

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

October 8, 2019

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, October 8, 2019.

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

Also present on the dais were Harold Anderson, 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 9:02 A.M.

President Brown: We have some special guests here today, from the All American Quarter Horse Congress. This morning from the Quarter Horse Congress, Dr. Scott Myers, CEO; Brent Maxwell, the Quarter Horse Congress President; and, Chris Darnell, Quarter Horse Congress Vice President. This is the 53rd Annual Congress at the Ohio Expo Center, and it started last week on the first [Tuesday, October 1, 2019], and will run through October 27th [2019]. Please come on up to the microphone. And, we've got the Congress Queen with us, as well.

Scott Myers, All American Quarter Horse Congress and Ohio Quarter Horse Association, CEO: Good morning. I have brought Taylor Foster with me. Taylor is the 2018 All American Quarter Horse Congress Queen. She has served the last year as our ambassador, and has traveled the country to represent us, and the great people of Columbus and Franklin County. And, we're so pleased that she's joined us here this morning. Thank you, Commissioners, for welcoming us here today. As you know, the 53rd Annual All American Quarter Horse Congress is currently underway here in Columbus. The Congress started as a three day event, at the Ohio Expo Center, back in 1967. And, over the last fifty-three years, our event has grown into 27 days. As the largest single-breed horse show in the world, this event brings in 7,500 horses, and more than 650,000 people to the Ohio Expo Center, each year. Last year, this four week event generated \$409 million in economic impact for the Central Ohio economy. Over the last fifty-three years, the Quarter Horse Congress has brought more than 700-million people to Columbus, and generated an estimated \$7.7 billion in direct and indirect impact, to Columbus and the State of Ohio. Your support over the years has allowed us to continue to grow, and we hope that today serves as a reminder of how far we've come and what's possible in the future. The Quarter Horse Congress places a strong emphasis on developing our youth. We hold the largest youth show in the world, with over 6,000

youth entries, competing this year. We also host the largest inter-collegiate team horse judging contest, with more than 65 colleges and universities from across the nation, bringing teams to compete. We also offer competitions for equestrians with disabilities, and we pay tribute to our veterans through our Heroes on Horses competition. The growth of the Congress has been even more than we anticipated in the last few years. And, we look forward to discussing with each of you, how we can partner to continue that positive momentum and explore the additional opportunities to meet the growing needs of the Quarter Horse Congress. We're so appreciative that Franklin County has embraced the Congress, and we look forward to continue building this great relationship with all of you. On behalf of the Ohio Quarter Horse Association, we thank you and appreciate all that you have done to support the Congress.

President Brown: The Congress was one of the first events that I ever went to when I was new to Columbus, in 1992. And, it has grown tremendously from then until now. It's just incredible.

Mr. Myers: I would certainly invite you to come this year and see what we've got going on. We'd love to have you come.

Taylor Foster, 2018 All American Quarter Horse Congress Queen: Thank you all so much for having us here today. If you have not been to the All American Quarter Horse Congress, I highly suggest it. It's a great event and there are so many things to do. We'd love to have you come out. I highly recommend it.

(A resolution was presented and a group photo was taken).

Commissioner Boyce moved for the approval of the minutes of the June 27, August 8, August 22, August 29, and September 26, 2019 Briefing Sessions, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The minutes were approved by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0716-19, approving a ditch maintenance petition for The Farms at Jefferson Phases 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, Jefferson Township, Franklin County, Ohio (Drainage Engineer), presented by William "Fritz" Crosier, Chief Deputy Engineer, and Ed Herrick, Bridge Design Engineer, Engineer's Office.

Mr. Crosier: Commissioners, this first resolution seeks approval of the ditch maintenance petition for the drainage improvements within phases one through nine, at The Farms at Jefferson, located in Jefferson Township. This petition ensures that these improvements will be properly maintained. Pending any questions, I'd ask for your approval.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0716-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0717-19, endorsing applications submitted by the Franklin County Engineer for

technical assistance through the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission insight2050 Technical Assistance Program (Engineer), presented by William “Fritz” Crosier, Chief Deputy Engineer, and Ed Herrick, Bridge Design Engineer, Engineer’s Office.

