

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

January 23, 2024

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room, at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, January 23, 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 9:09 A.M.

Commissioner Boyce: Before we get started with today's agenda, we do have a ceremonial guest that we'd like to recognize. Dr. Nate Overmire has been the Franklin County Coroner for only about a year, but his impact is already being felt in that office and throughout Franklin County. The Coroner's Office is charged with investigating unexpected and unattended deaths in our community, and with doing so in a compassionate, respectful, and professional manner. The office investigates more than 3,000 cases each year, including performing an average of nearly five autopsies each day, and Dr. Overmire has a vision for the Franklin County Coroner's Office to be a national leader in forensic science and investigation. To that end, we are proud to recognize the Coroner's Forensic Toxicology Laboratory for having been accredited last fall by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). The lab is one of only 16 in the United States and Canada to receive this accreditation, so it's a really big deal. Here to tell us a little bit more about the Coroner's Office and its toxicology lab is the Franklin County Coroner, Dr. Overmire.

Dr. Nate Overmire, Coroner, Coroner's Office: Thank you for having us here today to share in this tremendous accomplishment. This is such a vital service that we are offering to the community, and without your support, we would not be able to do this important work. I do not think folks realize the necessity of what we do at the Coroner's Office until they need our services.

Dr. Overmire (cont.): Today, we want to recognize our amazing toxicology team. The ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB) accredited our Franklin County Coroner's Office Forensic Toxicology Laboratory on October 23, 2023. This accreditation demonstrates that the laboratory provides reliable, independent, and valid results, promoting confidence in its work nationally and globally. The Franklin County Coroner's Office Forensic Toxicology Laboratory is only 1 of 16 ANAB-accredited labs in the United States and Canada to receive this prestigious recognition, fulfilling the requirements of the ISO 17025 standard for forensic testing, as well as meeting the American Board of Forensic Toxicology accreditation requirements. We are ecstatic about this endeavor that we have gone through. The Forensic Toxicology Laboratory is certainly well-deserving of this accreditation. The work that this team does, while often behind the scenes, is really important. It is an operation made up of highly skilled, knowledgeable, and furiously dedicated people whose combined efforts are critical in serving the residents of Franklin County. I could not be more proud of them and every team member. I congratulate them on this fantastic achievement. Now, I would like to introduce our Chief Toxicologist, Dan Baker, and our Deputy Chief Toxicologist, Rebecca DeRienz, to share some remarks.

Dan Baker, Chief Toxicologist, Coroner's Office: I am really fortunate to have spent my career here in Franklin County. I want to thank you for the support that I have received from the Commissioners to do the work that we are doing and be a real leader in forensic toxicology in the nation. I cannot extend enough gratitude to the Forensic Toxicology team; thank you for all of your hard work. I want to thank Dr. Overmire for his support in doing quality work in forensic science here in Franklin County.

Rebecca DeRienz, Deputy Chief Toxicologist, Coroner's Office: Thank you. We have a lot of longevity, talent, and extremely dedicated people. The gravity of what we do every day is not lost on them. We are an integral piece of the puzzle for families who need our services. Thank you to the Commissioners for your support, and thank you to our team for all you do and for showing up each day for the county.

Commissioner O'Grady: We appreciate all of the work that you are doing. It has been a long road to get here, so we appreciate all of your hard work. It is great to see when the County's investments pay off.

Commissioner Boyce: Since becoming a Commissioner, there has been so much that I have seen that goes unseen by the public. There are things that the County does or has an impact on that are lowkey in the public until you need to access those resources, and I really believe the Coroner's Office provides just that. Families are having their darkest days and toughest moments when they lose a loved one, and having the type of facility, leadership, and team that can handle those delicate situations with care is in line with the Franklin County spirit. Dr. Overmire, your presence has been a difference-maker on so many levels. We are so grateful to have you. Your facility is world-class and top-notch, and we take pride in it. It is easy to build four walls and a roof, but it is another thing to build a facility with people and leadership who have a vision, and that is what I see at the Coroner's Office. I am so grateful for your contributions to Franklin County.

Commissioner Boyce (cont.): I look forward to spending more time at the Forensic Science Center and learning about toxicology and what this accreditation means in terms of how we serve our residents.

