

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

January 31, 2023

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room, at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, January 31, 2023.

Present were: John O'Grady, President
Kevin L. Boyce, Commissioner
Erica C. Crawley, Commissioner

Also present on the dais were Kris J. Long, Acting County Administrator; and Brittany A. Razek, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners.

Using hybrid meeting technology, participants were also able to access General Session via Zoom conferencing, by dialing (929) 436-2866, Meeting ID:978 8790 2896; Passcode:628826, or by joining at: <https://franklincountyohio.zoom.us/j/97887902896>

Commissioner O'Grady called the meeting to order at 9:14 A.M.

Approval of the minutes for the January 3, 2023, Organizational Meeting; the January 3, January 10, January 17, and January 23, 2023, General Sessions; and the January 5, January 12, and January 19, 2023, Briefing Sessions. Commissioner Crawley moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0054-23, authorizing a Subaward Agreement for the acceptance of a subgrant award from Franklin County Public Health's Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) Grant and related Data Use Agreement in furtherance of the Subaward Agreement, and to authorize the County Administrator to sign on behalf of the Franklin County Coroner (\$74,948.91) (Coroner), presented by Amanda Alvarez Wright, Director of Operations, Coroner's Office.

Ms. Alvarez Wright: Before I present this resolution, I would like to take a brief moment to introduce Dr. Overmire, our new Coroner.

Dr. Nathaniel Overmire, Coroner, Coroner's Office: It is an honor and a pleasure to be here this morning. I am looking forward to working with you all and getting to know each of you so that we can do great work together for the residents of Franklin County.

Dr. Overmire (cont.): I am happy to report that in these first few weeks on the job, I have gotten to know the folks at the Forensic Science Center very well, and I am looking forward to continuing to understand their unique stories so that we may elevate them and support them for whatever they need. I look forward to further engaging with other stakeholders and county offices so they can understand what we do at the Coroner's Office. The office is running very efficiently, and I will facilitate some improvements where needed. The work that we do is so important, especially during this time when we have seen a rise in deaths in the county, and I am honored to serve. I want to ensure that we preserve justice for the decedents and their loved ones and influence safety wherever we can. Thank you so much for this opportunity to speak with you.

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

Commissioner Crawley: Why does this agreement need to be signed by the County Administrator on behalf of the Coroner?

Jeanine Hummer, First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Chief Counsel, Prosecuting Attorney's Office: The only time that there is authority for an elected official to sign is if there is direct language in the statute for this. In this particular contract, there is none.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0054-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0055-23, accepting the annual bridge inspection report for 2022 (Engineer), presented by Cornell Robertson, Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0055-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0056-23, establishing, altering, and widening of Rings Road, County Road No. 33, at Cosgray Road, County Road No. 39, Washington Township, Franklin County, Ohio, declared necessary (Engineer), presented by Cornell Robertson, Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0056-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0057-23, awarding contract and approving contract bond to Strawser Paving Co. Inc., for the Norton Road at Kropp Road-Grove City Road Roundabout (\$2,627,321.29) (Engineer), presented by Cornell Robertson, Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0057-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0058-23, DLZ Ohio, Inc., consulting engineers, appointed to assist the Franklin County Engineer by providing Part 2 detailed engineering design services for the Cooke Road from Karl Road to Cleveland Avenue Improvement project, Clinton Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$388,062.08) (Engineer), presented by Cornell Robertson, Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0058-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner Boyce abstaining.

Resolution No. 0059-23, Woolpert, Inc., consulting engineers, appointed to assist the Franklin County Engineer by providing detailed engineering design services for the Innis Road Improvement project, Clinton Township and Mifflin Township, Franklin County (\$76,266.00) (Engineer), presented by Cornell Robertson, Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0059-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0060-23, approving street and storm water plans for Plum Run Crossing, Jackson Township, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer), presented by Cornell Robertson, Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0060-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0043-23, authorizing the Board of Commissioners of Franklin County, Ohio, to enter into a Consultant Contract with Paul Werth Associates, Inc. for public relations management and strategies (\$100,000.00) (Prosecuting Attorney), presented by Jeanine Hummer, First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Chief Counsel, Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0043-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner Boyce abstaining.

