

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

August 20, 2019

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, August 20, 2019.

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

Also present on the dais were Nick Soulas, First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Prosecuting Attorney's Office; Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator; Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management & Budget; and, Victoria Caldwell, Administrative Assistant II.

President Brown called the meeting to order at 9:04 A.M.

President Brown: Commissioner Boyce, I know you wanted to say something before we get started.

Commissioner Boyce: Thank you, Madam President. I wanted to take a personal point of privilege to recognize Tyler Myles who came back to visit us. She was one of our interns. Give her a round of applause everyone, for me (applause). Tyler is a graduate student at Indiana University, finished her internship here, and was an outstanding and amazing intern. I'm telling you now, all the directors here, you should get her resume, she'd be a great hire. I'm telling you now and I've already told Tamara and Jessica to be on watch, because when she graduates, I might want to replace one of them. I'm kidding. They are the best too. They know I'm just kidding. I did point out Tyler because, internships really do help build our workforce. When you have someone, who has interned in public service and really did it well and enjoyed it, I think we must try to capture those people, and really get them into our system. I want to point Tyler out because she was an amazing intern for us. We've had some good interns by the way, but she's one that would be an easy hire for any one of your departments. I hope you get to know Ms. Tyler Myles, before she goes. She's just dropping in. She still has one and a half years to go in graduate school, but hopefully we can get her back to Central Ohio. Good to see you Tyler.

President Brown: Tyler what's your major?

Ms. Miles: I'm getting my master's degree in Arts & Entertainment Management

President Brown: Wonderful (laughter). We've hired some amazing interns.

Commissioner Boyce: Some of them have become staff people for the various offices as well.

President Brown: Especially, my Policy Director, Mike Hochran and Mike Salvadore. We've got some amazing people that we've hired on.

Commissioner Boyce: Lauren Rummel was one as well. I'll say that in all the different governments that I've worked in at different levels, this is probably the highest percentage ratio where we have an intern and then they are such quality interns that you work hard to keep them. I've just never seen such a pure system of internships that comes into the workforce in such a good way. Whatever we're doing, we're doing it right with the internships. Good program.

President Brown: Thank you for recognizing your intern and giving us a chance to talk about the importance of internships, apprenticeships, all those programs mean a lot and allow us to really hire the best and brightest of all the people in the community.

The first order of business on the agenda was the approval of the minutes of the June 4, 2019 General Session. Commissioner Boyce moved to approve the minutes, seconded by President Brown. The minutes were adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0599-19, authorizing a grant agreement with the State of Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, for the Targeted Community Alternatives to Prison Program (\$4,500,000.00) (Court of Common Pleas), presented by Michael Daniels, Director, Justice Policy and Programs and Lori Francescon, Chief Probation Officer, Court of Common Pleas.

Ms. Francescon: This resolution authorizes a grant agreement with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction for the Targeted Community Alternatives to Prison Program in the amount of \$4.5 million. Pursuant to the MOU, the Board of Commissioners/Sheriff will receive fifty percent of this funding and the Common Pleas Court will receive fifty percent. The court will use these dollars to offset the cost of twelve Risk Reduction Probation Officer positions. These officers supervise the Felony4/Felony5 population of offenders, who are impacted by the legislation associated with TCAP, with a focus upon addressing probationer risk and recidivism reduction through supervision utilizing evidence-based practices.

Mr. Daniels: Commissioners, with the other fifty percent of the funding, we will continue to support efforts that keep people out of the jail, including work release which is a line item that was cut from the state budget in order to fund TCAP. Increases with our support of electronic monitoring and between the TCAP money we got for fiscal 2019, as well as this contract for 2020 and 2021. Our office will invest a little over \$1.3 million in temporary and permanent supportive housing for individuals who cycle through the facilities.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0599-19, seconded by President Brown. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0600-19, final hearing for establishing, altering and widening of Alum Creek Drive at Rohr Road, Hamilton Township and Madison Township, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer), presented by Cornell Robertson, Franklin County Engineer, Fritz Crosier, Chief Deputy, Engineer.

Mr. Robertson: Commissioners, this first resolution is for a Capital Improvement Project in the southeast part of the county. It is a cooperative project and it includes multiple agencies, Franklin County, City of Columbus, City of Groveport, Hamilton Township, Madison Township, Pizzuti as a private developer, and Kurtz Brothers as well. So, this is a project that we're very proud of, has received OPWC funding and TID funding. This is the first project for TID approval for \$200,000, and so this will be a very good improvement for the area. This hearing is for the right-of-way process to begin, and I would say that if anyone has any questions, I'd be happy to answer those. The subsequent resolution, if approved, will allow us to begin the right-of-way acquisition process.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0600-19, seconded by President Brown. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0601-19, preliminary allocation and final encumbrance of County Motor Vehicle License Fee (\$5) Funds for the City of Columbus (\$1,117,419.18) (Engineer), presented by Mr. Robertson.

