

**FRANKLIN COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
March 7, 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 Attorney, Bubba Samuels

**Item 1 & 2: Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance** – Chairman Bridges welcomed everyone and called the March regular board meeting to order. He asked Commissioner Wester to lead the invocation and pledge to the American flag.

**Item 3: Approval of Minutes:**

February 1, 2016 Regular Board Meeting/Planning Session  
February 23, 2016 Work Session

Chairman Bridges said that the first item is the approval of the February minutes. He said that each Commissioner has had an opportunity to review them. Chairman Bridges then asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Commissioner Strickland made the motion to accept the minutes. Commissioner Jacques 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 said the next item is public comment. There were no comments from the public. Commissioner Franklin said that he wanted to express his appreciation to the Water Department. He said that a water main burst on Prospect Road over the weekend. The Water Department was able to isolate the leak and get water back to the community. Commissioner Franklin said that

he appreciated the work that the Water Department does.

Chairman Bridges said that he wanted to comment on the cleanup crew for Franklin County. He said that this is the crew of inmates that Drew McAdams is over. Drew McAdams is an employee of the Sheriff's Department. Chairman Bridges said that this crew is going out into the County where a lot of trash has been dumped. He said that he commended County Manager Beth Thomas for getting in touch with the Sheriff's Office and requesting Drew McAdams and his crew cleanup some of the roads that complaints have been received on. Chairman Bridges said that the next day a citizen called him and complimented the County on the cleanup. Mrs. Thomas said that the crew picked up 12 bags of trash and two bags of cans. Chairman Bridges said that there is a State law that governs litter. He asked the public to bring litter to the attention of the County so that steps can be taken to eliminate trash in the roadways. He also thanked the Sheriff's Office for their help in getting the road cleaned up.

Commissioner Strickland asked if the County Marshal could take a crew out on Saturday's for community service. He said that the County Marshal told him that it was a liability issue if he takes a crew out on the roadway. Commissioner Strickland asked Mrs. Thomas if this was true. Mrs. Thomas said that she would get with the County Marshal about this but he does do cleanup for the County. She said that he does a lot of cleanup in places that are far worse than a broad open road. Commissioner Strickland said that Harrison Bridge Road on the way to the dump is a pretty bad road. Mrs. Thomas told Commissioner Strickland that she appreciated him bringing this to her attention. She said that if anyone sees trash to please call the BOC Office and it will be put on the list of roads for cleanup.

M.J. Kneiser made a comment as a citizen not as a reporter. She said that in her neighborhood on Rue Chalet Road in Brittany Harbor East there is a dead deer. This dead deer is attracting dozens of buzzards. Ms. Kneiser asked how to go about getting this dead deer removed. Mrs. Thomas said that the Road Department removes dead animals. She said to call the Board of Commissioners Office and this message will be relayed to the Road Department. Commissioner Jacques stated to Ms. Kneiser that her comment in the meeting will be in lieu of a call to the BOC Office. Mrs. Thomas said that she would relay this to the Road Department. Chairman Bridges said that this would be taken care of. There were no further comments or concerns.

**B. Tower Contract** – Chairman Bridges moved to the next agenda item, the tower contract. He said that Mrs. Thomas has been working on this and he asked her to comment on the item. Mrs. Thomas said that this was presented at the work session as she knew that some modifications were needed to the contract. She said that she asked County Attorney Bubba Samuels to modify the contract. Mr. Samuels has made the modifications and has sent the contract to the other party. The contract has not been returned at this time. Mrs. Thomas made the recommendation to table the vote until the contract is received. Commissioner Jacques asked if there were any changes to the monetary compensation. Mrs. Thomas assured him that the only changes are the legal verbiage. Certain government language is required in contracts. Maintenance

clarification and non-disturbance of the land were also added.

Commissioner Strickland asked if this was something that they could go ahead and vote on so that the County does not lose money. Mrs. Thomas said that a motion could be worded to agree that the Chairman could execute the contract, but it will not speed up the money coming in. She does not believe that any equipment will be placed on the land until the contract is executed. There was no further discussion.

**C. Rocky Ford bid** – Chairman Bridges said that the next item is the Rocky Ford bid. He said that he appreciated the good bids that came into the County for this project. Chairman Bridges then asked Mrs. Thomas to go over this item further. Mrs. Thomas said that five bids were received and were opened on February 18. She said that she is thankful that local contractors bid on this project as the lowest bid came from a local contractor. Mrs. Thomas said that the low bid was approximately \$57,000. The average of the five bids was approximately \$76,000. She said that she concurs with the recommendation from the County Engineer John Phillips to go with the low bid from Stratton and Sons to repave the middle parking lot at Rocky Ford. Chairman Bridges clarified that the bid amount was \$57,319.70 from Stratton and Sons. Mrs. Thomas said yes. Chairman Bridges said that he was pleased that this bid was from a local contractor. He asked for a motion to award the contract to Stratton and Sons. Commissioner Jacques gladly made the motion to award the repaving of Rocky Ford to Stratton and Sons from Canon, GA. 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.

Commissioner Strickland asked when the project would begin. Mrs. Thomas said that the process will be started by announcing that Stratton and Sons won the contract. She said that this project will be paid for out of SPLOST IV funds, not the general fund. Mrs. Thomas said that the County will get with Stratton and Sons to work around the schedule of the Recreation games and weather.

There was no further discussion. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Strickland made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Jacques seconded the motion. 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. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Signed on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016

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Chairman J. Thomas Bridges

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Robert L. Franklin, District 1 Commissioner

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David R. Strickland, District 2 Commissioner

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Jeff Jacques, District 3 Commissioner

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Eddie Wester, District 4 Commissioner

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Elaine H. Evans, County Clerk