Mr. Crosier: Commissioners, as noted, this next resolution will authorize the Franklin County Engineer to apply for technical assistance through the MORPC insight2050 Technical Assistance Program, for the Complete Streets Policy Implementation Tool Kit. The tool kit will provide our staff with guidelines on how to design projects that demonstrate the benefits of various modes of transportation, including bicycle and pedestrian accommodations throughout Franklin County. Pending any questions, I’d ask for your approval.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0717-19, seconded by Commissioner O’Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0718-19, approval of The Farms at Jefferson Phase 1 & 2 subdivision plats, Jefferson Township, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer), presented by William “Fritz” Crosier, Chief Deputy Engineer, and Ed Herrick, Bridge Design Engineer, Engineer’s Office

Mr. Crosier: Commissioners, this next resolution seeks approval at The Farms at Jefferson, phase one and two, subdivision plats. The subdivision is located in Jefferson Township on Clark State Road, between Babbitt Road and Dixon Road. Approval of this resolution is the last step in the legislative process, and it allows the developer to begin to sell lots and start building homes. Pending any questions, I’d ask for your approval.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0718-19, seconded by Commissioner O’Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0719-19, requesting a weight limit posting for the bridge located on Chippewa Street, Township Road No. 2353, Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer), presented by William “Fritz” Crosier, Chief Deputy Engineer, and Ed Herrick, Bridge Design Engineer, Engineer’s Office.

Mr. Herrick: This resolution seeks approval of a weight limit reduction for the bridge on Chippewa Street, over Barbie Ditch, located in Franklin Township. The resolution allows the signs to be posted, as mandated by the National Bridge Inspections Standards. Pending any questions, I would ask for your approval.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0719-19, seconded by Commissioner O’Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0720-19, authorizing a transfer of General Fund appropriations in order to provide

the budgetary allotment for meeting October payroll and other obligations (Board of Elections), presented by Edward Leonard, Director, Board of Elections.

Mr. Leonard: Good morning, Commissioners. I wanted to begin, before we get to the resolution, to extend thanks to Engineer Robertson, as well as Director Reardon. Over the last month, we have finalized the parking and redesign of the parking lot. So, the paving has been fully completed; striping was done and that has added more parking spaces; and, the Engineer's Office and Public Facilities Management coordinated the replacement of some of the curbing in front of the building that allows to make it more accessible for those in wheelchairs or who are handicapped. Again, it's one of the first phases that we're doing to help us accommodate more voters at the early Vote Center for the 2020 elections. I do want to extend my thanks to Engineer Robertson and Director Reardon, for their work and their team's work to help us prepare for 2020. As I know the Commissioners know, today is the first day of the early vote period. So, we're happy to have voters showing up today to cast ballots for this November's election. And, today's resolution will help us with our funding for this year's upcoming election.

Commissioner O'Grady: Director, do we have in place adequate plans for remote parking for staff for the 2020 early vote, as well as shuttle service for the staff to be able to park in a remote location, for at least the fall early vote period? I know there has been some discussion about this, but I am just wondering if there has been any finalized plans for remote parking for board of elections staff, and shuttle service for them during that time period, so we can free up more parking.

Mr. Leonard: Based on that assessment, we've estimated that about 130 to 140 vehicles from the staff are on our lot during the early vote session. We try to have them park as far away from the entrance as possible, but still, they're on the complex lot. We have begun that process. We've had the discussions with the owners of the remote lot and we've locked that down. We are actually having a test next week and the following week. So, we will test it on one Wednesday, fine tune it, and test it again on the following Wednesday. That will give us a good sense to allow us to fine tune it to be able to make sure that it works. But, it is our intention to do it for the entire primary season early vote cycle, as well as the entire general election early vote cycle. I was thinking of doing it for a two-week period this election, but I felt that it was too disruptive, so we decided to do a test for one day each week, and it will give us a good sense of the things that we need to do. But, because parking won't be as much of an issue for this year's election, I didn't feel that it was necessary to inconvenience the staff for an entire two-week period. So, we'll test it for two days and fine tune it. And, we're telling our folks that every space will be needed for voters.

Commissioner O'Grady: All of us know what a presidential, national election early voting cycle is like, and every single one of those 130 parking spaces are going to be needed.

Mr. Leonard: That's what we tell our folks as well. If you're parking in that space, based upon the number of people who would come to the early vote center, that one space

occupied by a Board of Elections employee, takes a space from about 70 voters, over the course of the day. We need to make sure that space is available.

