

**FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 5, 2015
6:00 P.M.**

Present: Commission Chairman Thomas Bridges
District 1 Commissioner Robert Franklin
District 2 Commissioner David Strickland
District 3 Commissioner Jeff Jacques
District 4 Commissioner Eddie Wester

Media: Shane Scoggins, Franklin County Citizen
MJ Kneiser, WLHR

Staff: County Manager, Beth Thomas
County Clerk, Elaine Evans
County Attorney, Bubba Samuels

Item 1 & 2: Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance – Chairman Bridges called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the January regular board meeting. He said that he would like to see more in attendance and then thanked those who came out. Chairman Bridges also thanked Shane Scoggins of the *Franklin County Citizen* for his attendance and attention to keeping the citizens of the County informed. He then asked Commissioner Franklin to lead the invocation and pledge to the American flag.

Chairman Bridges welcomed County Manager Beth Thomas to her first official meeting. He then welcomed Commissioner Eddie Wester to the Commission Board and thanked him for accepting the challenge of Commissioner.

Item 3: Approval of Minutes:

December 1, 2014 Public Hearing
December 1, 2014 Regular Board Meeting
December 19, 2014 Planning Work Session

Chairman Bridges said that County Clerk Elaine Evans does an excellent job with the minutes. He said that she gets the minutes to the Commissioners for review and gives an opportunity for corrections. He then asked for a motion to approve the three sets of minutes from December. Commissioner Strickland made the motion to approve all three sets of minutes. Commissioner Jacques seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Chairman Bridges then asked for a show of hands. The motion passed by five (5) YES votes to zero (0) NO votes. The YES votes were Chairman Bridges; Commissioner Wester; Commissioner Jacques; Commissioner Strickland;

and Commissioner Franklin.

Item 4: Items To Be Discussed: -

A. Public Comment – Chairman Bridges asked if anyone had anything for public comment. There was no public comment.

B. Tax Assessor Board Appointment – Chairman Bridges said that one member position is open on the Tax Assessor Board which has been held by Gary Farmer. This position has been advertised and applications have been accepted. He then asked County Manager Beth Thomas to speak on this. Mrs. Thomas said that one application was received after advertising the position. Gary Farmer is the sole applicant. Mr. Farmer has agreed to accept the position if he is reappointed. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to reappoint Gary Farmer to the Tax Assessor Board. Commissioner Strickland made the motion to reappoint Mr. Farmer. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The motion was approved by five (5) YES votes to zero (0) NO votes. The YES votes were Commissioner Franklin; Commissioner Strickland; Chairman Bridges; Commissioner Jacques; and Commissioner Wester.

C. Gunby Communications Proposal – Chairman Bridges asked County Manager Beth Thomas to explain the Gunby Communications proposal. Mrs. Thomas said that this was discussed at the December work session. She said that the communications in the County have been handled by Gunby Communications for a long time. Gunby Communications has proposed an agreement which will allow them to erect towers on Franklin County property. Franklin County would have ownership of the towers with Gunby Communications having the space. This will improve the communications in the County, primarily when the officers are out of their vehicles on calls. The contract is not completed between Franklin County and Gunby Communications due to the holidays.

Mrs. Thomas asked that the Commission Board give approval of execution of the contract when it is available. Chairman Bridges clarified that the motion would be for approval of a contract with Gunby Communications and execution of same. He then asked for a motion to move forward with the Gunby Communications contract. Commissioner Jacques made the motion with the condition that Gunby Communications either pay for a new voter or provide the County with a used voter at a reduced cost. He also said that this would greatly improve communications in the Gumlog and northern Lavonia areas. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Strickland seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The motion passed by five (5) YES votes to zero (0) NO votes. The YES votes were Commissioner Wester; Commissioner Jacques; Chairman Bridges; Commissioner Franklin; and Commissioner Strickland.

D. 2015 Landfill Compliance Services – Chairman Bridges asked County Manager Beth Thomas to explain the 2015 landfill compliance services proposal. Mrs. Thomas said the services are required on the closed landfill. Jacobs Engineering has negotiated with EPD on behalf of Franklin County and has delayed additional monitoring. This resulted in a savings to the County. The proposal from Jacobs Engineering for 2015 is \$1,650 less than the cost for 2014.

Mrs. Thomas asked the Commission Board to approve execution of the contract with Jacobs Engineering for 2015 landfill monitoring. Chairman Bridges said that he was pleased with the services by Jacobs Engineering and the savings to the County for 2015. He then asked for a motion and a second to accept the proposal from Jacobs Engineering. Commissioner Jacques made the motion. Commissioner Strickland seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The motion passed by five (5) YES votes to zero (0) NO votes. The YES votes were Chairman Bridges; Commissioner Wester; Commissioner Jacques; Commissioner Franklin; and Commissioner Strickland.

E. Executive Session - Chairman Bridges asked for a motion and a second to close the regular board meeting and go into executive session for the purpose of real estate and personnel discussion. Commissioner Jacques made the motion to close the regular board meeting and go into executive session for discussion of real estate and personnel. Commissioner Strickland seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed by five (5) YES votes to zero (0) NO votes. The YES votes were Commissioner Franklin; Commissioner Strickland; Chairman Bridges; Commissioner Jacques; and Commissioner Wester. The regular board meeting closed to go into executive session at 6:15 p.m.

Chairman Bridges asked for a motion and a second to come out of executive session. Commissioner Jacques made the motion to come out of executive session and go back into the regular board meeting also for Chairman Bridges to sign the closed meeting affidavit in which real estate and personnel issues were discussed. Commissioner Strickland seconded the motion. The regular board meeting resumed at 7:40 p.m. There was no discussion. The motion passed by five (5) YES votes to zero (0) NO votes. The YES votes were Commissioner Jacques; Commissioner Strickland; Commissioner Wester; Commissioner Franklin; and Chairman Bridges.

F. Appointment of County Clerk – Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to reappoint Elaine Evans as County Clerk. Commissioner Jacques made the motion to reappoint Mrs. Evans as County Clerk. Commissioner Strickland seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed by five (5) YES votes to zero (0) NO votes. The YES votes were Commissioner Franklin; Commissioner Strickland; Chairman Bridges; Commissioner Jacques; and Commissioner Wester.

G. Appointment of County Attorney – Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to reappoint Bubba Samuels as County Attorney. Commissioner Jacques made the motion to reappoint Mr. Samuels as County Attorney. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed by four (4) YES votes to zero (0) NO votes. Commissioner Strickland abstained from the vote. The YES votes were Commissioner Franklin; Chairman Bridges; Commissioner Jacques; and Commissioner Wester.

Chairman Bridges asked for a motion and a second to adjourn the regular board meeting. Commissioner Strickland made the motion. Commissioner Jacques seconded the motion. The motion passed by five (5) YES votes to zero (0) NO votes. The YES votes were Commissioner Wester; Commissioner Jacques; Chairman Bridges; Commissioner Strickland; and Commissioner Franklin. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Signed on the _____ day of _____, 2015

Chairman J. Thomas Bridges

Robert L. Franklin, District 1 Commissioner

David R. Strickland, District 2 Commissioner

Jeff Jacques, District 3 Commissioner

Eddie Wester, District 4 Commissioner

Elaine H. Evans, County Clerk