

**FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION MINUTES
October 27, 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

Item 1 & 2: Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance – Chairman Bridges welcomed everyone and called the work session to order. He asked Commissioner Franklin to lead the invocation and pledge to the American flag.

Item 3: *Items for discussion:*

A. Public Comment – Chairman Bridges asked if anyone had anything for public comment. There was no one who wished to speak.

B. Robert Boggs – Summit Grove Subdivision – Chairman Bridges asked Mr. Boggs to come forward and speak on behalf of Summit Grove subdivision. Mr. Boggs thanked everyone for the opportunity to speak about the issue in the Summit Grove subdivision. There is a sinkhole that is getting larger and larger. He said that there are around 18 homes in the subdivision. Mr. Boggs stated that he is afraid that the sinkhole will take over the whole road. On behalf of Summit Grove subdivision residents, Mr. Boggs asked Franklin County for financial help with the repair of the road. Chairman Bridges thanked Mr. Boggs for coming before the Commission Board.

Commissioner Wester asked where the subdivision is located. Mr. Boggs said that it is just off Hwy 59. Chairman Bridges asked who the contractor was. Mr. Boggs said that he does not know his name, that he understands that the contractor moved out of the area. Mr. Boggs asked if the subdivision road could be grandfathered in. Commissioner Jacques said the development of Summit Grove subdivision was before any of the present Commission Board members. He said that he did some previous research on this subdivision. Commissioner Jacques said that the former Commission Chairman Sam Elrod was in charge of the subdivision inspections to make sure that the prior County codes were met before the roads could be accepted for maintenance by

the County. Previous documentation by Mr. Elrod stated that the Summit Grove subdivision road was not sufficient to meet the County code. The road was placed over tree stumps and other debris that over time would cause deterioration and sub grade failure. Notification was given to the developer at that time that the County would not accept the road. Prior notification was also given to the residents of Summit Grove by a prior Commission Board that if the road was brought up to a certain standard that consideration would be given on accepting the road. Commissioner Jacques said that he would support this decision if the road was brought up to the standards of the County based on review and coordination of the County Engineer. Commissioner Strickland said that this was one of the first roads that he looked at when he became a commissioner. He quickly learned the difference between a private and a county road.

Commissioner Strickland said that the road would take a lot of work. It will have to be taken up and redone. Commissioner Jacques said that the sinkhole is not the only issue. The road will need extensive repairs because of the damage to the road. Chairman Bridges asked Mr. Boggs if he had talked with the County Engineer John Phillips. Mr. Boggs said that he has not. He only brought the issue before the Commission Board because of the safety to the residents. Commissioner Jacques recommended to County Manager Beth Thomas that Mr. Boggs contact John Phillips and let Mr. Phillips contact the Homeowners Association representative. Mrs. Thomas said that Mr. Phillips will look at this and refer to the County road policy. Commissioner Jacques said that there is a file at the BOC on Summit Grove and it has been reviewed by the County Attorney Bubba Samuels.

C. Franklin County Board Appointments

1. Cary Bennett positions resignation – Chairman Bridges said that Cary Bennett has been serving on several boards for quite a while. Mr. Bennett has chosen to resign. MJ Kneiser asked what positions Mr. Bennett is resigning from. Commissioner Jacques said that he is resigning from the Tri-County Development Authority and the joint Franklin-Hart Airport Authority. He said that per Franklin County protocol the positions will be advertised on the County website. Mrs. Thomas said that is her recommendation to the Commission Board. She said that these positions will be advertised for at least two weeks. Applications will be accepted at the Board of Commissioners office. Commissioner Strickland asked if the media would also announce the available positions. Ms. Kneiser said that she would. Chairman Bridges said that he appreciated the prior service from Mr. Bennett. He also appreciated the help with getting the word out about the open board positions.

2. Tax Assessor Board appointment – Chairman Bridges said that it is time to appointment a board member to the Tax Assessor Board. He said that the current board member with the expiring term is Dan Stroud and he is willing to be appointed again. Mr. Stroud has obtained certification and does an excellent job for the County. Mrs. Thomas said that her recommendation is to advertise the position on the County's website. Applications will be taken at the Board of Commissioners office. The Board of Assessors is in agreement for Mr. Stroud to be reappointed but County

protocol calls for the position to be advertised. Chairman Bridges said that the County will accept applications and make the appointment from all applications received.

3. DFACS appointment – Chairman Bridges said that there is an open position on the DFACS board. Mrs. Thomas said that this position has been advertised and only one application was received by the County. She said that this position would need to be voted on at the next regular board meeting. Chairman Bridges said that each commissioner has a copy of the application. He asked Mrs. Thomas if this is the only person to apply. Mrs. Thomas said that this is the only application received by the Board of Commissioners office. Chairman Bridges said that the application is from Andrea Smith of Royston. Commissioner Jacques asked if this opening was due to a term ending. Mrs. Thomas said yes. She also said that several phone calls were made about this position but this is the only application received by the County. Commissioner Jacques asked Mrs. Thomas to find out whose term on the DFACS board is ending. Mrs. Thomas said that she would find the answer and email to all the Commission Board.