Kris J. Long, Deputy County Administrator: I also want to recognize the work that the Chief Toxicologist and Deputy Chief Toxicologist put in on the front end of the design of the new Forensic Science Center. They were there from the very beginning, offering insight and lessons learned from their previous space at Ohio State. They are being recognized by folks from around the country looking to build their own forensic science facilities. Their expertise was considered in the design from the beginning, and I want to thank them for their input.

Commissioner Boyce: How does it feel to build a facility that you dreamed up and then work in it every day?

Mr. Baker: It took five or six years from start to finish. We worked with the architects as they designed the whole facility using tracing paper. We looked at other top facilities in the country and took aspects from each to build a space that can support the quality of work we are striving to produce. This project was needed, and it is appreciated.

Ms. DeRienz: We were heard and respected when we expressed what we needed in this new facility, which was really valuable. All of our conversations with the design teams and builders were well-received, so it was a positive experience for us. We have no regrets about the facility; we are happy every day.

Commissioner O'Grady: It was a long road from partnering with Ohio State to being told we needed to leave and not knowing where we would go. A lot went into finding the right location for the new facility. There were a lot of bumps along the way, so it is great to be where we are today. Having the facility and staff that we have today is very rewarding. We are very proud.

Commissioner Crawley: When I was appointed Commissioner in July 2021, the Forensic Science Center was one of the first places I toured. The facility is beautiful and state-of-the-art. I met many of the staff during the tour, and they are wonderful people. Dr. Overmire, since you have been here, I have really appreciated your leadership. Since you have staffed your agency, I have not gotten any complaints from residents about your office. Thank you to you and your amazing team for being responsive to the work that needs to happen in the Coroner's Office and providing those services to our neighbors looking for answers about their loved ones.

Dr. Overmire: Thank you. It truly has nothing to do with me and everything to do with our team. Since 2015, the number of cases we have seen at the Franklin County Forensic Science Center has more than tripled. So, imagine having the same staff but dealing with three times as much work to analyze and share the results with family members. We have a team that can speak with family members and educate them about what the analysis results mean for their loved ones.

Dr. Overmire (cont.): I recently had to explain to a family that some medications result in false positive screenings for fentanyl. Having an amazing staff that is so knowledgeable about these topics allowed us to tell the family that their loved one did not die of a fentanyl overdose, but one of the medications they were taking produced a false positive on the screening test. This team comes to work with compassion, love, and the willingness to educate others, and that is what it is all about. Our Director of Operations, Amanda Wright, has been with our office for thirteen years. Her leadership has been steady, and her institutional knowledge is amazing. Bringing Jeremy Blake, our Senior Advisor & Director of Public Affairs, and Patrick McLean, our Chief of Staff, onto our team has been incredible. Our team is providing the true leadership that is moving us forward and providing the care that Franklin County deserves.

Joy Bivens, Deputy County Administrator: I got a call from one of our neighbors a few months ago. Her son had been killed the day before, and she didn't know who to call, so someone gave her my number. I knew about the Coroner's Office, and I thought I knew what you all did, but I had no idea until I walked this path with this mother whose son was killed. The care, concern, and empathy that your staff showed to this mother so that she could have some resolve was phenomenal. I want to thank you, your leadership, and your team personally. I have never experienced that type of situation before, but your team was steady and consistent. To this day, the mother thanks me and you all for working with her to help her understand what needed to be done.

Commissioner Boyce: We would like to present you with a ceremonial resolution honoring your team and achievement.

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Commissioner Boyce: Next, before we move on to the agenda, I want to invite everyone watching to check out the new Talk of the County podcast, which features interviews with Central Ohio and other local government leaders and newsmakers, highlights from around the county, and a spotlight on engaging Franklin County residents. The first two episodes are available now, and they include interviews with the Columbus Museum of Art Executive Director, Brooke Minto, Greater Columbus Arts Council President, Tom Katzenmeyer, as well as with Baltimore County, Maryland Administrator, Stacy Rogers. So, check out Talk of the County anywhere you find your podcasts, and be on the lookout for new episodes every other week.

