

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

January 16, 2024

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room, at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

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

Also present on the dais were Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator; Kris J. Long, Deputy County Administrator; Joy Bivens, Deputy County Administrator; Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget; Jeanine Hummer, First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Chief Counsel, Prosecuting Attorney's Office; and Brittany A. Razek, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners.

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

Commissioner Boyce called the meeting to order at 9:10 A.M.

Commissioner Boyce: We are coming off of a wonderful celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. He would have been 95 this year. Yesterday was such a tremendous celebration all across America to honor the legacy and life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It does not matter what color or gender you are; we all live in a better America because of people like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Commissioner Crawley: I want to really emphasize service, and I want everyone to think about how they can be of service to someone else. How can you make your neighborhood better and your community better? When we think about the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., he gave his life to the service of others to build an America where his children could grow up and not be discriminated against because of the color of their skin. He started by advocating on behalf of workers, especially sanitary workers, and the environments and conditions in which they worked. Even as I sit in this seat with my colleagues, there is more that I can do. I really want to rededicate my life to service to make sure that every resident in Franklin County has all of the same opportunities so that they can thrive and not just survive. It takes each and every one of us to have a thriving community, and we need to work in partnership with one another.

Commissioner Crawley (cont): I also want to add that my sorority sisters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, just celebrated 116 years of sisterhood and service. We were founded on January 15, 1908, and the mission was to ensure that young ladies could improve their stature in society. It was a wonderful day for me to be in the community with everyone at the largest breakfast in the country, celebrating the life of Dr. King and thinking about how we can continue to work for freedom, equality, and justice for all.

Commissioner Boyce: It is interesting to think about the progress that we have made here in Franklin County, as well. Just a decade ago, there had never been an African-American County Commissioner, and today there are two. There are four African-American County Commissioners in the entire state of Ohio. We are making progress. It is incremental and slow, but that is where the public comes in. Committing yourself to service in one way or another is a valuable part of that process of growth for us as a country.

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Commissioner Boyce: Every season, my colleagues and I recognize State Champion athletes from Franklin County and surrounding Central Ohio area high schools. Today, we're here to celebrate the Fall State Champion athletes who have excelled in Girls' Tennis, Girls' & Boys' Golf, Field Hockey, and Boys' Cross Country. It's our privilege to partner with the Greater Columbus Sports Commission and Ohio High School Athletic Association to recognize these outstanding student-athletes. Welcome to all of the athletes, coaches, families, and friends who took the time to be with us this morning. Normally, we would kick things off with comments from Linda Logan, Executive Director of the Greater Columbus Sports Commission, and Doug Ute, Executive Director of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. Unfortunately, they could not join us this morning, but if they could, I think they would tell you that in Central Ohio, we understand the value of being a student-athlete. To excel at the highest level in your sport in your school and in your community is more than a gold medal or the title of State Champion. It means that you represent excellence. You represent the courage, dedication, and commitment that it takes to be an athlete and a student. I love it when we recognize young people for their athletics and listen to their coaches talk about their GPAs because, most of the time, those two things coincide with one another. I was a Division I college athlete myself, but I like to brag more about my son, who was a Columbus Academy student and a four-year All-State athlete and State Champion athlete. I know the work that it takes and the competitiveness that is required. It is no easy feat that you stand before us with the title of State Champion. For some of you, this is not the first time that we have seen you, and it is so interesting to see you come back year after year. This day is to recognize the work you put in and the commitment you have made, as well as the family members and friends who support you in your efforts to achieve those successes. Let's get started. When I introduce your school and sport, I would like the coaches and athletes to go to the podium to say a few words. Please introduce yourself and your team, and share a few highlights about your season. We would like to hear from the athletes, as well. Tell us your grade and any details you would like to share about your season; in the case of seniors, we would like to hear about your future plans. Before returning to your seats, we would like to get a quick photo.

School	Sport	Athlete(s)	Coach(es)
Bexley	Girls Tennis	Amiya Bowles	Heath Goolsby
Columbus Academy	Girls Tennis	Arya Chabria Yasemin Bilgin	Preston Eberlyn
	Girls Golf	Team	Maggie Freytag
Saint Francis DeSales	Boys Golf	Vaughn Harber	Tony Pinson
Dublin Jerome	Girls Golf	Team	Charles Butcher
New Albany	Girls Golf	Mia Hammond	Rich Ritter
Thomas Worthington	Field Hockey	Team	Terri Simonetti
Westerville North	Boys Cross Country	Ben Gabelman	Nick Horton

Commissioner Crawley: Congratulations to all of the student-athletes, coaches, and families! I played varsity softball in high school, and I have twins, one who was in gymnastics and one who played club volleyball for the University of Kentucky. When children are involved in activities, it is a commitment for parents, as well. I know you all thanked your teammates and coaches, but please also thank your parents for being as committed to your success as you are. All of the things that you have learned by playing sports, such as teamwork, dedication, and commitment, will translate to everything you do after. I am excited to see where you all go. Remember to stay committed to academics because that will likely take you further than athletics. I look forward to seeing some of you back next year to celebrate another State Championship.