Commissioner O'Grady: What about people who show up and park a campaign vehicle long term? We've seen that at a regular occurrences as well. Are you considering any policies that relate to the long term parking of vehicles or vans from campaigns, or others, who park their vehicles for weeks or longer?

Mr. Leonard: Yes, we are. We are in the process of drafting a general policy to address this matter. We are working to ensure that every space is available for voters. And, we're trying to be a good neighbor to the other entities that use the parking lot as well.

Commissioner O'Grady: For folks that haven't been there during the early voting period, there becomes kind of a carnival atmosphere, at times. We've had bands show up and set-up in the parking lot, and take up a large amount of space. We have large, large numbers of volunteers who are conducting campaign activities, and are coming and going, which is great, but sometimes it impedes the traffic flow there. You've got tents that are set-up; card tables that are set-up; plus, not to mention the line. I have seen the director, himself, as well as other members of the board of elections staff come out and try to direct the line on which way to go. It's a lot.

Mr. Leonard: It's a popular way for folks to cast their ballot. And, what we're looking to encourage folks to do is to vote early, earlier. Oftentimes, people don't realize that it's a 28-day period. And so they wait until that very last weekend, and well, we've got extended hours and are there all day long. And, we're encouraging people to take advantage of vote by mail. Vote-by-mail absentee is a convenient way for people to cast their ballot at home, at their own pace, and research the candidates, research the issues, all while in the privacy of their own home. It's convenient for them. They can drop it in the mail, or they can always deliver it to the board of elections, in person.

Commissioner O'Grady: And for kids in college who may be home for fall break, we're going to encourage our son to vote while he's home this weekend, as opposed to voting absentee. Voting absentee can become difficult sometimes. I've actually called you [Director Leonard] a few times, when my kids are trying to vote absentee, when they're home from school. It can become difficult. Well, maybe not difficult, but you worry. You worry whether or not my kid got their ballot in on time, and if their vote actually is going to count. So, while my son is home this weekend, we are going to encourage him to vote this weekend.

Mr. Leonard: Again, we just want to encourage as many voters as possible. Take advantage of the opportunities that are available. Anyone can vote absentee; anyone can vote by mail. I am surprised when I hear the question asked, "Can I vote by mail?" We've had no-fault absentee voting for 13 years now. And, there are still people who don't know that anyone can vote by mail. Again, we've been working to get that message out there.

Commissioner O'Grady: Have the members of the Board of Elections done any more, or been encouraged to do any more, as it relates to voter advertising?

Mr. Leonard: There have been conversations and encouragement, but there does not seem to be any movement on the question.

Commissioner O'Grady: You know, the idea that everyone can vote early, is a good reason to advertise voting.

Mr. Leonard: Particularly with the challenges that we are going to have at the early vote center this year. Because of new construction, we've lost 250 [parking] spaces. We have a new tenant in the old Kroger space, which we didn't have in 2016. So, now, that's an additional 50 or 60 parking spaces that are being taken up by the traffic for that business. And, again, we need to encourage people to vote early, earlier. To utilize vote-by-mail. And, I am gathering some of the statistics since 2016, how many new voters have we gotten through the naturalization process. How many new voters were denied the right to vote; whose provisional ballot was rejected because they didn't show the right I.D., they hadn't registered to vote in Ohio, they weren't in the right location. Those types of disqualifications where the provisional ballot is rejected, we've had almost 6,000 people, including the 2016 election, whose provisional ballot was rejected because of those three reasons. Not registered; didn't bring the right I.D.; and, weren't at the right location. Those could have been resolved with education. And, we had 45,000 people in 2016, 2017, and 2018 who had to vote a provisional ballot. So, it's a lot of people that had we been doing education, might've been able to avoid voting by provisional ballot. We will continue to work on that.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0720-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner O'Grady voting nay.

Resolution No. 0721-19, authorizing a Catalyst Grant to LifeCare Alliance to provide IMPACT Safety programming (\$20,000.00) (Community Partnerships), presented by Dayna McCrary, Administrator, Community Partnerships.