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Approval of the minutes for the November 7, 2023, General Session; and the November 2, 2023, Briefing Session. Commissioner Crawley moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0048-24, authorizing a modification to the contract with Esposito Mortuary Services, Inc. for Body Transportation Services (\$75,000.00) (Coroner), presented by Patrick McLean, Chief of Staff, Coroner's Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley noted that the original Resolution was an emergency and was adopted on December 12, 2023. She asked when the original contract was supposed to end and what these funds were for. Mr. McLean stated that the end date for the contract remains the same, but the Coroner's Office has initially used all of the money that the Resolution provided. He explained that the Coroner's Office is requesting an additional \$75,000.00, and the ultimate goal is to get a permanent contract.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0048-24, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0049-24, authorizing the First Contract Modification with Armor Health of Ohio, LLC (\$900,000.00) (Sheriff), presented by Albert J. Smith III, Assistant Finance Director, Sheriff's Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0049-24, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner Boyce abstaining.

Resolution No. 0050-24, authorizing the County Administrator to sign contracts on behalf of the Board of Commissioners to allow other agencies to use the Franklin County Sheriff's Firing Range and Training Academy for the remainder of calendar year 2024 (Sheriff), presented by Albert J. Smith III, Assistant Finance Director, Sheriff's Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0050-24, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0051-24, authorizing an agreement with The Ohio State University, on behalf of its Wexner Medical Center, Sports Medicine Division (Sheriff), presented by Albert J. Smith III, Assistant Finance Director, Sheriff's Office.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0051-24, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0052-24, authorizing the contract agreement with Conservancy Travel to operate and execute the second Civil Rights tour that will support our continuous work of advancing racial equality (\$74,874.00) (Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion), presented by Perla Martinez, DEI Administrator, Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0052-24, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0053-24, approving a subaward agreement with the Columbus Urban League for a Men's Workforce Suiting program (\$35,000.00) (Job and Family Services), presented by Vivian Turner, Chief Administrator, Job and Family Services.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0053-24, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner Boyce abstaining.

Resolution No. 0054-24, approving a subaward agreement with NAMI Franklin County, Inc. for youth enrichment programming (\$120,000.00) (Job and Family Services), presented by Vivian Turner, Chief Administrator, Job and Family Services.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0054-24, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0055-24, approving a subaward agreement with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio, Inc. for youth mentoring services (\$179,561.19) (Job and Family Services), presented by Vivian Turner, Chief Administrator, Job and Family Services.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0055-24, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0056-24, approving a subaward agreement with the City of Columbus, Office of the Mayor, CelebrateOne for infant mortality interventions, education, and outreach strategies (\$800,000.00) (Job and Family Services), presented by Vivian Turner, Chief Administrator, Job and Family Services, and Melinda Cunningham, Deputy Director, CelebrateOne.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0056-24, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0057-24, approving a subaward agreement with Partners Achieving Community Transformation for youth enrichment programming (\$110,000.00) (Job and Family Services), presented by Vivian Turner, Chief Administrator, Job and Family Services.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0057-24, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner Boyce abstaining.

Resolution No. 0058-24, authorizing a second contract extension with Impact Community Action for peer support and case management services for residents served through the Pathways Achieving Recovery by Choice Program (\$85,000.00) (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Courtney Moats, Grants Administrator, Justice Policy and Programs.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0058-24, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0059-24, authorizing a Contract Modification with OhioHealth Corporation for wellness services for the Franklin County Cooperative Health Improvement Program (Cooperative) (\$3,877,865.00) (Human Resources), presented by Jodi Leis, Assistant Director, Benefits and Wellness, Human Resources.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0059-24, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner Boyce abstaining.

Resolution No. 0060-24, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$28,035,906.81) (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 Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0060-24, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0061-24, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$320,241.30) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0061-24, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner Boyce abstaining.

Resolution No. 0062-24, appointing Vince Parisi to the Community Shelter 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 Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0062-24, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0063-24, reconciling 2024 Non-General Fund appropriations to align with the amended certificate of estimated resources (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 0063-24, seconded by Commissioner O’Grady. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0064-24, authorizing policies and procedures for the approval of temporary fiscal staffing and consultant services with accounting firms (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 0064-24, seconded by Commissioner O’Grady. 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-04-24, a municipal annexation petition, ANX-04-24, was filed with the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department on January 12, 2024. The petition is requesting to annex 1.075-acres from Plain Township to the City of Columbus. The petition will be considered by the Board of Commissioners on February 6, 2024. Site: 5290 Central College Road, PID #220-001133.

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There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:54 A.M.

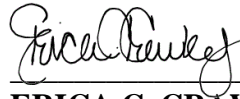
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These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' General Session meeting on Tuesday, January 23, 2024.

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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