Commissioner O'Grady: We started doing this years ago because we wanted to recognize the best and brightest of Central Ohio. We also have recognitions for artists and scholars. We want to ensure that you know that we appreciate you and all of the hard work you have put in to get to where you are. When I was a kid, I was part of a State Championship team, and Columbus City Council recognized us. I remember how special that was, so we wanted to ensure that all of the State Champions got to feel the same way. I always like to remind folks that you should not let this State Championship be the highlight of your life. This should not be the most important thing that you ever accomplish. This should be a springboard for greater accomplishments in your future. One of the best things about listening to you all this morning was hearing you thank your parents and talk about your siblings. As parents, we know how much it takes to get you to your practices and games. It was great to hear your coaches brag about you, too. We all want you to be successful with whatever life has in store for you, and we want you to come back here to Franklin County to live, work, and raise a family because we know how special you are.

Commissioner Boyce: Just remember that people are watching you and will see how you carry yourselves, win or lose. You are teaching someone else, and that is important.

Commissioner Boyce (cont.): Each day you get up and put in the work, you are sacrificing the physical and mental stress it puts on your body to achieve your goals. People watch how you respond to adversity. I am certain that each of you has experienced an injury or know someone who has experienced an injury, and how you respond to adversity in athletics will illustrate how you respond to adversity in life. For the underclassmen who are here, I am sure we will see you again. For those of you who are closing the chapter on high school and moving on to bigger and better things, I know that the experiences you had in athletics and all of the things that you have learned will undergird your personal foundation and value set in life. I look forward to seeing what that means for Central Ohio. This will always be your home; we will always celebrate and honor your accomplishments. God bless you, and good luck in all of your endeavors.

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Resolution No. 0033-24, approving plans for the Waggoner Road, County Road No. 106, from East Main Street, US 40, to Priestley Drive Improvements Phase 1, Truro Township, City of Reynoldsburg, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer), presented by Nick Soulas, Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0033-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0034-24, report (3rd) of the Franklin County Engineer, establishing sums of compensation for a portion of the owners of property abutting the Cleveland Avenue from Huy Road to Cooke Road Improvement project, Clinton Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$8,709.00) (Engineer), presented by Nick Soulas, Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0034-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0035-24, authorizing the County Engineer to apply for a Safe Route to School project grant from the State of Ohio, Department of Transportation. (Engineer), presented by Nick Soulas, Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0035-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0036-24, authorizing a Community Partnership Grant Agreement with The Ohio State University on behalf of its Cooperative Extension for calendar year 2024 (\$225,000.00) (Community Partnerships), presented by Brittany Stricklen-Hillyard, Community Partnerships Coordinator, Community Partnerships.

Ms. Stricklen-Hillyard reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0036-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0037-24, authorizing Community Partnership Grant Agreement with Columbus Humane for calendar year 2024 (\$35,000.00) (Community Partnerships), presented by Brittany Stricklen-Hillyard, Community Partnerships Coordinator, Community Partnerships.

Ms. Stricklen-Hillyard reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0037-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0038-24, authorizing a Community Partnership Grant Agreement with Franklin County Public Health for calendar year 2024 (\$775,359.00) (Community Partnerships), presented by Brittany Stricklen-Hillyard, Community Partnerships Coordinator, Community Partnerships.

Ms. Stricklen-Hillyard reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0038-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0039-24, authorizing a contract modification with Virtual Case Manager for web-based case management software licensure (\$316.67) (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Melissa Pierson, Chief Operating Officer, Justice Policy and Programs.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0039-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0040-24, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$58,726,530.04) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing, and Tameca Bumper, Economic Equity Administrator, Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0040-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0041-24, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$5,986,204.86) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0041-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner Boyce abstaining.

Resolution No. 0042-24, approving one purchase order for Franklin County Community Partnership agency (\$129,850.00) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0042-24, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner Crawley abstaining.

Resolution No. 0043-24, appointing Napoleon Bell to the Franklin County Children Services Board of Trustees (Board of Commissioners), presented by Lauren M. Graessle, Assistant Director of Community Appointments, Board of Commissioners.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0043-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0044-24, reappointing Joe Savarise to the Franklin County Conventions Facilities Authority Board of Directors (Board of Commissioners), presented by Lauren M. Graessle, Assistant Director of Community Appointments, Board of Commissioners.

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

Commissioner O’Grady moved to approve Resolution 0044-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0045-24, authorizing the acceptance of a Lead Safe Ohio Grant from the Ohio Department of Development (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 O’Grady moved to approve Resolution 0045-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0046-24, of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners to convene into Executive Session for the purpose of considering personnel matters and to confer with the Franklin County Prosecutor’s Office concerning pending or imminent litigation (Board of Commissioners).

Commissioner O’Grady moved to approve Resolution 0046-24, to convene into Executive Session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official 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, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote, and the Commissioners convened into Executive Session at 10:25 A.M.

At 12:51 P.M., Commissioner O’Grady moved to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Crawley, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. No substantive action was taken upon exiting Executive Session, and with no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:51 P.M.

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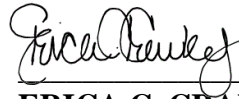
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These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' General Session meeting on Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

KEVIN L. BOYCE, PRESIDENT



JOHN O'GRADY



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

Submitted by:



Lauren M. Graessle

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