D. Federal Grant Policy – Chairman Bridges asked Mrs. Thomas to give an update to the Commission Board on the federal grant policy. Mrs. Thomas said that as the policies are reviewed by County personnel there are certain ones that need to be updated. She said that as the revisions are found that the updates are being processed. Mrs. Thomas said that Franklin County was the recipient of a \$300,000 ARC federal grant. Federal money is also received through the Senior Center and the MANS departments. The sample policy came from state auditors who recently audited the MANS department. Mrs. Thomas asked each Commissioner to review the sample policy and make suggestions. She said that she would like for Franklin County to have this policy updated before the end of the year. Chairman Bridges asked each Commissioner to review the information and give suggestions. Commissioner Jacques thanked Mrs. Thomas for being proactive in identifying issues.

E. Professional Services Agreements

1. Jacobs agreement – Chairman Bridges asked Mrs. Thomas to go over the Jacobs agreement. Mrs. Thomas said that this agreement is with Jacobs Engineering for landfill services. She said that this would be a continuation of the contract that has been in place for a number of years. Jacobs Engineering reviews the landfill periodically for all of the elements that are required for a closed landfill. They have done a great job in the past. Mrs. Thomas said that she and County staff met earlier in the year with Jacobs to see the requirements for 2016 – 2017 cycle order. The information has been provided to each Commissioner. Mrs. Thomas asked that the Commission Board review this and allow the Chairman to sign the agreement and execute the task order. Chairman Bridges asked each Commissioner to be prepared to vote at the regular board meeting.

2. Legal Services – Chairman Bridges asked Mrs. Thomas to speak about the legal services. Mrs. Thomas said that each January the Commission Board

appoints the county attorney. She said that she has given each Commissioner information on an RFP for legal services. If this is something that the Commission Board is interested in the RFP needs to be sent out before January. Chairman Bridges said that his philosophy is to put things out for bid occasionally so that the County gets the best bang for the bucks. He also wants the citizens to be served well. Chairman Bridges said that he does not have any problem with the present attorney but this is to see if anyone local or anyone else would be interested in representing the County. Mrs. Thomas reaffirmed that this is a formality to ensure that the County is getting the best for what is charged. Chairman Bridges said that he is of the opinion that every three to five years it is a good thing to send out an RFP on any contract position to be competitive in pricing.

Commissioner Jacques said that with sending out an RFP he is interested in seeing a pricing structure. He said that this would be something that would be needed to evaluate the selection. Mrs. Thomas said that this could be included and the wording of the RFP can be changed anyway that the Commission Board would like. She said that this is why she wanted the Commission Board to review it so that it would be what they would like to know. Commissioner Strickland said that the Commission Board knows what the present county attorney charges, which is \$100 per hour. He said that he does not know where they can come up with anyone lower on price. Commissioner Jacques said that this is not about performance this is about making sure that everybody is on par. He said that the county attorney has done an outstanding job for Franklin County. There were no other comments or concerns.

F. ACCG Legislative Platform – Chairman Bridges said Franklin County is very much involved with the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG). The meeting for District 2 will be November 4th. Chairman Bridges has invited Senator John Wilkinson and Representative Alan Powell to this meeting. He asked each Commissioner to look over the legislative platform and express their concerns. Commissioner Bridges said that last year SB82 saved Franklin County major bucks. He said that he appreciated that the Commission Board worked together on this along with Senator Wilkinson. Chairman Bridges said that he would like for the Franklin County Commission Board to stay involved on a state level. He said that they had to be active to take care of Franklin County business. There were no other comments or concerns about the ACCG legislation.

G. SPLOST update – Chairman Bridges asked Mrs. Thomas to give an update on the SPLOST referendum that is coming up on November 3rd. Mrs. Thomas thanked everyone who came out to the SPLOST town hall meetings. She said that these have been good meetings with good conversations. Mrs. Thomas also thanked Shane Scoggins with the *Franklin County Citizen Leader* and MJ Kneiser with *WLHR* for reminders of the SPLOST town hall meetings. The vote is important and it is very important to have enough information to make an informed decision. Chairman Bridges thanked Mrs. Thomas for presenting the information to the citizens. He said that the goal is to educate the public so that they will know what the vote is about. Chairman Bridges also thanked Shane Scoggins and MJ Kneiser for giving the information out.

Commissioner Wester thanked Mrs. Thomas for her effort in getting the information to the citizens. He said that he did not ever remember there being this much information given to the citizens and he appreciated her time and effort.

Chairman Bridges asked if anyone had any other concerns or comments before adjourning the work session. There were no other issues or concerns. The meeting adjourned at 6:33 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