Ms. McCrary: Good morning, Commissioners. This next resolution is one of our Catalyst Grants, and it's a great example of how collaboration is working in the community. LifeCare Alliance assumed operations of IMPACT Safety, as they have done with a number of nonprofit organizations, to streamline administrative costs, and things of that nature. This resolution, however, is in support of bystander training, which is so important. It will target restaurants and bars, so that bystanders would know how to safely intervene, or maybe not intervene, or call for help, if you see someone who is being sexually harassed. If you see someone who has had too much to drink. If you see someone who is starting a fight. If you see someone who has a weapon. It could be at a grocery store, when you see someone who is from a vulnerable population, such as an elderly person, or a person with a disability, and you see that person and you feel as though they are being mistreated, how

do you approach that? And so, this is the work that we are supporting through this Catalyst Grant. If there are no questions, I would request approval of this resolution.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0721-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0722-19, authorizing a Catalyst Grant to the Bhutanese Community of Central Ohio to provide Mental Health First Aid Training and increased education engagement (\$58,980.00) (Community Partnerships), presented by Dayna McCrary, Administrator, Community Partnerships.

Ms. McCrary: Commissioners, this resolution will really allow us to get our arms around the Bhutanese community and support them, as we have done with the Somali community. We know that Franklin County is such a welcoming and supportive community for immigrants and refugees. This is an extension of that philosophy and that belief. We are supporting through this Catalyst Grant, training for Bhutanese parents, to increase their level of engagement in the education of their children. To help them feel comfortable; to help them realize the significance; and that this population does have a place and does not need to be afraid to come to the schoolhouse and speak with a teacher; and, to ask questions about a child's education. That is one critical aspect, in addition to mental health first-aid training. Helping people be trained as advocates, as training trainers, and to serve in various aspects of the community. This will really help us to increase our presence, within the Bhutanese community. If there are no questions, I would respectfully request the approval of this resolution.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0722-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0723-19, authorizing the President of the Board of Commissioners to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the cities of Columbus and Whitehall and sign the required Certification for the FY 2019 Justice Assistance Grant funding agreement (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Michael Daniels, Director, Justice Policy and Programs.

Mr. Daniels: As stated, this resolution asks for your joining of a Memorandum of Understanding, with the cities of Whitehall and Columbus. The Memorandum of Understanding lays out how the fiscal year 2019 Justice Assistance Grant dollars will be distributed between the three entities. Pending any questions, I'd ask for your approval.

Commissioner Boyce: Can you give a quick overview of that, if you don't mind?

Mr. Daniels: The grant this year is \$462,736.00. Franklin County Public Safety, through the Sheriff's Office, gets \$162,000.00 of the grant; most of that will be used for overtime dollars for a variety of projects, including the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, and some other programming in the Sheriff's Office, which I can give you a full list. The

City of Columbus gets an equal number of dollars, and that's almost always spent on personal protection equipment for law enforcement. Whitehall gets \$13,592.00, which they apply to their juvenile delinquency prevention efforts. And, our office receives about \$68,500.00, for emerging trends; things we can't anticipate over the next three years, but we'd like to have money to do. We also administer \$10,000.00 in travel; \$44,000.00 in administrative overhead. Most of that, goes to offset the salaries for folks in my office, who are working on this grant.

Commissioner Boyce: Thank you so much.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0723-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0724-19, authorizing receipt of the FY 2019 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) from the U.S. Department of Justice (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Michael Daniels, Director, Justice Policy and Programs.

Mr. Daniels: Commissioners, now that the Memorandum of Understanding has been approved, this resolution asks for your actual acceptance of the grant, so that the Feds will actually send us the money.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0724-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0725-19, authorizing a professional services contract with Bailey Hilliard for the provision of data collection and analysis under the FY18 Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-Based Grant Program (\$10,000.00) (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Michael Daniels, Director, Justice Policy and Programs.

Mr. Daniels: Commissioners, this contract authorizes an agreement with Bailey Hilliard. You will remember her as Bailey Stobart, to continue data collection and analysis work for us, regarding the programs that we administer under the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse and Prevention Grant. Pending any questions, we'd ask for your approval.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0725-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0726-19, authorizing the President of the Board of Commissioners to accept on behalf of Franklin County a FY 2019 Second Chance Act Addressing Needs of Incarcerated Parents and their Minor Children award from the U.S. Department of Justice (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Michael Daniels, Director, Justice Policy and Programs.

