

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

May 26, 2020

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened the General Session meeting via Zoom conferencing, at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, May 26, 2020.

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

Also present were Nick Soulas, First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Prosecuting Attorney's Office; Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator; Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management & Budget; and, Dean M. Hindenlang, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, amongst others.

Participants were able to access General Session (via Zoom conferencing) by dialing (929) 436-2866, Meeting ID: 530 479 003; or by joining at: <https://franklincountyohio.zoom.us/j/530479003>

President O'Grady called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M.

Approval of the minutes of the September 3, 2019, General Session; the May 21, 2020, Briefing Session; and the May 18, 19, 20, and 22, 2020, Administrative Briefings. Commissioner Boyce moved to approve the minutes, seconded by President O'Grady. The minutes were approved by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0342-20, authorizing a Contract Modification with Fairfield Information Associates LLC DBA American Court Services to allow the Franklin County Common Pleas Court-General Division to use an existing contract for Drug Testing Services. (Revised Estimated Contract Amount: \$165,000.00). (\$165,000.00) (Court of Common Pleas), presented by Kimberly Canada, Director of Finance and Purchasing, Court of Common Pleas.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0342-20, seconded by President O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

PUBLIC HEARING: Resolution regarding establishing, altering and widening of Brown Road, County Road No. 142 from Frank Road, County Road No. 125 to US Route 62, Harrisburg Pike, Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, viewed – Engineer to file plans.

President O’Grady: I would like to open this up for the Public Hearing. Would anyone like to speak regarding this Public Hearing? Seeing none, I will close the Public Hearing.

Resolution No. 0343-20, establishing, altering and widening of Brown Road, County Road No. 142 from Frank Road, County Road No. 125 to US Route 62, Harrisburg Pike, Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, viewed – Engineer to file plans as necessary (Engineer), presented by Cornell Robertson, Engineer, Engineer’s Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0343-20, seconded by President O’Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0344-20, authorizing the adoption of the Franklin County Engineer’s Equitable Business Enterprise (FCE EBE) Program for Locally Funded Projects (Engineer), presented by Cornell Robertson, Engineer, and Simone Burley, Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator, Engineer’s Office

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0344-20, seconded by President O’Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0345-20, Arcadis U.S., Inc., consulting engineers appointed to assist the Franklin County Engineer by providing engineering services for London-Groveport Road, SR317 at Lockbourne Road, County Road No. 13, Hamilton Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$171,283.54) (Engineer), presented by Cornell Robertson, Engineer, Engineer’s Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0345-20, seconded by President O’Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0346-20, authorizing a contract with Hall’s Construction Materials Testing, Inc. to provide consulting services (\$50,000.00) (Engineer), presented by Cornell Robertson, Engineer, Engineer’s Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0346-20, seconded by President O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0347-20, authorizing a settlement to Taylor Penwell, Timothy Finney, Lorne Penwell, Audrie Smith and Mackintosh Finney(minor) for a disputed vehicle damage claim due to an auto accident involving a Franklin County Sheriff's Deputy (\$35,000.00) (Sheriff), presented by David Masterson, Director of Administrative Services, Sheriff's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0347-20, seconded by President O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0348-20, authorizing a one-year contract with Woolpert, Inc. for orthographic aerial Current Agricultural Use Valuation (CAUV) photography utilizing non-general funds (\$63,500.00) (Auditor), presented by Michael Stinziano, Auditor, Auditor's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0348-20, seconded by President O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0349-20, authorizing a contract with Woolpert, Inc. for geographical information system (GIS) building outline dataset enhancement services utilizing non-general funds (\$494,347.00) (Auditor), presented by Michel Stinziano, Auditor, Auditor's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0349-20, seconded by President O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0350-20, authorizing the County Administrator to enter into a memorandum of understanding with service providers of the National Family Caregiver Support Program administered by Franklin County Office on Aging (Office on Aging), presented by Amy Funk, Interim Director, Office on Aging.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0350-20, seconded by President O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0351-20, authorizing a Funding Agreement with Homes on the Hill for the Township Homes Housing Project to construct three (3) single-family homes under the County's HOME Community Housing Development Organization Reserve (CHDO-R) Program (\$120,086.10) (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Jenny Snapp, Assistant Director, Economic Development and Planning.

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

Commissioner Boyce requested to see an annual report regarding the county's HOME Community Housing Development Organization Reserve (CHDO-R) Program, during the county's annual budget review.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0351-20, seconded by President O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0352-20, authorizing a Grant Agreement with Impact Community Action for Franklin County COVID-19 Emergency Assistance/Eviction Prevention in support of the Housing Stabilization Coalition's HOPE Fund (\$500,000.00) (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Jenny Snapp, Assistant Director, Economic Development and Planning.

