your work. My commitment is to make sure that all of our residents feel included in the library's work, not just those residing in the city of Columbus.

Mr. Losinski: I believe the Toledo Lucas County Library encompasses all of the libraries within Lucas county, whereas the Columbus Metropolitan Library is one of seven libraries in Franklin County. I think that is where the name had shifted in the past because of the six independent libraries.

Commissioner O'Grady: I do tend to agree with my colleague on that issue. It is impressive that you have not been here in thirteen years, and the work you have done over those thirteen years has also been impressive.

Commissioner O'Grady (cont.): When you get out into the county and see the construction and infrastructure work that has been done, it is impressive. The work that is being done within the libraries is impressive, as well. My family uses the libraries throughout the community, and the work that is being done is a testament to your organization and to the employees of the library system. For all of that to be done with the levy dollars that were voted on thirteen years ago is very impressive. I want to commend you, your board, and your staff for producing that result for the residents and taxpayers of the community.

Mr. Losinski: In closing, since I have the floor, I want to mention that we are hosting the first-ever Book Festival this summer, which will bring 140 national authors to the main library. It is the first time the city has granted Topiary Park to be used as a festival ground. We are expecting a very large contingent to celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> year, and we would like to extend an invitation to you. Looking ahead, in the first week of April 2024, we will be hosting the National Public Library Association Conference, which should bring 6,000-7,000 librarians from all over the United States to see what we have been doing in Central Ohio. I think that is also a testament to the visibility of our library district.

Commissioner Crawley: I appreciate the partnership with Future Ready Columbus, and we will have an announcement about that in the near future. We have continued to invest in backpacks for children and their families. Not too long ago, we switched it up from our regular backpacks, which were seven dollars, to the ones that you recommended, which are about sixty dollars per backpack. But the information and the resources that are in those backpacks are invaluable, and they are absolutely worth it. I am excited about that ongoing and expanded partnership.

Commissioner O'Grady: I am not sure if I have ever shared this with you, but my mother never liked to be called a librarian. She had a degree in media science, and she liked to refer to herself as a Media Center Specialist. She was the librarian at my elementary school, so we had a love for books growing up. When I was a kid, when I got in trouble at school, I didn't get sent to the principal's office; I got sent to the library. I spent a lot of time in the library as a kid, and they are very near and dear to my heart. I appreciate all of your hard work, and thank you for all that you do.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0530-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0531-23**, appointing Michael Shannon to the Franklin County Conventions Facilities Authority Board of Directors (Board of Commissioners), presented by Brittany A. Razek, Director of Community Appointments, Board of Commissioners.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0531-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0532-23**, appointing Janica A. Pierce Tucker to the Franklin County Conventions Facilities Authority Board of Directors (Board of Commissioners), presented by Brittany A. Razek, Director of Community Appointments, Board of Commissioners.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0532-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 0533-23**, appointing Emmett Kelly to the Franklin County Conventions Facilities Authority Board of Directors. (Board of Commissioners), presented by Brittany A. Razek, Director of Community Appointments, Board of Commissioners.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0533-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

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Brittany A. Razek, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, read three (3) journalizations into the record:

Resolution No. 0445-23, which was adopted by the Franklin County Board of Commissioners during General Session on Tuesday, May 30, 2023, contained a scrivener's error. The agency Dedicated Tech Services, Inc. was listed in the body of the resolution, but the contract with this entity was not attached at the time of passage. All the contracts in the Resolution are the same with the exception of the name of the entity. This journalization serves as notice that the contract with Dedicated Tech Services, Inc. has been provided to the Board of Commissioners for approval consistent with the requirements of Resolution 0445-23.

Case #ANX-25-23, an expedited type 2 annexation petition, ANX-25-23, was filed with the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department on June 16, 2023. The petition is requesting to annex 7.8-acres from Norwich Township to the City of Columbus. The petition will be considered by the Board of Commissioners on July 18, 2023. Site: 4747 Dublin Road, PID #200-000554; 4781 Dublin Road, PID #201-000002.

Case #ANX-26-23, an expedited type 2 annexation petition, ANX-26-23, was filed with the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department on June 16, 2023. The petition is requesting to annex 6.1-acres from Norwich Township to the City of Columbus. The petition will be considered by the Board of Commissioners on July 18, 2023. Site: 4723 Dublin Road, PID #200-000050 and 200-000203.

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There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:42 A.M.

**(Signature Page Follows)**



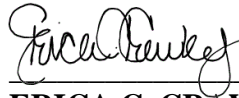
These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' General Session meeting on Tuesday, June 27, 2023.



**JOHN O'GRADY, PRESIDENT**



**KEVIN L. BOYCE**



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

Submitted by:



**Lauren M. Graessle**

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