Mr. Daniels: Commissioners, we're really excited to bring this one forward. We wrote for this grant from the Department of Justice, through the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Program. This is for money to be able to work on programming for incarcerated parents, and their minor children. We recognize that having a parent incarcerated is certainly a traumatic experience for a young person, so this grant will allow us to do some targeted work. Specifically, in economically challenged areas, and communities that are over-represented in the justice system. But, this will give us the opportunities to target both the men who have been incarcerated, to help them with their parenting skills and to keep touch with their families. And, also to intervene on behalf of the children and caregivers that are still at home. To be able to handle that trauma and the extra stresses when that person is removed from the home, and to be able to keep those families in contact, and intact as much as we humanly can. We're really excited about this, and we've been working with a host of top-shelf partners throughout the county to make this happen. Pending any questions, we'd ask for your approval.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0726-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0727-19, authorizing acceptance of Year 3 reallocation funds from Franklin County Public Health for harm reduction and overdose prevention related activities (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Michael Daniels, Director, Justice Policy and Programs.

Mr. Daniels: Commissioners, this is a reallocation [resolution]. Franklin County Public Health found some extra dollars. They asked us if we'd like to administer those. We said absolutely, we would. This \$3,950.00 will allow us to do Naloxone education and distribution. Pending any questions, we'd ask for your approval.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0727-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0728-19, authorizing recycling of information technology equipment declared obsolete by the Franklin County Automatic Data Processing Board (Public Facilities Management), presented by Darla Reardon, Director, Public Facilities Management.

Ms. Reardon: Good morning, Commissioners. Monthly, this agency is asked by the Data Processing Board to dispose of obsolete, surplus, IT equipment. We do so in a manner that is consistent with this Board's commitment to promote sustainable principles and our policy decisions and programs. Pending any questions, we request your approval to dispose of this e-waste.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0728-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0729-19, authorizing a partnership with Central Ohio Stand Down and the Franklin County Convention Facilities Authority in sponsoring the 2019 Annual Central Ohio Veterans Stand Down at the Greater Columbus Convention Center (\$10,000.00) (Public Facilities Management), presented by Darla Reardon, Director, Public Facilities Management.

Ms. Reardon: This resolution authorizes the county's continued partnership in sponsoring the 2019 Annual Central Ohio Veterans Stand Down event on October 15 [2019], at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, located at 400 North High Street. The county's support helps defray costs associated with this important event. I am pleased to welcome Dan Willis, Vice Chair, to discuss this year's Central Ohio Veterans Stand Down event. Then, pending any questions, we request your approval of this resolution.

Mr. Dan Willis, Vice Chair, Central Ohio Veterans Stand Down: Good morning, Commissioners. Thank you for having me back again. When you see me, just remember that I am just the front man. There are 15 other volunteers on the committee that work nine months to prepare for this program every year. So, I appreciate the opportunity to talk about our program, but please keep in mind there are a lot of other people, volunteers, who make this happen. All of our donations, one hundred percent of our donations, go to serve our veterans. Last year I talked about two new things that we added to the program. One was a job opportunity and academic opportunity. Last year at our program, we hired 15 people. We checked 90 days later and they're still employed. So, we do follow-up also. For the academic piece, we started a conversation, because there are G.I. Bills and things like that, so, I don't know how many people actually went to one of the colleges, but we're going to continue both of those efforts. We've talked about Stand Down a lot, and one of the things that we do is try to add new things. So, let me talk about something fun that we're adding this year. We're finding in our study that there are a lot of organizations that provide services to veterans that are recreational-based, in what they do. There are horses, golf, and sled hockey, all of these things. So, we're having a 'veteran only' recreation section. Veterans coming to our programs can sign up for those activities and have camaraderie with other veterans, for a little fun. We're even going to have a mini horse there, from Horses with Hooves. We will even have someone from Comfort Dogs walking around with dogs, to inspire our guests of the opportunities that are available to them, should they choose. That's why we produce this book every year to our veterans and guests.