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

Robert "Bo" Chilton, CEO, IMPACT Community Action, addressed the Board in support of this resolution.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0352-20, seconded by President O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0353-20, establishing a new Prevention, Retention and Contingency (PRC) Plus Program and increasing funding for the existing PRC Emergency Assistance Program in response to the impending eviction crisis resulting from the COVID-19 public health emergency (\$2,100,000.00) (Job and Family Services), presented by Joy Bivens, Director, and Vivian Turner, Assistant Director, Job and Family Services.

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

Commissioner Boyce requested that statistical information related to the proposed resolution be shared with his office.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0353-20, seconded by President O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

PUBLIC HEARING: Resolution to approve an application and plan for Suburban Steel Supply Company to apply brine to its private roads and parking areas.

President O'Grady: I would like to open this up for the Public Hearing. Would anyone like to speak regarding this Public Hearing? Seeing none, I will close the Public Hearing.

Resolution No. 0354-20, approving an application and plan for Suburban Steel Supply Company to apply brine to its private roads and parking areas (Sanitary Engineers), presented by Ryan Stowe, Project Engineer, Sanitary Engineer.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0354-20, seconded by President O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0355-20, authorizing a contract extension with Virtual Case Manager for web-based case management software licensure through the FY 2018 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Medication Assisted Treatment grant program (\$2,500.00) (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Michael Daniels, Director, Justice Policy and Programs.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0355-20, seconded by President O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0356-20, authorizing a contract with AccessHealth Columbus, DBA the Healthcare Collaborative of Greater Columbus, for the provision of jail diversion services and care coordination (\$25,000.00) (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Michael Daniels, Director, Justice Policy and Programs.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0356-20, seconded by President O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0357-20, authorizing the President of the Board of Commissioners to accept on behalf of Franklin County a FY 2020 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program award from the U.S. Department of Justice (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Michael Daniels, Director, Justice Policy and Programs.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0357-20, seconded by President O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0358-20, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$1,697,854.72) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution 0358-20, seconded by President O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote.

Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator: I would like to briefly provide an update of where the county is regarding COVID-19 response efforts, in relation to Resolution 181-20, which declared an emergency related to COVID-19, and authorized the County Administrator to take certain actions and report back to the Board on any actions taken. This update covers the time between April 13 and May 25, 2020. One purchase order in the amount of \$220,374.54 was approved to meet critical IT needs. Since the declaration, eight purchase orders totaling \$349,210.29 have been approved to effectively deal with the emergency related to COVID-19. On April 30, 2020, a workgroup began meeting to identify and propose solutions for moving the county to a new normal. The workgroup established four committees to focus on items for review. Human Resources, IT and Technology, general meetings, and facility and building needs. In addition, volunteers from various agencies, boards, courts and other offices, and each committee had representation from the Office of Management & Budget, and the Prosecutor's Office, as well as Franklin County Public Health. These recommendations from each of these committees are due to my office by tomorrow, May 27, 2020. With today's actions, the Board's approvals total \$11,570,529.00. Today's deficit represents \$11,570,590.00. These efforts represent housing, small business relief, building modifications, eviction prevention and rental assistance, as was highlighted today. I would like to commend all the county agencies for their efforts to date, as well as thank the Commissioners for your continued leadership as we move through this unprecedented time in the county's history. I'm confident as we

continue to move forward, the county will be stronger when this all ends, at some point in time.

Mark Kovac, Columbus Dispatch: On evictions and that kind of thing, are you looking longer term, as the money that was approved today? I think there was mention of about three months, dealing with the initial onslaught of these evictions that are coming through. I assume that initial money is not going to be enough to cover the growing need that's out there, and if you could briefly comment on why it's important to help people remain in their homes as far as the bigger picture on poverty, I would appreciate it.

President O'Grady: At the end of the day, we were battling poverty and working to battle poverty before this situation came upon us a couple of months ago, and then this happened. This is a financial crisis that has hit us, it is unprecedented, it was unexpected. For some people, things went from normal to terrible, for other people, things went from bad to worse. We have people that were dealing with tough economic times, tough financial situations, and now they're devastated. We had other people that were living from paycheck to paycheck, who suddenly went without a paycheck. We had other folks that were doing ok, and then suddenly, they ended in a situation where they've got nothing. We've got people that are dealing suddenly with a loss of income. Evictions are coming for all kinds of folks. People who were facing eviction before the crisis, people who didn't really imagine facing eviction before the crisis, who all now are facing eviction. So, this is an issue we need to work on, we need to figure out across the board.