Mr. Robertson: Commissioners, as stated, this is a \$5.00 funds resolution for the City of Columbus and particularly for the Wilson Road improvement, from Sullivant Avenue, north to Broad Street. This is a collaborative project that will be administered by the City of Columbus, with participation from Franklin County regarding the bridge over Camp Chase.

Commissioner Boyce: I'm just curious, is that money just transferred to an account for the City? How does that work?

Mr. Robertson: My understanding is the County Engineers across the state administers the various \$5.00 fund programs and then as the various cities, and municipalities have a desire to utilize that money, then they approach the County Engineer's Office and we have a list of roadways that are typically or that are acceptable to use such funds, and then we begin this process with the Commissioners. That's a great check and balances process, provides transparency, and so we would feel that this is an appropriate use for those funds.

Commissioner Boyce: Absolutely.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0601-19, seconded by President Brown. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0602-19, report (6th) of the Franklin County Engineer, establishing sums of compensation for a portion of the owners of property abutting the Borrer Road from Quail Creek Boulevard to State Route 104 project, Jackson Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$72,333.00) (Engineer), presented by Mr. Crosier.

Mr. Crosier: Commissioners, as noted, this resolution seeks compensation for property owners abutting the Borrer Road from Quail Creek Boulevard to State Route 104 improvement project. It's a collaborative project between Jackson Township, Franklin County and Grove City, located in the southwest portion of the county in Jackson Township. It will reconstruct Borrer Road and build a modern roundabout at the intersection with Buckeye Parkway. We negotiated with the property owners and compensation was based on appraised fair market value.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0602-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0603-19, authorizing a transfer of appropriations for the purchase of a mapping drone (Sheriff), presented by Zak Talarek, Office of Management and Budget.

Mr. Talarek: This resolution would authorize the transfer of general fund appropriations within the Sheriff's Office for material and services to capital outlays in the amount of \$8,330.00. This will be for a mapping drone to support in their investigations of crime scenes and fatal vehicle accidents.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0603-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0604-19, authorizing a 3-month contract with Regionomics, LLC for a tax abatement study in collaboration with the City of Columbus (\$9,975.00) (Auditor), presented by Adam Seeley, Staff Counsel, Auditor.

Mr. Seeley: Good morning, Commissioners. The Auditor respectfully submits a resolution for your consideration authorizing a contract with Regionomics, LLC, in collaboration with the City of Columbus for a total county cost of \$9,975.00. Under the contract, Regionomics will study the direct and indirect impacts of commercial and industrial tax abatements in Columbus, which will inform the Auditor's work as statutory chair of Tax Incentive Review Councils (TIRC's), throughout the County.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0604-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0605-19, approving three subaward agreements with Action for Children, The Homeless Families Foundation and Young Men’s Christian Association of Central Ohio for the SPARK kindergarten readiness program (\$749,944.84) (Job and Family Services), presented by Joy Bivens, Director, Job and Family Services.

Ms. Bivens: Good morning, Commissioners. We know that parents and caretakers are their child’s first teacher. SPARK (Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids) is a family focused intervention program that’s designed to equip families with the knowledge and skills to ensure their children are ready to enter and thrive in kindergarten. Professional “parent partners” meet families where they are. Whether that’s an in-home visit, a nearby library or another location, and provide monthly lessons to help evaluate children’s early reading, language, and social skills. They also provide tips for parents to help foster positive learning development. All lessons are based on Ohio’s Early Learning Content Standards and Kent State University provides research and evaluation for the collaboration. We have an example of one of those SPARK Lesson Bags for each of you, courtesy of one of our partners, Action for Children. Under these agreements, the SPARK collaboration will target approximately three hundred twenty-one TANF eligible three and four-year-old’s, and their families across Franklin County. SPARK services supplement our Step Up to Quality work and importantly, also help ensure working families who may not qualify for Publicly Funded Child Care, have access to quality early learning resources and support. SPARK also supports the eleventh recommendation for our Poverty Blueprint, increasing the number of students at or near the poverty level experiencing academic success.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0605-19, seconded by Commissioner O’Grady. The Resolution were unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0606-19, authorizing a transfer of appropriations for the operation of the animal shelter (Animal Control), presented by April Ricciardo, Assistant Director, Animal Control.

