

**FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

April 4, 2016

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 Engineer, John Phillips

Item 1 & 2: Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance – Chairman Bridges welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming out to the April regular board meeting. He called the meeting to order and asked Commissioner Franklin to lead the invocation and pledge to the American flag.

Item 3: Approval of Minutes:

March 7, 2016 Regular Board Meeting
March 29, 2016 Work Session

Chairman Bridges said that there are two sets of minutes to approve that were presented to each Commissioner for review. He asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Commissioner Jacques made the motion following review to accept the minutes as written. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Franklin 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 Franklin; Commissioner Strickland; Chairman Bridges; Commissioner Jacques; and Commissioner Wester.

Item 4: Items for discussion:

A. Public Comment – Chairman Bridges asked if anyone would like to make a public comment to the Commissioners. There was no public comment.

B. Public Hearing item – New Beginnings Ministry – conditional use

permit – Chairman Bridges asked County Engineer John Phillips to give the recommendation from the Planning Committee. Mr. Phillips said that New Beginnings Ministry filed a conditional use permit for the construction of a parking lot and septic drain fill for a new church that will be constructed on their adjoining property which has already been approved. The Planning Committee reviewed the application from New Beginnings and recommends approval.

Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the recommendation from the Planning Committee to grant a conditional use permit to New Beginnings Ministry. Commissioner Franklin made the motion to accept. Commissioner Wester seconded the motion. Chairman Bridges asked for discussion. Commissioner Strickland said that he would abstain from the vote as he was unable to attend the public hearing. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The motion passed by four (4) YES votes to zero (0) NO votes. The YES votes were Commissioner Wester; Commissioner Jacques; Chairman Bridges; and Commissioner Franklin County. Commissioner Strickland abstained from the vote.

C. Tower Contract – Chairman Bridges asked County Manager Beth Thomas to go over the tower contract item. Mrs. Thomas said that available space on the Gerrard Road tower was discussed in previous meetings. She said that the Georgia State Patrol has taken their equipment down and Georgia Power is interested in putting equipment up. Mrs. Thomas said that the contract has been revised with recommended changes from County Attorney Bubba Samuels. Georgia Power has accepted all of the changes. Mrs. Thomas asked that this contract be approved and also to give the Chairman approval to execute it. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the recommendation from Mrs. Thomas. Commissioner Strickland made the motion to move forward with the contract and give the Chairman permission to sign it. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Jacques seconded the motion in concurrence of the County Attorney's review and recommendation. 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 Jacques; Commissioner Strickland; Commissioner Franklin; and Commissioner Wester.

D. Mutual Aid agreement – Chairman Bridges said that the mutual aid agreement had been given to each Commissioner for review. He asked Mrs. Thomas to explain this item further. Mrs. Thomas said that this agreement was presented at last month's work session. This is a periodic update from GEMA which will replace the current agreement. Mrs. Thomas recommended that the Commission Board accept this agreement and authorize the Chairman to execute it. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the mutual aid agreement. Commissioner Jacques made the motion with this being the predecessor to many of the available grants and/or monies that could potentially be available to Franklin County. 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 Strickland; and Commissioner Franklin.

E. DAC Bond agreement – Chairman Bridges asked Mrs. Thomas to go over the DAC Bond agreement. Mrs. Thomas said that this was presented at last month's work session. DAC Bond specializes in providing reporting services that are part of a bond. The bond attorney Jim Pannell highly recommends that Franklin County contract with DAC Bond. The operating data will be updated and available for the public statement through the services of DAC Bond. Having the DAC Bond seal on the documents will make the hospital refinancing an easier process. Mrs. Thomas recommended to the Commission Board that this be approved so that the County can move forward. Commissioner Strickland asked what Franklin County's attorney said. Mrs. Thomas said that the county attorney is working closely with the bond attorney but this is a bond issue so the bond attorney is handling it.

Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the bond agreement. Commissioner Jacques made the motion. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Strickland seconded for discussion. Chairman Bridges asked for discussion. Commissioner Strickland asked for clarification about the continuation fee. Mrs. Thomas said that the setup fee is \$1,000 and the oncoming annual storage filing fee is \$2,500. She said that to get this information ready for this year, the fee will be \$3,500. If the County continues to use DAC Bond it will be \$2,500 thereafter per year. Commissioner Jacques said that the fee structure in the document is set up this way. 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 Franklin; Commissioner Strickland; Chairman Bridges; Commissioner Jacques; and Commissioner Wester.

F. Sale of Land – Chairman Bridges said that the County has not sold any land in quite a while but there is a piece of land that was discussed for sale at the last work session. He asked Mrs. Thomas to explain this item. Mrs. Thomas said that the County owns a small lot on Old Chism Trail. The entrance to this lot is blocked by two boulders. For clarification Mrs. Thomas explained that it is not illegal for the County to sell land but it has to be done properly. Due process and due diligence should be done.

Mrs. Thomas recommended that the Commission Board approve advertisement for sealed bids to sale this piece of property. She said that the Commission Board can make the decision after the sealed bids are received. Commissioner Strickland asked if the County had to accept the highest bid even if it was an unacceptable bid. Mrs. Thomas said that her understanding is that the County could reject the bids. She also stated that the county attorney would be involved in this process. Commissioner Jacques said that the Board would have the discretion to accept or reject bids. Mrs. Thomas said that is how she understands the law as well.

Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to move forward with the recommendation from Mrs. Thomas. Commissioner Strickland made the motion to put this out for sealed bids. Commissioner Jacques seconded the motion. Chairman Bridges asked if there was any further discussion before the vote. Commissioner Franklin asked what size the property is. Mrs. Thomas said that it is less than an acre. All of the lots on Old Chism Trail are very small. Someone could purchase the property and place a manufactured

home on it with the County setback requirements. This is about all that would fit on the property. There was no other 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 Strickland; and Commissioner Franklin.

Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Jacques made the motion. Commissioner Strickland seconded the motion. The motion passed by five (5) YES votes to zero (0) NO votes. The YES votes were Commissioner Strickland; Commissioner Jacques; Commissioner Franklin; Commissioner Wester; and Chairman Bridges. The meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Signed on the _____ day of _____, 2016

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