Mr. Dan Willis (cont.): The other thing that we have done is have focus groups for female veterans. We're finding that with the VA Medical and VA Women's Clinic, with social workers and case workers, and we have come to the conclusion that what women want is a separate space, where they could take their hat off and relax and enjoy. So, this year, the second booklet is for the women's veterans section, which is going to happen the exact same day. They have asked to be out of sight. So, they will be on the second floor of the exhibition hall. We have a Marine organization that is sponsoring three police officers. So, we are going to have two male police officers and one female police officer. We have 17 vendors in that area; we're going to serve lunch, which is being sponsored by Enterprise Rent a Car. We're really excited about having the recreation and women's only sections

this year. We've pared back, so we could look at the event and determine what we could do next year to improve it. But, we get a lot of support from the VA Medical for this event. We have 500 veterans and end up with 1,000 people, including our vendors and volunteers. From our guests, only eight percent are women. In the military, women make up thirty percent of the military. So, that's our goal. To get a thirty percent participation from women at our event. With the help of the VA and other organizations, we're going to get there. Thanks to you [the Board of Commissioners] everything is free at the event. Free parking; free lunch; it's a really remarkable day. I say this every year, the most remarkable event is during our flag program. We have 1,000 people in the room with their hands on their heart saying the Pledge of Allegiance, and singing the national anthem. I don't know who they are, but for five minutes, they are one people, and it gives us chills every year. By strengthening veterans, we're strengthening our communities. Thank you.

Commissioner O'Grady: You are doing some great work. Thank you.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0729-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0730-19, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$723,208.03) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing.

Ms. Perry-Balonier: Our resolution this morning, requests your approval of 90 purchase orders (POs), for which the County Auditor has pre-certified available funding. The resolution includes 31 eligible POs, totaling approximately \$226,000.00. These are POs for goods and services that have a higher likelihood of participation, by small and emerging business enterprises (SEBEs). Of these POs, 12 were awarded to SEBEs, totaling \$105,196.04, which is thirty-nine percent of the eligible PO volume, and forty-seven percent of the eligible PO dollar value. Pending any questions, I would request your approval of this resolution.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0730-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0731-19, appointing Shannetta Griffin to the Transportation Improvement District (TID) Board of Trustee member, Franklin County, Ohio. (Board of Commissioners), presented by Erik Janas, Deputy County Administrator, Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Janas: Good morning, Commissioners. Ms. Griffin is currently the Chief Development Officer for the Columbus Region Airport Authority. Pending any questions, I would recommend approval of this resolution.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0731-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0732-19, authorizing CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence, Inc. to receive the fees collected in 2020 for the support of shelters for victims of domestic violence (Board of Commissioners).

President Brown: So, before we invite our guest up, you may have noticed driving around, in the evening, around downtown, several of our buildings, including our court house, are lit in purple. That is to commemorate Domestic Violence Awareness Month, which is October; this month. You may notice that many of us are wearing purple ribbons, or purple outfits, and that is also to recognize and commemorate Domestic Violence Awareness Month. We have as our guest here today, Sue Villilo, CEO, for Lutheran Social Services and CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence. We celebrated with a wonderful luncheon to commemorate and to really support victims of domestic violence, to really show a spotlight on what victims really go through. And, to show a way forward for victims. And, you've been a shining light in this arena for quite a while. So, if you'd like to talk for a few minutes about what this funding means to CHOICES that would be wonderful.

Ms. Villilo, CEO, CHOICES: I would be very happy to, thank you. Thank you, Commissioners, for having me here this morning. As you well know, as you so eloquently spoke, this is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This is the time when we are really able to shine a light on this issue. It is so pervasive. Not just in our community, but really around the world. In Franklin County last year, there were 17,000 police calls related to domestic violence. CHOICES alone, had 4,464 calls to our crisis hotline. About twenty-five percent of those were from police officers, who were on the scene of a crime, telling us that a victim was likely to be seriously harmed or killed by their partner, if they didn't get immediate assistance. So, this partnership with the Franklin County Sheriff's Department, the Columbus Police Department, and other police municipalities in Franklin County, are really saving the lives of victims, as they are able to access shelter and services immediately, for those victims. CHOICES moved into a brand new shelter in January 2019. We moved from a 51-bed facility into a new shelter that has capacity for 120. With mixed emotions, I will share with you that when I left yesterday, we had 142 people living in that building. And, more than 90 of them were children. And, we were anticipating the arrival of one additional family last night. The need is growing. With the support of the Commissioners, we did a community analysis, looking at services available to victims in Franklin County, as well as gaps in those services. One of the interesting findings from that was based on the projected growth of this community. By 2040, we will have 70,000 women in Franklin County, annually, being victims of domestic violence. This is something for the folks working in the county, both on the legal side and the social services side, to really start to prepare for. As we know, this wave of new folks who are being victimized are coming our way. We also know that most of those folks will be living in poverty. They will not have the resources themselves to exit the situation. So, the shelter that CHOICES offers, the hotline that we're able to provide for the community, are vital to keeping people safe and getting them out of a situation that could be potentially fatal.