Ms. Ricciardo: Good morning, Commissioners. We are here today to request authorization of appropriations for the operation of the animal shelter from the personal services and fringe benefits to materials and services to support us.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0606-19, seconded by Commissioner O’Grady. The Resolution were unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0607-19, authorizing a contract agreement with CCI Engineering Services for Construction Administration and Construction Inspection for the Nation Pike Little Farms Neighborhood Water Main Replacement Project – Phases 1 and 2 (\$1,199,238.00) (Sanitary Engineers), presented by Ryan Stowe, Project Engineer, Sanitary Engineers.

Mr. Stowe: Good morning, Commissioners. Sanitary Engineer is requesting the authorization of a contract with CCI Engineering Services to provide construction

administration and construction inspection services for both phases of the National Pike Little Farms Neighborhood Water Main Replacement Project. Statement of Qualifications (SoQ) were received from eight firms in response to RFQ 2019-23. A team of Sanitary Engineering staff reviewed and evaluated each SoQ and determined that CCI Engineering Services was the best firm to perform the work. CCI and two of the three subcontractors are certified DBE firms. The fee for this effort is \$1,199,239.00 and includes a five percent contingency. Funding for this project will be provided by the Ohio Public Works Commission and has been awarded to the county. The duration of the contract is five hundred ten days and will cover both phases of the Little Farms Water Main Replacement Project, which is aimed to be completed at the end of 2020. The county has had a very positive experience working with CCI Engineering Services, as they were the lead design firm on the Little Farms, and we look forward to working with them on this project.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0607-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0608-19, authorizing a one-year contract with Local Matters to provide increased access to fresh fruits and vegetables to underserved communities using the Veggie Van (\$50,000.00) (Community Partnerships), presented by Dayna McCrary, Community Partnership Coordinator.

Ms. McCrary: Good morning, Commissioners. This van will allow Local Matters to take their Veggie Van back out into the community and serve that important role as a mobile grocer and a nutrition educator. Really allowing communities to take advantage of their low-priced produce and use their EBT benefit, so that we can get that two-for-one match as we do with the Produce Perks Program. Some of the partners that Local Matters is working with this year include, Poindexter Place, the Senior Living Center, Bible Way Church, Equitas Health, and New Salem Baptist Church, just to name a few.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0608-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0609-19 Resolution authorizing closure of the Franklin County Child Support Enforcement Agency's Merchant Services account with Vantiv (Child Support Enforcement), presented by Susan Brown, Director, Child Support.

Ms. Brown: Good morning, Commissioners. I have with me today, Bill Peltcs, the agency's new Assistant Director. We also have a new Deputy Director, Kim Collins, who is not with us today, but I would like to introduce Bill because he will be transacting future business for the agency for us. This resolution authorizes the cancellation of a credit card processing account, an agreement with Fifth Third and Vantiv Incorporated. The Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) used these merchant services to process Child Support credit card payments made through the payment window at 80 E. Fulton. On July 1, 2019, the State of Ohio, office of Child Support transitioned to a new Child Support payment central

vendor, called Systems and Methods Incorporated or SMI. Part of their services provide clients with both in person and online credit card payment services through a mobile application, online or in person. Vantiv requires that the account cancellations documentation be signed by the same signatory as to the original agreement. Commissioner O'Grady signed that agreement as then, Board President. So, this resolution delegates authority to Commissioner O'Grady to sign the documentation affecting the cancellation of the agreement with Vantiv.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0609-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0610-19, authorizing a consulting contract with Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity to examine and address minority enrollment within the Franklin County Municipal Court Specialized Docket, in support the Achieving Cultural Confidence and Enhancing Specialized Support (ACCESS) pilot project (\$36,513.00) (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Michael Daniels, Director, Justice Policy and Programs.

Mr. Daniels: Good morning, Commissioners. Our first resolution this morning is a contract with the Kirwan Institute at the Ohio State University, to look at racial disparities within the Specialized Dockets in the Municipal Court. As we know, people of color, particularly black men, are arrested at a much higher rate than what is proportionate within the county. Conversely, they are dramatically underrepresented when it comes to Specialized Dockets. So, the question to Kirwan will be looking at is, that all the decision points along the way, one of the factors that are going into either encouraging or discouraging people of color for participating, coming up with some racial equity training as well as recommendations at the end for increasing racial equity within those dockets.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0610-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0611-19, authorizing a business associate agreement between NaphCare and the Franklin County Board of Commissioners on behalf of the Franklin County Office of Justice Policy and Programs in furtherance of the care and continuity of treatment for justice involved individuals (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Mr. Daniels.

Mr. Daniels: Commissioners, this is a no cost business associate agreement, between the Board of Commissioners on behalf of our office and NaphCare. NaphCare is the firm that provides the medical and mental health services within the correctional facilities. They operate within an electronic medical records system called TechCare. This business associate agreement would give Liz Jordan in our office, who is our Medical Assistant Treatment Coordinator, access to that TechCare system. She'll have direct access to those medical records and won't have to wait for NaphCare staff to pull, file or find records for her, thus expediting her ability to work in the jail and serve our clients.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0611-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0612-19, authorizing a modification to the Contract Agreement with MS Consultants Inc. to provide Civil Engineering Services associated with the planning, design and construction of a Franklin County Corrections Center at an increase in the amount of the Contract not to exceed \$443,100.00. (\$941,579.00) (Public Facilities Management), presented by Vivian Alexander, COO, Public Facility Management.

Ms. Alexander: Good morning, Commissioners. This modification to the contract is consistent with DLZ and Gilbane and Smoot con mods, in order to maintain the same partners for the continuation phase of the Franklin County Correctional Center.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0612-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0613-19, authorizing a modification to the Contract Agreement with Electrical Specialists Inc., dba The Superior Group to perform additional Electrical activities associated with the construction of the Franklin County Corrections Center at an increase in the amount of the Contract not to exceed \$267,760.00. (\$26,934,425.00) (Public Facilities Management), presented by Ms. Alexander.

Ms. Alexander: Can you repeat that amount again?

Ms. Caldwell: I have \$26,934,425.00.

Commissioner O'Grady: One more time.

Ms. Alexander: It's \$267,760.00.

Commissioner O'Grady: \$267,760.00 for a total of \$26,934,425.00, that's what I have.

Ms. Alexander: Ok. I just want to make sure. I'm sorry. Maybe I heard it wrong. I apologize.

Kenneth Wilson, County Administrator: For the record, it seems like everyone was a little unclear. The total amount, the way I read it and the way it's presented here, after the contract modification of \$267,760.00, it is \$26,934,425.00. That's what I have.

Commissioners: That's what I have.

Mr. Wilson: Are you good with that?

Ms. Alexander: I'm good with that, thank you. This con mod with TSG, the Superior Group is to perform additional electrical activities to support the start-up of chiller number three for the new correction center, which was procured directly by the county.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0613-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0614-19, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$2,533,534.89) (Purchasing), presented by Chris Johnston, Purchasing Supervisor, Purchasing.

Mr. Johnston: Commissioners, good morning. This resolution seeks approval of 153 purchase orders, for which the County Auditor has pre-certified available funding. The resolution includes 34 eligible purchase orders totaling approximately \$569,000.00, and these are purchase orders for goods and services that have a higher likelihood of participation by Small & Emerging Business Enterprises (SEBE's). Of these purchase orders, 24 were awarded to SEBE's totaling \$377,430.02, which is 71 percent of the eligible purchase order volume, and 66 percent of the eligible purchase order dollar value.

Commissioner Boyce: If you don't mind, if you could send around to the offices a sort of year-to-date update on our performance with regards to the inclusion data. I just wanted to see it as a cumulative number to where we are so far.

Mr. Johnston: Sure.

Commissioner Boyce: That will be great. Thank you so much.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0614-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0615-19, authorizing supplemental appropriations for support of the network redundancy and reliability initiative (Board of Commissioners), presented by Juan Torres, Chief Information Officer, Office of Management and Budget.

Mr. Torres: Good morning, Commissioners. This resolution is for supplemental appropriations for the Network Infrastructure Fund to support the purchase of network equipment for the new Forensic Science Center in the amount of \$40,694.00.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0615-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

PUBLIC HEARING: (Third) Resolution levying permissive increases related to the transfer of real property and manufactured homes for the purpose of addressing the need to create additional affordable housing in Franklin County.

President Brown: I have one speaker slip here. Jim did you want to speak.

Jim Schimmer, Director, Economic Development and Planning: Commissioner, we are just here to support you.

President Brown: Ok. I've got one speaker slip here from Gerry Rhodes. If you would like to come on up. I would remind you that you've got three minutes to speak and we appreciate you being here. If you could state your name, and address, and who you are representing, we'd appreciate that.

Gerry Rhodes: Sure, good morning. My name is Gerry Rhodes. I'm representing the BREAD organization, which is down here on South Third Street. I live in New Albany. On behalf of the BREAD organization, we are thrilled that you're going to consider today an increase on the conveyance fee to be used for affordable housing. Earlier this year, we had members share stories with you about the need for affordable housing. Included among them were seniors, people with disabilities, single parents and others. There are studies indicating a lack right now of about 54,000 affordable homes in Central Ohio, according to an article in the Columbus Dispatch from earlier this year. That calculation is based on a determination of how many low-income households pay more than half of their income on housing. These families must benefit from the proposed increase. I might add, that fifty-four thousand number could very well be a moving target. If there's a recession in the United States, which some economists predict as possible in the not too far distant future. The Dispatch article said, that as of August of last year, according to the Ohio Department of Taxation website, Franklin County is in the bottom 13 percent of Ohio counties. As we charge the minimum \$1.00 per \$1,000.00 conveyance fee. The Dispatch article further states, that the maximum state allowed fee is collected by 60 percent of Ohio counties, including Cuyahoga, Cleveland area, Lucas county, Toledo area, Summit county, Akron/Canton area, and nearly a quarter of all counties collect \$2.00 per \$1,000.00, with a rate of \$2.50 per \$1,000.00 for a couple of counties. The article concludes, that even if we in Franklin County double the current fee, we would still be on the low end among the counties in Ohio. We have been asking for an increase in the conveyance fee to the maximum allowed by state. You have expressed concern about increasing the fee to the maximum, and we are sure you have valid concerns. However, we believe that this is the perfect time to make the move and we wanted to state that in this last hearing today. It's a sellers' market out there as you well know, and an increase of \$2.00 more per \$1,000.00 is negligible and would hardly be felt. Some people say we can't afford to do this right now. The truth is, and we can't afford not to do this. Finally, we hope that you view BREAD as an ally and not an adversary. We look forward to working with you after today's vote, to continue to ensure that our Franklin County residents have access to safe, decent and affordable housing. Thank you.

President Brown: Thank you very much.

Commissioner O'Grady: Thank you.

President Brown: We did not receive any other public comments slips. Is there anyone else in the audience who would like to speak on this Public Hearing? Ok, hearing none, we'll close this Public Hearing and I really appreciate all of you being here today. We thank all our residents for the input we've gotten and on closing the Public Hearing and if we could now have the Clerk read the resolution into the record.

Resolution No. 0616-19, levying permissive increases related to the transfer of real property and manufactured homes for the purpose of addressing the need to create additional affordable housing in Franklin County (Board of Commissioners), presented by Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator.

Mr. Wilson: Good morning, Commissioners. Pleased to be here this morning to present our resolution, 616-19. Before I begin to talk about this resolution, I would like to thank Jim Schimmer, Alex Beres, and the team at Franklin County Office of Economic Development and Planning, and Deputy County Administrator Erik Janas, for their efforts in putting this framework together. This plan before you, Commissioners, would complement \$17,000,000.00 in current investments that is being made in the county's budget for affordable housing and related initiatives. This plan would contemplate adding a minimum of \$6,500,000.00 annually. That is the financial stimulant that is being proposed. Also, this is a comprehensive plan. This is something that County Administration asked for to the Board of Commissioners. You all demanded of us to bring something forward that was comprehensive and just did not consist of a conveyance fee increase. That there had to be other public policy initiatives considered. I believe that this plan accomplishes that. It causes for the appropriate use of tax incentives, where they're targeted towards affordable housing objectives, within that, it looks at sales tax exemptions on affordable housing projects to consider tax increment financing when right, as well as use of community reinvestment act tax abatements. It makes policy updates in the zoning regulations within townships that would promote inclusive and affordable housing. It contemplates the establishment of a County Housing Magnet Fund. The purpose of this fund is to provide greater leverage of available low-income tax credits that are available to stimulate affordable housing. If approved by the Board this morning, it will enable us to make greater use of the policy recommendations concerning the County Land Trust. Last, it provides us the ability to take progressive action when the right land acquisition opportunities are available, where we can secure property in certain locations to be able sustain affordability in areas before affordability races out of reach. This plan is built upon the goal of providing two hundred and five units per year, for a total of two thousand and fifty units. This will mean a total of new investment of \$65,000,000.00. Combined with current investments, the County would invest \$235,000,000.00 over the next ten years in affordable housing initiatives. County Administration views the recommended funding infusion of \$6,500,000.00 in additional dollars as the prudent amount for the marketplace to absorb at

this time and leaves flexibility to respond to future homeless prevention in affordable housing needs when called for. Additionally, not levying the maximum amount allowed by law, shows fiscal discipline and fosters a fiscal sustainability, which is extremely important to credit rating agencies. Credit rating agencies look at our bond rating, and that impacts the overall ability to endeavor in capital projects and other initiatives that impact the general welfare of the entire county and all the responsibilities that we hold each and every day.