Resolution No. 0061-23, authorizing the Director of Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department to sponsor applications for Market Development Grants for the Recycling and Litter Prevention grants program offered by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for Program Year 2023, authorizing the County Administrator to enter agreements with the Ohio EPA and approved private applicants and sub-award agreements with approved applicants, and authorizing the acceptance of Market Development Grant funds from the Ohio EPA and disbursement of those funds to approved applicants in accordance with the Grant Program and Agreements (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Emanuel Torres, Assistant Director, Economic Development and Planning.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0061-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0062-23, authorizing the Board of Franklin County Commissioners to sign the attached "Discharge of MORTGAGE" instrument for Mabel L. Henry at 2441 Wynwood Avenue, Township of Franklin, Ohio 43223 (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Julissa Tiruchelvam, Executive Assistant, Economic Development and Planning.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0062-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0063-23, authorizing the Board of Franklin County Commissioners to sign the attached "Discharge of MORTGAGE" instrument for Donney D. Nelson at 3580 Brookside Boulevard, Township of Franklin, Ohio 43204 (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Julissa Tiruchelvam, Executive Assistant, Economic Development and Planning.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0063-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0064-23, authorizing the Board of Franklin County Commissioners to sign the attached “Discharge of MORTGAGE” instrument for YMCA Housing Limited Partnership at 40 W Long Street, Columbus, OH 43215 (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Julissa Tiruchelvam, Executive Assistant, Economic Development and Planning.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0064-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0065-23, approving a subaward agreement with the Franklin County Office on Aging for adult protective services (\$1,511,562.00) (Job and Family Services), presented by Vivian Turner, Chief Administrator, Job and Family Services, and Chanda Wingo, Interim Director, Office on Aging.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0065-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0066-23, approving a subaward agreement with the Mid-Ohio Foodbank for the purchase and distribution of food to Franklin County soup kitchens, food pantries, emergency shelters, and community distribution events (\$100,000.00) (Job and Family Services), presented by Vivian Turner, Chief Administrator, Job and Family Services, and Matt Habash, President and Chief Executive Officer, Mid-Ohio Foodbank.

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

Commissioner Crawley: It is unfortunate that a number of our residents will see a significant reduction in their SNAP benefits. As the Governor gives his State of the State address today, and prepares to talk about his budget priorities, I would hope to see a significant investment in our food banks across the state, and I would be highly disappointed if we do not. I always ask our residents to call on their State Representatives and State Senators to advocate for additional dollars for our food banks.

Commissioner Crawley (cont.): I am honored to serve with two great colleagues who continue to support our residents by making sure they have food on the table and do not find themselves food insecure. But that does not give the legislature or the Governor a pass. I have a call to action for everyone who is listening to talk to your State Representatives and your State Senators as we are approaching the budget season to advocate for a significant investment in our food banks.

Commissioner Boyce: I cannot think of a more fundamental measurement for the quality of life than access to food. But this is a short-term solution. Mr. Habash, you said something that really struck a chord with me – these are the highest rates of food insecurity that we have seen in a long time, even compared to our early COVID times. It makes me wonder if we are prepared for the next phase of need for our residents who have the greatest need. I would like to ask our JFS leadership, as well as Mr. Habash, what are our broader needs? This may be a short-term stopgap, but what are the needs for the stretch that we have coming? What are we doing regarding advocacy for those SNAP benefits? Are we coordinating with our Congressional delegation to advocate and ensure that they fully understand the impact and implications of the reduction? This has a very significant impact on residents, such as a single mom with three children. What is the game plan past this short-term stopgap?

Mr. Habash: For us, it is about how we go upstream and address the root causes. That is the reason for our name change to Mid-Ohio Food Collective. What does it look like to end hunger, how do we lead in that space, and what is the role of a food bank in assisting in that space? We have seen the numbers. Higher wages are something we have been championing for a long time. We went to \$15/hour about eight years ago, and we wanted to lead the effort of everyone else to raise wages. If you truly want to move people out of poverty, it is mostly a question of income. People need to be able to afford the things that others of us take for granted. Affordable housing and everything we can do in that space are one of the most critical issues, along with ensuring affordable daycare. There are many reasons people are not returning to the workplace, one of which is that they cannot afford daycare. I often tell people that food insecurity has nothing to do with food. At the end of the day, it is a resource issue. Food is the most variable part of your budget. You have to pay your rent or mortgage, as well as your utility bills. I think going forward, the challenge is to get our legislature to understand the impact of this. There is a misconception that people are not working. We have to continue to convey that these people are working. More and more of the people that we help work, but I do not know what our senior citizens are going to do. Are people expecting them to go back to work when SNAP benefits go from over \$200/month back down to \$23/month? That is a big hit to their budget at a time when inflation is really driving up food costs. It is going to take everybody working together. Quit blaming the victim, and let's look for bipartisan solutions to these challenges that are hitting half of America.