Commissioner Boyce: Housing is the most fundamental thing for quality of life. It starts and ends with where you lay your head at night, but this investment is to ensure that those who are most vulnerable have a fighting chance. Sometimes you don't know what the scenario has brought them, how they got there or why. But at the end of the day, what matters most is stabilizing them, so they can continue. You talk to any one of those families that have accessed those resources, and I guarantee you, you will see a unique story to their situation, but at the heart of it, will be just their fundamental need to survive, and that begins with housing. So, to me when you ask if this is a long-term thing, of course it is. We will always take on the idea of eliminating poverty, we're going to reduce poverty, we must be able to invest in the most fundamental elements of what it takes to provide a decent quality of life for people. I don't know what it's going to look like long term, but I know this, that's what we are here for, that's what these resources are for. The idea around the poverty work is to eliminate the need for the eviction program. To try to create environments where families can be self-sustaining and that's the difference in how we've approached it over the last couple of years. It's not about the rent subsidy or food resources, it's about getting folks from their most vulnerable state to be in a self-sustaining position in life.

Joy Bivens, Director, Job and Family Services: The only reason why it goes through September, is because that coincides with the federal fiscal year. If there are evictions in Franklin County, I believe that there will always be a demand. I don't know if resources will always be there, but I think Commissioner Boyce touched on it. Housing is essential. It touches on the social determinants of health. If you don't have housing, it impacts everything else about a person's life. We must figure out a way to be intentional like we are today, addressing evictions so families can be healthy and work.

Erik Janas, Deputy County Administrator: I missed the question. Was the question related to why the September 30th deadline?

Mr. Kovac: No, it's two-part. The part that's already been addressed is why it's important to help people remain in their homes. The first part was, how much more money do you think you're going to need to put into prevention specifically related to coronavirus. I assume that's in the works. I'm thinking back a couple of months ago to that Job and Family Services program, where the assistance lasted a day, and I assume this rental assistance is going to go quickly. Do you anticipate having to put more money into COVID-19 eviction response efforts past this next few months?

Mr. Janas: I would say a couple of things. One, the Commissioners already mentioned, through the Department of Job and Family Services, we regularly do eviction prevention through the PRC Program. So, we have an idea of what demand has been over the first eight months of the federal fiscal year and in particular, the last couple of months as this crisis has escalated, which is why we made the initial decision to put the dollars in now, and why we expanded the program to help people above that one hundred and sixty-five percent poverty threshold. The idea was, let's make sure that we get some dollars into the program quickly, and see how it goes, and we'll make that judgment based on both the demand, but also, we must balance that in terms of resources that we have, that the federal government provides. The program was stood up to initially get started quickly, be able to address families before that June 1st date, as the eviction moratorium is lifted, and then we're going to evaluate. If the demand is there and the resources are there, then we'll come back to the Commissioners with additional recommendations.

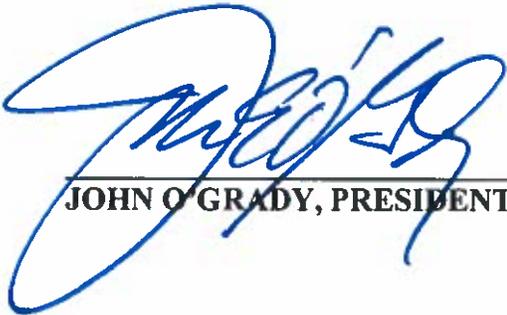
Mr. Wilson: I will now move to the numbers, looking retrospectively, which is the period of the last three months. We responded right away as it related to housing needs, both emergent and the foreclosure wave that we knew was associated with the June 1st date that has been referenced. But looking retrospectively, we have not overreached as far as our initial efforts. We provided \$250,000.00 to the Ohio and Hispanic Coalition. Those dollars are primarily aimed and will go to the rental system. We have \$250,000.00 as well to the Columbus Urban League, and we will be monitoring those expenditures. Then about \$1.1 million to the Community Shelter Board for housing and homeless related expenses. We are using multiple revenue streams. The \$1.1 million is CARES Act money, supplemental community development block grant dollars. Then in addition to that, today, \$500,000.00 to the HOPE Coalition, which is built for the long-term, if you're able to find funding for that and the dollars that have been identified within Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services. So, as noted, we will be monitoring the situation. But as Administrator, I don't expect this to be a situation where you come in with relief and this is the type of problem that's going to go away. We've got to be strategic and thoughtful in the amount of dollars that we have available. For example, our coronavirus relief fund initially received \$76.3 million. We've been very thoughtful and strategic in bringing proposals forward to the Board to expend those dollars. So, as a result of that, I'm preparing on the general fund side for the county to lose sales tax revenue, but that would not inhibit our abilities to effectively use almost \$65 million that we still have unallocated of those dollars, to use towards the needs that the county will see as it relates to COVID-19. So, we

are trying to be thoughtful and strategic, because we want to be resilient and flexible, because we don't know how long this pandemic may last.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:56 A.M.

(Signature Page Follows)

These minutes are a summary of the Commissioners' meeting of May 26, 2020.



JOHN O'GRADY, PRESIDENT



MARILYN BROWN



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

Submitted by:



Victoria Caldwell