Mr. Wilson (cont.): Office Management & Budget Director, Zak Talarek will now talk about the rationale for recommending an additional dollar from the conveyance fee versus drawing down cash from other general fund revenue sources. County Administration and Office Management & Budget looked at several factors and settling on this recommendation, such as historical performance of existing conveyance fees during economic recessionary periods, versus the demand for services for affordable housing and homelessness, what happens when you face severe recessionary cycles. The feasibility or reliance upon current unobligated or surplus fund balances for ongoing funding obligations. The fees of existing unfunded mandates, un-voluntary state and federal funding partnership reductions that we are subject to on an ongoing basis. Last, existing budgetary commitments made when the one quarter of one percent sales tax was continued. I would note that, this framework and recommended action of levying \$1.00 of the conveyance fee, it's not the only actions that this Board will be taking over the next number of years to address the larger issues of poverty and the lack of economic mobility within Franklin County. You all are the driving force behind the Rise Together Blueprint, which is focused upon housing, which is focused upon jobs, which is focused upon youth and which is focused upon health. We're here today because we know that housing is the roof upon which all those things rest under. I will also note that, to your credit, the \$1.00 that has been in place since 2005-2006, and this additional dollar that is being recommended today, is one hundred percent dedicated to the causes around homelessness prevention and affordable housing. Unlike other places around the state, it is not diverted to other general fund needs. So, I would respectfully say that, I think this is a prudent approach to take. This resolution also requires County Administration to annually look at the programmatic outcomes associated with the dollars that will come from the conveyance fee. It would task County Administration to make any recommended changes to ensure that we're getting the desired outcomes. I appreciate the testimonial very much that we've heard over the course of the last several months from everybody. We all are motivated by doing better in tackling challenges. But I note as well, that this burden in this challenge does not rest solely upon Franklin County. We have other governmental and private sector partners that are also working together with us to make affordable housing be less of an issue in Franklin County. The City of Columbus and the private sector both have recently stepped forward with announcements as it relates to affordable housing. So, the actions that are here today, are our best effort to be a partner in the solution in taking on this opportunity of making Franklin County be one of the best metro counties that are facing rapid growth, yet are tackling issues, such as affordable housing before it's too late. I will now have our Director of Management & Budget go into the due diligence process involved in arriving at the dollar.

President Brown: Thank you.

Mr. Talarek: Commissioners, looking back at the history as Ken indicated, 2005 the Board had approved the levy of the first dollar of the permissive conveyance fee which was dedicated, fifty percent to the Affordable Housing Trust and fifty percent to the Community Shelter Board. At that time, there was also a suggestion that support on the revenue side, it could be absorbed within the general fund and the increase was not needed. I think history shows that the Board made the correct decision at that time. Following the Great Recession in 2008, conveyance fees declined to a point, that support for the Community Shelter Board required utilizing general fund reserves. Despite to maintain those critical services as well as others, considering the declining sales tax revenues, and reductions in state funding. Looking at more recent history with the decision to continue the collection of the sales tax, that was set to expire, the decision was, partially because the full amount of the \$60,000,000.00 that was identified from that quarter percent, would be fully utilized. This included the backfill of the loss of the revenue from the sales tax on Medicaid managed care organizations. The desire to continue the investments in Community Partnerships, Economic Development and Sanitary Engineering projects. Maintaining the subsidies to our various non-general fund agencies, such as Job and Family Services and Child Support. To support the debt on the sales tax backed bonds that were issued for the new Corrections Center. In looking at the current general fund forecast, the final cost for two significant items remains to be determined. The first is related to the staffing of the new Corrections Center and the conversion to a direct supervision model. The initial estimate called for eighty additional deputy positions, which would ultimately cost approximately \$10,000,000.00 per year. The Commissioners recently engaged a firm to look at the staffing requirements for the new facility, as well as to organize the transition process. The second is the cost associated with the upcoming master plan. The county has several facility's needs, such as the replacement of its elevators, and the roof and windows in this building, which is approximately thirty years old. While last year's bond issuance included \$50,000,000.00 to support these facility preservation projects, more resources will likely be required to address the issues related to the county's aging infrastructure and the changing operational needs, as the county continues to grow. In order to be able to address these significant items, as well as to ensure the counties remain fiscally sound in the long term, it is the recommendation of Office Management and Budget, along with County Administration, that the proceeds from an additional dollar in the permissive conveyance fee be used to support the affordable housing framework.

