

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

January 15, 2019

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, January 15, 2019.

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

Also present on the dais were Nick Soulas, 1st Assistant, Prosecutor's Office; Kenneth Wilson, County Administrator; Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget; and Antwan Booker, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners.

President Brown called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M.

Approval of the minutes of the January 8, 2019 Organizational Meeting and the minutes of the November 28, and December 3, 2018 Budget Hearings. Commissioner Boyce moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 14-19, resolution authorizing a contract with ms consultants, Inc. consulting engineers appointed to assist the Franklin County Engineer in performing preliminary engineering for Ferris Road between Karl Road and Westerville Road project, Franklin County, Ohio (\$98,805.00)(Engineer), presented by Cornell Robertson, County Engineer, Engineer's Office.

Mr. Robertson: Good morning, Commissioners. This resolution is for a traffic corridor study in Clinton Township and Mifflin Township along Ferris Road between Karl Road and Westerville Road. We are recommending a preliminary engineering contract with ms consultants and we utilized the qualifications based selection process.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 14-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 15-19, resolution authorizing the Franklin County Engineer to enter into a contract modification with Ohio Structures, Inc. for the Trabue Road 7.85 over Norfolk Southern Railroad Beams and Bearings project, an increase of (\$6,460.30)(Engineer), presented by Mr. Robertson.

Mr. Robertson: This is a contract modification resolution with Ohio Structures. This is for the capital improvement project of Trabue Road over Norfolk Southern Railroad. The contract modification is for bearings and beams that needs to be figured.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 15-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 16-19, resolution for Report (2nd) of the Franklin County Engineer, establishing sums of compensation for a portion of the owners of property abutting the Norton Road at Johnson Road improvement, Prairie Township and Pleasant Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$55,683.00)(Engineer), presented by Mr. Robertson.

Mr. Robertson: This resolution is for the capital improvement project in the southwest part of the County on the line of Prairie Township and Pleasant Township at the intersection of Norton Road and Johnson Road. We are designing a single lane roundabout. This resolution is for right-of-way acquisition. It includes three properties and the appraisals were based on fair market value.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 16-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 17-19, resolution for Report (1st) of the Franklin County Engineer, establishing sums of compensation for a portion of the owners of property abutting the Havens Corners Road, County Road No. 16, at Morrison Farms East Drive improvement, Jefferson Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$28,237.00)(Engineer), presented by Carla Marable, Director of Communications, Engineer's Office.

Ms. Marable: This resolution seeks compensation for property owners abutting the Havens Corners Road, County Road No. 16, at Morrison Farms East Drive improvement project. The project is located in the northeast part of the County in Jefferson Township and will widen a portion of Havens Corners Road. We negotiated with the property owners and compensation was based on appraised fair market value.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 17-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 18-19, resolution authorizing a settlement to Columbia Gas/NiSource for a utility damage claim due to an equipment accident involving a Franklin County Engineer's Office employee (\$1,207.59)(Engineer), presented by Ms. Marable.

Ms. Marable: Commissioners, while performing a drainage pipe installation in the right-of-way, an Engineer employee struck and severed a Columbia Gas/NiSource gas utility line. There were no injuries reported and we worked closely with the Prosecutor's Office and they have approved the settlement.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 18-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 19-19, resolution authorizing a Contract with ComProducts, Inc. dba B&C Communications for the provision of maintenance and repair of fixed, mobile, and portable radio equipment (\$220,544.40)(Sheriff), presented by Dave Masterson, Director of Administrative Services, Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Masterson: This resolution authorizes a two year contract through January 15, 2021 with B & C Communications for the maintenance and repair for Sheriff's Office radio equipment. In addition to the initial two year period, there is an option to extend the contract for three additional one (1) year periods under the same terms and conditions if agreed upon by both parties. The contract was competitively bid and in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code.

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

Resolution No. 20-19, resolution authorizing participation in a sublease-purchase arrangement with the Ohio Secretary of State for the purpose of acquiring and implementing voting machines and equipment and financing certain costs thereof, a sublease-purchase agreement evidencing such arrangement, and matters related thereto (Board Of Elections), presented by Ed Leonard, Director, Board of Elections.

Mr. Leonard: Good morning Commissioners. Franklin County is receiving over \$10 million from the State of Ohio for the purchase of the new equipment. The financing method that the State of Ohio is using requires that the State of Ohio legally own the machine of the ten year life of the financing. This resolution is to approve the sublease agreement with the Secretary of State Office. It is this sublease agreement that is the method of transferring legal ownership of the voting machines to the State of Ohio. All Ohio Counties that are purchasing new voting machines through the State funding will be signing this sublease agreement. This sublease has been reviewed by our Prosecutor's Office and some changes were made and incorporated into this agreement. Franklin County will remain responsible for maintenance and implementation for the duration of the entire time.

Commissioner O'Grady: The State is giving us over \$10 million to purchase new voting equipment. Is the County expending money beyond this funding?

Mr. Leonard: Yes, we are expending an additional \$2,000,000 this year and \$2,000,000 next year. The money that will be spent this year will not be spent on voting equipment, but the ancillary equipment that we will need to help implement the system.

Commissioner O'Grady: Can you explain the hybrid system of the new voting machines? It will be using machine and paper.

Mr. Leonard: We have done a bipartisan collaboration with what we wanted in the new system. We attended many demonstrations around the state and invited two vendors to conduct demonstrations and had multiple advocacy groups come in and test the machines. We decided and recommended a hybrid system. It will give the voters the option to vote on paper or vote on the touchscreen electronic system. Many of the advocacy groups liked this option because it had more user friendly capabilities for those with disabilities to cast their ballot like any other voter.

Commissioner O'Grady: The voting machines are going to look different from the machines we had since 2005.

Mr. Leonard: Yes. There are new things that voters are going to have to be prepared for when voting.

Commissioner O'Grady: What would you say the voter turnout for a May primary is?

Mr. Leonard: It would usually average between 9-15%.

Commissioner O'Grady: What about the fall municipal election?

Mr. Leonard: I would say between 20-30%.

Commissioner O'Grady: In 2020, we will have a presidential election. Voter education on brand new machines going into a big election is important. There is a strong need for voter education.

Mr. Leonard: We recognize that this voter education process is going to be a two year process because of the low turnout in a local election. We are working on the education component.

Commissioner O'Grady: We are the fastest growing county in the state, with the largest number of students that need to be educated.

Mr. Leonard: Yes, Commissioner. There are going to be additional steps a voter will have to take after casting their ballot and we are trying to educate the voters.

Commissioner Boyce: You mentioned that there were a couple of issues with the sublease agreement that were substantive. Can you discuss what they were?

Mr. Leonard: Indemnification was the primary one. The other one was about when the machines would be legally transferred.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 20-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 21-19, resolution authorizing the purchase of new voting equipment from Election Systems and Software (\$12,435,843.00)(Board Of Elections), presented by Mr. Leonard.

Mr. Leonard: This is a culmination of about two years of work. We had people come in and test the system and have come to agreement on this system. This system will allow us to be better able to handle the number of ballot styles we have. The equipment we are purchasing now is lower than the equipment we purchased 12 years ago. We have been able to obtain discounts in the price of equipment. This system will provide flexibility and security for the voters.

Commissioner Boyce: I want to thank the State of Ohio and working with other branches of government to protect our democracy.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 21-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 22-19, resolution authorizing contracts with thirty-three (33) vendors for Consolidated County Transportation Services (\$10,125,000.00)(Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Assistant Director, Purchasing.

Ms. Perry-Balonier: Good morning, Commissioners. Our 1st resolution requests your approval of (33) contracts to individual providers for the provision of Lift, Non-Lift, and Escort Transportation services.

The FC Office on Aging, the Department of Job & Family Services, and the Veterans Service Commission each contracted to provide these services to their respective clients. Historically, the County has initiated separate competitive procurements for these agencies. This past year, the County took a new approach, the goal of which was to develop a combined specification which would allow the County to consolidate these procurements into a single bid resulting in each awarded provider receiving one contract.

To support our outreach with the transportation community, advertising was expanded to include OhioMBE, two separate Pre-Bid meetings were held, and over 150 vendors received individual notification that the bid was available. On October 30th we received

(35) bids, and after bid review, 33 of these bids were found to be responsive to all requirements and, therefore, eligible for award.

Of the 33 contracts, 20 are with Providers who are Small & Emerging Business Enterprises (60%). All Providers are located in the Central Ohio area.

During briefing, I had presented the contract as having an initial term of 3 years, with 2 option 1-year extensions. I'd like to clarify that the correct term is an initial term of 3 years with 1 optional two-year extension available.

With this consolidation, we anticipate there to be benefits recognized by the providers and the County. These include:

- An easier bidding process and more efficient contract administration for providers due to the alignment of requirements and standardization of services, forms, and compliance expectations.
- Contract management and administrative efficiencies for County agencies.
- A larger provider network for each County agency, as well as the potential for providers to expand their services with multiple agencies.
- And, through a new joint Contract Monitoring effort, County agencies have the opportunity to enhance communication and response time, both internally, as well as with our provider partners.

And, once again, before I wrap up, I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to our agency committee partners whose dedication and collaboration were instrumental in getting us to this point.

President Brown: This has been a long time coming. I want to thank you and the agencies that worked on this resolution.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 22-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 23-19, resolution approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$36,364,144.87)(Purchasing), presented by Karl Kuespert, Director, Purchasing.

Mr. Kuespert: Good morning Commissioners, Karl Kuespert, Director of Purchasing. As I explained in the previous two weeks, the agencies have to open new purchase orders to encumber funds to pay for their goods and services needed for this fiscal year. Consequently, for the next few weeks the dollar value and volume of purchases order will be unusually high. The resolution before you requests your approval of 1,123 purchase orders. These purchase orders have been precertified as to the availability of funds by the County Auditor.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 23-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 24-19, resolution authorizing appropriation adjustments for providing salary and wage increases to non-bargaining employees (Board of Commissioners), presented by Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget.

President Brown: We have a speaker for this resolution. I would like to call up Ruth Jarvis, BREAD Organization, to come and speak on this resolution.

Ms. Jarvis: Thank you for this opportunity. I am glad that the Commissioners are making decisions on this issue. I receive SSI and SSD and live in a safe neighborhood, but it is too high. Without food assistance, I would not be able to afford food. I tried to get a job to support myself, but I found out that I could lose all of my benefits if I did. It is time to do something that will help people like myself to afford safe, decent housing. There are not enough solutions in place to affect the 54,000 low-income households targeted by the Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio. BREAD worked hard to set up the Affordable Housing Trust Fund to help people. Increasing the conveyance fee can lead to millions of additional dollars per year to the Affordable Housing Trust fund. When will the conveyance fee be increased?

Commissioner O'Grady: We have been meeting and discussing this topic for some time now. We have considering raising the fee for some time. We are putting a game plan in place and will have some action on this topic in the not too distant future.

Kenneth Wilson, County Administrator: We have been working on a comprehensive affordable housing update to bring to the Board. That is being spearheaded by our Economic Development and Planning Department. We anticipate the plan will be presented to you this year and staying in communication with our partners at City Hall. We are keenly aware, despite our investments in the Affordable Housing Trust and the Community Shelter Board, that there is a 54,000 unit gap. This is one of our top priorities, but we need to bring something to the Board of Commissioners that is comprehensive. It will not consist of only raising the conveyance fee, because that alone will not be enough to solve this problem.

President Brown: Thank you for saying that, Mr. Wilson. A comprehensive approach is the best way to explain this plan.

Commissioner Boyce: Raising any type of fee deserves a deep analysis to see if it is the right thing to do because there is an opposite effect. I am uncertain that raising the conveyance fee will help us address our housing shortage. We need a comprehensive approach like Mr. Wilson stated earlier. There are multiple pieces of living affordably in Central Ohio. It is not just housing, it is transportation, jobs, etc.

Commissioner O'Grady: We have been meeting and discussing how we will expend those dollars and where they would go.

Mr. Talarek: This resolution would provide appropriations adjustments for providing salary and wage increases to non-bargaining employees. The appropriation includes a transfer of \$3.2 million and supplemental appropriations of just over \$4 million.

Commissioner Boyce: With some of the levy funded agencies in this resolution, how does that work?

Mr. Talarek: The supplemental appropriation would be out of their levy fund. That would apply to the other agencies that have non-general fund resources. We do look at the resources within the fund to make sure there are sufficient resources to make the appropriation adjustment.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 24-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 25-19, resolution reconciling 2019 Non-General Fund appropriations to align with the amended certificate of estimated resources (Board of Commissioners), presented by Mr. Talarek.

Mr. Talarek: Commissioners, this resolution would provide for a decrease of appropriations from two funds, as well as supplemental appropriations for ADAMH and PFM. For ADAMH, it is a consolidation of grant funds. For PFM, it is related to capital projects. This is a result of the beginning of the year fund balances differing from the estimates that were in the annual appropriation measure approved on December 18, 2018.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 25-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Antwan Booker, Clerk to the Board, read one (1) Journalization into the record:

Board of Commissioners: Committee Assignments for 2019

Commissioner O'Grady – *Alternate/Designee denoted in red*

* Central Ohio Community Improvement Corporation (COCIC) -- *Eric Wagenbrenner*

* Franklin County Emergency Management Agency – *Erik Janas*

* Franklin County Investment Advisory Board – *Erik Janas*

* Franklin County Planning Commission – *Annie Ryznar*

* Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)†

Franklin County Data Board – *Adam Luckhaupt, Zak Talarek*
Franklin County Family and Children First Council – *Kevin Pangrace*
Franklin County Microfilming Board – *Antwan Booker*

Commissioner Brown– *Alternate/Designee denoted in red*

* Central Ohio Community Improvement Corporation (COCIC) - *James Schimmer*
* Franklin County Emergency Management Agency – *Michael Hochron*
* Franklin County Investment Advisory Board – *Kenneth Wilson*
* Franklin County Planning Commission – *Nancy White*
* Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)†
Central Ohio Communications Advisory Board (COCAC) – *Cecelia Weirick*
Franklin County Enhanced 9-1-1 Board†
Franklin County Criminal Justice Planning Board/Community Corrections Board - *Michael Hochron*
Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) – *Erik Janas*

Commissioner Boyce– *Alternate/Designee denoted in red*

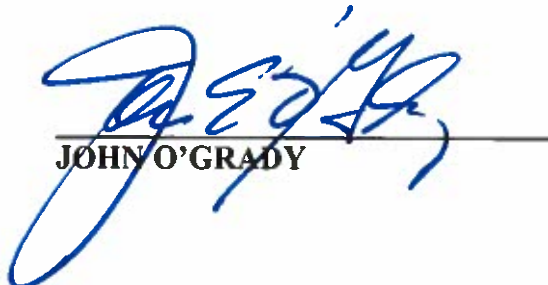
* Central Ohio Community Improvement Corporation (COCIC)- *Tamara Howard*
* Franklin County Emergency Management Agency –*Ken Wilson*
* Franklin County Investment Advisory Board – *Zak Talarek*
* Franklin County Planning Commission –*Tamara Howard, Jessica Sullivan*
* Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)†
Franklin County Records Commission†
Chemical Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council (CEPAC)†
Board of Revision – *Kris Long, Rob Bisciotti, Jamie Riley, Tamara Howard*
Public Works Integrating Committee (PWIC) - *Erik Janas (designated by Resolution 043-17)*

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:48 A.M.

(Signature Page Follows)

These minutes are a summary of the Commissioners' meeting of January 15, 2019.


Marilyn Brown
MARILYN BROWN, PRESIDENT


JOHN O'GRADY


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

Submitted by:


Antwan Booker, Clerk