Commissioner Crawley: Right now, a dozen eggs costs about eight dollars. It is really hard for people. People are working, some are working multiple jobs, but when you are paying eight dollars for eggs, that can only go so far.

Commissioner Crawley (cont.): Especially for people who are experiencing more month than money. They have to rob Peter to pay Paul to keep a roof over their heads, the water running, and the lights on. I appreciate your comments.

Commissioner Boyce: Could JFS provide a sense of the game plan from beyond this \$100,000.00 appropriation?

Ms. Turner: We are meeting with the Statehouse Representatives this coming Friday. This will be a large part of our discussion with them. We are also working with Director Rummel to inform our Federal Representatives to ensure they have all the numbers of those impacted here in Franklin County. It will be just over 160,000 families. We are going to make sure that that message is heard loud and clear, both locally and federally. As Mr. Habash said, there are also some other substantial issues that impact the situation. He mentioned daycare, and we continue to support the Franklin County RISE initiative, which supports lower-income families with daycare and scholarships. We will be working with Commissioner Crawley to re-up that initiative for an additional year. We are also continuing to invest in workforce programs that help low-income families rise out of poverty. That includes our Building and Driving Futures, our Roads to Work, and our Tech Women of Color initiatives, to name a few. We will be attentive to all of those things, and if you have any other suggestions about how to get in front of this and advocate on behalf of all of the residents that may be impacted, we would be happy to meet with your offices to discuss further actions.

Commissioner Boyce: I would like to add, to Mr. Habash, we consider ourselves your partners in this fight. We know that you are on the ground floor and the frontlines and our resources get the biggest stretch working through you. I want to encourage you to continue to engage us. Let's think creatively about resources that we can provide to the Mid-Ohio Food Collective to get ahead of this as best as we can. If the numbers are higher than they were at the height of COVID, then we have some real challenges that are coming.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0066-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0067-23, authorizing a professional services contract with Elsie Day for the purpose of technical assistance, planning, and facilitation of a strategic planning retreat with members of the Franklin County Reentry Advisory Board through the FY 2020 Justice Assistance Grant program (\$8,700.00) (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Ruchelle Pride, Director, Justice Policy and Programs.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0067-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0068-23, authorizing a second modification to the professional engineering services contract with ms consultants, inc. for the Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project (an increase of \$77,613.34) (\$2,191,218.25) (Sanitary Engineers), presented by Ryan Stowe, Project Engineer, Sanitary Engineers.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0068-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0069-23, authorizing an Agreement with the American Red Cross to allow certified trainers in the Department of Human Resources Risk Management to conduct training courses for Franklin County employees (\$15,000.00) (Human Resources), presented by Laura Repasky, Director, Human Resources.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0069-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0070-23, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$10,846,060.22) (Purchasing), presented by Damika Withers, Chief Economic Equity and Inclusion Officer, Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0070-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0071-23, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$4,655.99) (Purchasing), presented by Damika Withers, Chief Economic Equity and Inclusion Officer, Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0071-23, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner Boyce abstaining.

Resolution No. 0072-23, authorizing a consulting services contract with Franklin Hirsch to support the County Hospital Commission of Franklin County, Ohio (Board of Commissioners), presented by Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0072-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0073-23, establishing an employee dishonesty and faithful performance of duty policy in lieu of individual public official bonds for various county officials (Board of Commissioners), presented by Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget.

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

Commissioner Boyce: So, what is the potential outcome of that? We will go from having bond coverage to a policy, so how are we covered if a situation arises?

Mr. Talarek: There is a third-party providing coverage. This would be just like with property insurance or any employee dishonesty policy. If there is a loss, there would be a deductible, but then, anything above the deductible would be covered.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0073-23, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

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Brittany A. Razek, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, read one (1) journalization into the record:

Case #ANX-03-23, an expedited type 2 annexation petition, ANX-03-23, was filed with the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department on January 25, 2023. The petition is requesting to annex 0.48-acres from Mifflin Township to the City of Columbus. The petition will be considered by the Board of Commissioners on February 28, 2023. Site: 2594 Johnstown Road (PID #190-000391).

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There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:04 A.M.

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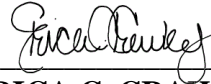
These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' General Session meeting on Tuesday, January 31, 2023.



JOHN O'GRADY, PRESIDENT



KEVIN L. BOYCE



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

Submitted by:



Lauren M. Graessle

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