President Brown: Thank you. Do my colleagues have any comments they wish to make?

Commissioner Boyce: Sure. I guess I'll start off. West Broad Elementary, Pinecrest Elementary, Fairmoor Elementary, Ohio Avenue Elementary, Broadleigh Elementary, Pilgrim Elementary, Barrett Middle School, Crestview Middle School, Brookhaven and East. Those are the ten schools that I attended as a child growing up in Central Ohio in 13 years of education. My family moved around quite a bit and was steeped in poverty at the root of some of our challenges, was affordable housing. The idea that a single mom can

raise three kids in a tough economy, in a tough environment, during a tough time is a challenge that many families in Central Ohio face. What we know for sure is that Central Ohio is not immune to that kind of poverty challenge. So, we have had to be very thoughtful as a Board of Commissioners, on how we can address it. As I think back to my own childhood, I didn't know quite what was going on with our family when we moved quite so often. As I think back now and understand some of our deeper challenges, I feel very deeply compelled to act when we can as Commissioners. I want to assure the public that, I know I speak on behalf of my colleagues when I say this, because I've worked with them both for many years. There isn't a decision that we make, that we don't think deeply about, that we don't partake in as much research as we can and that we don't deliberate as extensively as we are afforded the opportunity to. This is an example of what I think has been a very thorough process, in not only hearing from the Administration which I might add has done a fine job of putting together a strategy of that is a part of a mosaic of pieces to help us combat poverty in the big scheme of things and so I want to thank both Jim and Alex for thoughtful and courageous leadership to stand up and take on a challenge as an Economic and Development element of Central Ohio for your work, and a good job and has been very thoughtful about it. I want to go back to just the consideration it takes. It's not easy to raise a fee or raise a tax, because we know that they're always two ends of that spectrum and the impact and so we take them very seriously. We debate internally, and sometimes passionately and strenuously. We don't always agree on every element. I want to assure the public, that sometimes you see us come out and we're at this kind of final stage of things and it seems rather smooth and not a lot of deliberation. I can assure you, as we worked on this issue over the last year, that we've had some tough conversations. With each other, with the Administration, with the public and all the entities involved. But that's the beauty of the process, and so as I think back to my own childhood, it's good to know that there are working to change that type of environment. To make a difference for those families, that like mine struggle just to find a way, so that seven-year-old or eight-year-old kids, maybe could go off to college and maybe take a different pathway in life for their own family and that's really what this conversation is about.

Commissioner Boyce (cont.): It's about economic mobility for all families. Central Ohio is growing vastly. It is projected by the U.S. Census that we'll grow by over a million people in the next few decades. With that, there's not a place in Central Ohio that you can't see cranes, orange cones or some type of construction and that is an implication, of very positive growth. But like many have said in the past, it's a tale of two cities. We're growing and prospering in many ways, but there are some families who just can't keep up. Our action today is an investment in the idea, that everybody has an opportunity to be successful in Central Ohio. This investment of over \$235,000,000.00 over the next ten years, is a serious statement, to say that this county, this Board of Commissioners, and this community is committed to providing a pathway to everybody. I can assure you, we will continue, this isn't the end of our work. Finally, the work that we did over the last year on the Poverty Blueprint is, I think comprehensive, while again there are many things, we still have a lot of work to do. But I think we're off to a very good and sincere start. I really see the needle moving in a way that will be meaningful. You won't see it today, but you'll see it a few years from now and that's where the rubber really meets the road. Today we're

fifty thousand units short, that's almost six thousand units a year. This cuts that down to about four thousand or so a year, coupled with the work that Columbus is doing with our private sector development investment and the growth that is occurring in Central Ohio. I believe that this is the right step. Let me finally say, to the BREAD Organization, I want to commend you for being steadfast. We've not always seen eye to eye on every element of your request and your testimonial engagement, but I can assure you, you were heard by all the Commissioners. We take your message seriously and while you've advocated for the \$2.00 increase, know that we are trying to do the fiscally prudent thing and we may be back here five or ten years from now and we want that ability to have the same kind of dialogue we had this time. Your input is welcome, your input is encouraged, and we do view you as partners. Sometimes we don't agree, and sometimes it can seem stressful, but that's the process, that's the democratic process. So, I want you to know, I'm so grateful that you all are here, and I'm grateful for you input, I'm grateful for your pushing us and holding us accountable, because that's also a part of the process. Thank you for your contribution, your work and I will not move for passage, because I know my colleagues have something to say, and I'll circle back after they conclude their remarks to make the move for passage.

Commissioner O'Grady: I'll try to be brief. Thank you, Commissioner Boyce. Four years ago, when Commissioner Boyce and I ran for office in 2016, we were asking the question, what are some of the most important pressing issues that you're dealing with now in Franklin County. The answer that I gave at time was, poverty and affordable housing. We've been working on those issues pretty much the entire time that we've been here over this last term. We've been working on those issues with the professionals in Economic Development and Planning. These gentlemen are professionals, who work with other professionals in their field and work with other consultants in their field, who they brought to the table on this issue, some of them in the room today. We've been working with our professionals in County Administration and a gentleman who we respect very much as it relates to the county's budget and the county's dollars, who work every day, day in and day out with rating agencies and brokerage firms here in town and with professionals in the area of public finance. Because the county's finances are at the forefront of what we deal with and what we must deal with, and what we must deal with and what we must put in the very front of what we do every day. At the end of the day, it's about the citizens and residents of Franklin County, and we've got to be able to do is, what is in the best interest of every resident every day in Franklin County. We've been trying to figure out the answer to this problem and to these problems, since day one, since the first day I got here, since the first day President Brown got here two years before me, and since the first day Commissioner Boyce got here, three years ago. We've been trying to listen to everybody. I've met with the folks from the BREAD Organization annually since I arrived as a County Commissioner. But we try to listen to the professionals that we must work with day in and day out. At the same time, we also must understand that we are in the very enviable position of being in the county in Ohio and one of the counties in the country. There is colleague that we work with across the State of Ohio and across the United States would like to be in. They would like to be Franklin County Commissioners, they would like to be at a community that's growing like our community is growing, and that has the future that our

community has. We must be able to deal with the resources that this county has. We must be able to project the growth that this community has, and we must be able to preserve the resources that we have for future residents of this community and you know for, the Sister that came here and spoke last week, encouraged us to think about the future. I have four children. I have a daughter who's trying to find a job in the professional sports world, that's likely to take her outside of Franklin County, but it's also going to put her in a position where she's not going to be paid very well and she is going to be faced with affordable housing problems, and we are trying to help her with that. I also have a son living in Cincinnati, in not very desirable housing, and I have two younger kids, and I'm going to have grandkids before too long, and President Brown has grandkids. We must think about the kids that aren't here yet. We think about that every day, Madam President.

President Brown: I can't think of two other people I would want to wrestle with these issues, then these two. We have struggled. This issue, the issues of poverty in our community, they're not easy issues. They're about people in our community that are suffering and these two guys on either side of me, plus our Administration, our Deputy County Administrators, our Directors, these are the two you want along with our Administration, these are the people you want to work with. We come at issues from very different backgrounds, from very different perspectives, but the bottom line is, we all understand. We're talking about what's best for all our residents in the community. The bottom line is, we all do understand that what we must do in Franklin County is what works for our residents and what works for our financial sustainability for the county. I think the action that we're talking about today is that balance, and it's not an easy balance to maintain, but we have a responsibility to all our residents and that responsibility is to manage the best that we can and do the best we can do for our residents. Knowing we're not in this alone, we are in this with other entities that are working on these issues and without our partners, we can't do this without all of you. We can't do this without the city, we can't do this without the private sector, and that's what this community is all about. So, as we're considering this action today, this is not the end of all actions. This is the beginning of another part of a journey and I'm happy to be on this journey with my colleagues and with all of you in the community. We are making an impact for our residents, that's a positive one, and I would ask for a motion to approve, unless anybody has anything else to say.

Commissioner Boyce: I want to recognize Director Bivens of Job and Family Services. She's also a part of this big strategy. Director Schimmer, thank you for what you do every day. We know that you're on the frontlines. I appreciate and value your leadership and work.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0616-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0617-19 Resolution of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners to convene

into Executive Session to confer with the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office concerning pending or imminent litigation and to consider personnel matters (Board of Commissioners).

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0617-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.


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

The Commissioners convened into Executive Session at 10:10 A.M. Executive Session adjourned at 11:34 A.M., and it was noted that no deliberative action was taken.


(Signature Page Follows)

These minutes are a summary of the Commissioners' meeting of August 20, 2019.

MARILYN BROWN, PRESIDENT



JOHN O'GRADY



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

Submitted by:



Victoria Caldwell