Ms. Villilo (cont.): I'd also like to share since you mentioned the lights downtown, the billboards on High [Street] and Broad [Street] are also a result of Franklin County's contribution to our comprehensive campaign, and has gone to support those billboards. Thank you so much for all that you do to support victims of domestic violence in this community, and really keeping this issue at the forefront.

Commissioner O'Grady: One of the things that I found last year when I toured the facility, right before you opened was the addition of the veterinary clinic. Because, families have the ability to bring their pets now, which was one of the big deterrents. A lot of times, women didn't want to leave, because they didn't want to leave their pet behind. And so, they would often have to make a tough decision, because they didn't have any place where they could take their pet with them. This new facility allows for that. And so, it was a great thing to be able to see. It's a beautiful facility; a great place. It's too bad that it's over capacity. It is a tragic, tragic occurrence, but it's good to know that folks have CHOICES now as an option, and the ability to find such a wonderful place. And, be able to take their pets and not have to make that decision also, when they're making the decision to leave.

Ms. Villilo: There has really been a great partnership between the government entities and private industry, and social services entities joining together, to really create something that is going to serve victims well, in this community.

President Brown: It's a real healing place, and it's so unfortunate that it's needed, but it is so wonderful that it is there.

Commissioner Boyce: I just want to say thank you for the work that you're doing, by taking those families in. We know for a fact that the vast majority of victims are women. But, there are male victims; there are child victims. I know I've shared this story before, but, I always feel compelled because October is the month when my father was killed protecting someone in a domestic violence situation. That person killed the woman and my father, and tried to kill others that were there. And, it was in October. And so, I always feel compelled to say something, but the victim impact lasts forever. Because, whether it's the female or the children, there are reverberations that continue to go, and so, I really appreciate the work you do to provide a safe haven for those children, and those families, and all of the victims that have that kind of trauma in their lives. So, thank you. I hope we will all do posts and make the awareness of October being Domestic Violence Awareness Month, because everyone needs to know that there is a place to go and someone you can call if you need help. I know I definitely speak on behalf of my colleagues when I say we are happy to be providing that resource.

President Brown: Sue, we do have a resolution recognizing Lutheran Social Services and CHOICES for National Domestic Violence Awareness Month that we'd like to present.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0732-19, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

(A Resolution was presented to Ms. Villilo, and a photograph was taken).

President Brown: Do we have any Journalizations?

Clerk: No, Commissioner.

Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator: Given the difficult transition from the discussion of October being Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and it also being Breast Cancer Awareness Month, those are two very significant issues that are both recognized during the month of October, however, I appreciate the privilege to speak. Very briefly, I just wanted to remind Franklin County employees and their families, and members of our Franklin County Health Improvement Plan that this Sunday [October 13, 2019] we have our first Franklin County 5k and ThriveOn Challenge. We're doing well; we're trying to push across the finish line. We have a combined 250 participants, both adults and children that will be at Wolf Park on Sunday. We will be starting at 9:15 A.M. It's exciting, it's an opportunity here. Please join us. We want all of our employees to be healthy and one way to be healthy is to move every so often. Move as often as you can. If you can't run, walk. If you can't walk, let's crawl. Let's just move in some kind of way to get your heart pumping and believe me, it will make you drink more water. I am here to say as County Administrator, I am encouraging all of the employees in Franklin County to ThriveOn. If they haven't signed up, there's still time. Thank you.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:57 A.M.

(Signature Page Follows)

These minutes are a summary of the Commissioners' meeting of October 8, 2019.


Marilyn Brown
MARILYN BROWN, PRESIDENT


John O'Grady
JOHN O'GRADY

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

Submitted by:



Dean M. Hindenlang,
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners