

**FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 14, 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 Engineer, John Phillips
County Attorney, Bubba Samuels

Item 1 & 2: Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance – Chairman Bridges welcomed everyone to the September 14 regular board meeting. He asked Commissioner Jacques to lead the invocation. After the invocation Chairman Bridges asked Cub Scout Pack 51 to lead the pledge of allegiance to the American flag. Commissioner Jacques stated that the Cub Scouts did a good job. Chairman Bridges said it would be nice to have a group like this at every Commission meeting. Commissioner Strickland said that this could literally be done.

Item 3: Approval of Minutes:

August 3, 2015 Public Hearing
August 3, 2015 Regular Board Meeting
August 25, 2015 Work Session
September 4, 2015 Special Called Meeting

Chairman Bridges said that there are four sets of minutes on the agenda for approval. He said that each Commissioner had been given an opportunity to look at the minutes. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Commissioner Strickland made a motion to approve all the minutes as one. 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 Strickland; and Commissioner Wester.

Item 4: *Items for discussion:*

A. Public Comment – Chairman Bridges asked if anyone would like to speak in public comment. There was no one who wished to speak in public comment.

B. ACCG presentation to Senator John Wilkinson – Chairman Bridges welcomed Shaun Adams with ACCG to make the presentation to Senator John Wilkinson. Mr. Adams stated that he is with the Association of County Commissioners in Georgia (ACCG) which represents all 159 counties in Georgia. He made the presentation of the ACCG 2015 Legislator of the Year to Senator John Wilkinson of the 50th District. The background information for the award is that in the fall of 2014, Chairman Bridges brought to the attention of ACCG and Senator Wilkinson the reduction of revenue in the registration of international trucks. There was a change in 2013 that doubled the revenue state wide but decreased disbursement to around 48 counties. Senator Wilkinson sponsored legislation to keep this from happening. The legislation had to be signed by the Governor by March 31 to keep 48 counties from losing revenue. Senator Wilkinson got this signed by the Governor on March 31 and the bill went into effect on April 1. The distribution came out on August 1 of this year and every county received at least as much revenue as they had in the past or more. With the thanks from ACCG, Mr. Adams presented Senator Wilkinson with the 2015 Legislation Award which was a picture of one of the Georgia courthouses. Chairman Bridges thanked Mr. Adams and Senator Wilkinson for coming. Senator Wilkinson said that he was given a choice of where he wanted the presentation to be made and he picked Franklin County. He said that he appreciates all that Franklin County does.

Chairman Bridges said that he appreciates the work that Senator Wilkinson does for Franklin County to keep revenue in the County. He said that he also appreciates the work that Senator Wilkinson did on House Bill 170 to keep Franklin County from losing millions of dollars in revenue. Franklin County is very fortunate to have Senator Wilkinson working on its behalf. Commissioner Strickland said that Representative Alan Powell as well as Senator Wilkinson work hard for Franklin County.

C. Cub Scout Pack 51 presentation – Sharon Powell - County Manager Beth Thomas said that Sharon Powell was unable to attend the meeting due to jury duty. Mrs. Thomas asked Cub Scout Pack 51 to come forward as she read the letter from Ms. Powell commending them. Ms. Powell's letter stated that on May 9, 2015 she worked with Cub Scout Pack 51 at the Lavonia Recycling Center for the Northeast Georgia Day of Service. The Cub Scouts worked on this day to assist customers and learn recycling thereby earning their Conservation Good Turn badge. In her letter, Ms. Powell also thanked Cub Master Melissa Bennett and Den Leaders Richard Palmer; John Willette; and David Howell for their time and dedication to Cub Scout Pack 51 in changing the young boys into brave men. Mrs. Thomas thanked the Cub Scouts on Ms. Powell's behalf for their day of service and for attending the meeting.

Cub Master Melissa Bennett came forward to give the awards to the Cub Scouts from Ms. Powell. Ms. Bennett said that Sharon Powell bought the awards for the boys.

She also made sure that Ms. Bennett had them to give to the Cub Scouts at the meeting. Ms. Bennett introduced each Cub Scout as she made the presentation of awards. The Cub Scouts attending and receiving the award were Noah Palmer; JT Strickland; Jayden Willette; Tyler Bennett; Chance Taylor; and Charlie Jones. Tyler Whitten also attended and he is presently working on his badge. Chairman Bridges and the Commission Board congratulated the Cub Scouts and thanked them for their service and attendance at the Commission meeting.

D. Aderhold Road safety and grading – Walter Brown – Chairman Bridges said that the next item on the agenda is Walter Brown for Aderhold Road safety and grading. Mr. Brown was not in attendance therefore this item was not discussed.

E. Public Hearing Items – Chairman Bridges said that the first public hearing item to be voted on is the rezone and conditional use for John T. Maddux. He asked County Engineer John Phillips to give the recommendation from the Planning Commission. Mr. Phillips asked that the rezone and conditional use for Mr. Maddux be approved as per the Planning Commission. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Jacques made the motion to approve. 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.

The second public hearing item to be voted on is a conditional use for a poultry farm for Dien Tran. Chairman Bridges asked Mr. Phillips to give the Planning Commission recommendation. Mr. Phillips said that the setback requirements are met and the recommendation from the Planning Commission is to approve the request. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Strickland made the motion to approve. Commissioner Wester 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 Strickland; Commissioner Franklin; Commissioner Jacques; and Commissioner Wester.

The third and last public hearing item to be voted on is a conditional use for a poultry farm for Yen Tran Pham. Chairman Bridges asked Mr. Phillips to give the recommendation and explain the item. Mr. Phillips said that this item was reviewed by the Planning Commission. There is a question of whether the farm meets the setback requirements. The recommendation from the Planning Commission is to approve the request contingent upon receiving a revised site plan showing that the farm meets all the requirements for setbacks. To date the revised site plan has not been received. Mr. Phillips recommended that the site plan be reviewed prior to approval of this request. Chairman Bridges said that this item will be tabled until the revised site plan is received by the Planning Commission. He then asked for a motion to table this issue. Commissioner Strickland made the motion to table. Commissioner Jacques seconded the motion. Chairman Bridges asked for discussion. Commissioner Strickland asked Mr. Phillips how long this process would take so that Ms. Pham would be able to proceed.

Mr. Phillips said that the number one point is to get the drawing to him for review by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission is scheduled to meet this Thursday night. The site plan can be reviewed Thursday night if received prior to the meeting. Ms. Pham said that she would deliver the plan in the morning. 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 Franklin; Commissioner Strickland; Commissioner Jacques; and Commissioner Wester.

F. IGA – Sewer project – Chairman Bridges asked County Manager Beth Thomas to comment on the IGA – sewer project agenda item. Mrs. Thomas said that this was presented at the work session. It has been approved by USDA and reviewed by the County Attorney. It is the recommendation of Mrs. Thomas to move forward by allowing Chairman Bridges to execute the document to continue with the waste water project. This intergovernmental agreement is between Franklin County and the City of Carnesville. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to approve the recommendation from Mrs. Thomas. Commissioner Strickland made the motion. 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 Wester; Commissioner Jacques; Chairman Bridges; Commissioner Strickland; and Commissioner Franklin.

G. LMIG – Chairman Bridges said that the Commission Board was previously given a list for review for LMIG. He then asked Mrs. Thomas to explain this item further. Mrs. Thomas said that the proposed list for 2016 consists of different roads and types of work in the different districts. Included in the 2016 LMIG proposal is repair work on wing walls. Mrs. Thomas asked that the list be approved so that the paperwork can be processed. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to move forward. Commissioner Jacques made the motion. 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 Chairman Bridges; Commissioner Franklin; Commissioner Wester; Commissioner Jacques; and Commissioner Strickland.

H. DA request – Chairman Bridges asked Mrs. Thomas to explain the request from the District Attorney. Mrs. Thomas said that Franklin County received this request from the DA's office. This type of request would normally be covered in a work session but due to the timing involved it is necessary to cover in a regular meeting. The DA is requesting that Franklin County contribute \$4,000 for Laserfiche project assistance. The information received stated that the DA's office will use drug forfeiture account money to pay for part of this project. Each county in the circuit is being asked for a \$4,000 contribution. Contributions will also be asked from each city in the circuit. Mrs. Thomas said that Hart County; Oglethorpe County; and Madison County have all approved the request. Elbert County is in the process of reviewing the request with the expectation of approval at their meeting. The Laserfiche will allow the DA to scan documents electronically.

Mrs. Thomas said the contribution from Franklin County to get this project up and

running is \$4,000. There will also be an annual cost of \$8,000 which should be spread among the circuit. Commissioner Strickland asked when this would be needed. Mrs. Thomas said that she understood that the DA would like the answer immediately. Chairman Bridges asked would this speed up the process of cases. Mrs. Thomas said that the idea is to streamline the process and eventually reduce the cost of storing paper documents. She said that the documents have to be stored for 25 years. Commissioner Strickland asked where the funds would come from because of the budget situation for the County. Mrs. Thomas said that this amount would have to be moved from another place. There have been favorable results on health insurance claims and another invoice was less than expected. She said that anything can happen in the later months but as of right now there have been some savings. Commissioner Strickland made the motion to approve the \$4,000 request by the DA's office. Commissioner Jacques seconded the motion. Chairman Bridges asked for discussion. Commissioner Strickland asked for clarification if the \$8,000 annual cost would be divided among the counties and cities in the circuit. Mrs. Thomas said that is her understanding but she is not speaking for the DA. 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.

Chairman Bridges thanked everyone for attending the Commission meeting. He asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Strickland made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Jacques seconded the motion. 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 meeting adjourned at 6:30 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