

**FRANKLIN COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES**  
**June 6, 2016**  
**5:30 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*  
Buddy Hardigree, *WLHR*

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

Chairman Bridges welcomed everyone to the public hearing and called the meeting to order. He said that there are two items to be discussed; a conditional use for a poultry house and right-of-way abandonment for Guerry Hall Road.

The first item for discussion is a **conditional use permit for a poultry farm** for Daniel Litwiller. Chairman Bridges asked if there was anyone who wished to speak for the poultry house. No one came forward. He asked if anyone wanted to speak against the poultry house. There was no one. Chairman Bridges said that the public hearing will remain open for the entirety of the 30 minutes allotment. If anyone comes in before the end of the public hearing and wishes to speak, they will be allowed to.

Chairman Bridges then moved to the **Guerry Hall Road right-of-way abandonment**. He said that there will be a 10 minutes allotment to speak for and a 10 minutes allotment to speak against the right-of-way abandonment. Chairman Bridges asked if anyone was present who wished to speak for the right-of-way abandonment. Wesley Eavenson came forward to speak. Mr. Eavenson said that approximately 10 years ago the right-of-way on Guerry Hall Road was deeded over to the County for the purpose of paving the road. He said that he deeded over approximately 1.8 acres according to the original survey. The project was started but no work has been done on the property that Mr. Eavenson deeded to the County. He is concerned because he does not have road frontage now. He said that he has to cross the County's property to get to his property and he has lost road frontage.

Mr. Eavenson said that he agreed to the paving project because he thought that it would help the value of his land. He said that because of deeding the property to the County his land is now worth less because he does not have continuous dirt road frontage. He is asking by a request to Chairman Bridges that the County go back to the

original lines which would give him dirt road frontage. Mr. Eavenson said that he and Guerry Hall have talked about asking the County to grade the road if it is not going to be paved. He said that he does not agree with the grading because there are no plans to pave Guerry Hall Road. He said that if he was asked to give up right-of-way to move the dirt road over his answer would have been different than giving right-of-way for paving. He said that he understands that the money dried up for projects. Mr. Eavenson said that his request to the Commission Board is to get his land back and to go back to the original borders before he deeded it to the County. Chairman Bridges thanked Mr. Eavenson for his comments.

Chairman Bridges then asked for anyone opposed to the request to come forward to speak. Guerry Hall came forward. He said that he received a letter stating abandoning the road. He then quoted Georgia law from the letter – “a portion of a county road system may be abandoned when the County Commission determines that the road ceased to be used by the public to the extent that no substantial purpose is served by continuing to maintain it.” Mr. Hall said that he does not see where this law would qualify the road for abandonment as people use this road every day. He said that there are eight houses on Guerry Hall Road.

Mr. Hall said that when the original request was made to give the right-of-way he requested that the road be straightened out and to make a good road out of it. Burke Road and Crump’s Bridge Road were paved and they are crooked and he did not want this to happen to Guerry Hall Road. Mr. Hall said that the County has done a good job on a portion of the road but it is not complete. He said that if the road is put where it should be, Mr. Eavenson will not lose any road frontage. Mr. Hall also said that he does not think Mr. Eavenson lost anything because any road that has a right-of-way is considered road frontage because it is a right-of-way off the road. He said that the survey needs to be tweaked a little bit because the property line for Mr. Eavenson was moved over onto his property line.

There was one dangerous curve on Guerry Hall Road but it is now fixed as Mr. Hall stated that he fixed this himself. There is a dangerous hill that the County needs to shave and lower. Mr. Hall said that this is a “pretty dang good road.” He said that later on since the right-of-way is already done the road may get paved. The County should have an obligation to finish what they started. Mr. Hall said that he is not in agreement to give right-of-way back. He asked the question what the County would do if others came back and asked for right-of-way to be given back. He thanked the Commission Board for looking at the road and doing what is best.

Commissioner Strickland stated that Guerry Hall Road is a nice road. He said that Mr. Hall looked at the road together approximately a year and a half ago. Commissioner Jacques asked Mr. Eavenson would he rescind his request if the County made a commitment to move forward with realigning the road within the right-of-way that he deeded within a certain time frame. Mr. Eavenson said that the only issue that he has with that is that you are only trading one dirt road for another one. He said that if the grading is done, it should only be done under the circumstances that the road would be paved. He said as long as he owns property on the road he will never be opposed to paving Guerry Hall Road. Commissioner Jacques stated that any abandonment of the road will exclude the ability of the County to ever move forward with a paving project. Commissioner Strickland asked when the agreement was made. Mr. Eavenson and Mr.

Hall said that it was around 2005 or 2006. Mr. Hall said that if the crash had not happened, the road would have been paved. Commissioner Jacques said that this project was predicated on the availability of State money. He said that this road was included in a bundle with Burke Road. When the County got ready to work the road the money had been diverted elsewhere.

Chairman Bridges asked if anyone had come into the public hearing that would like to speak for the **conditional use permit for a poultry farm** for Daniel Litwiller. Mr. Litwiller came forward and spoke. He said that he moved to Franklin County from West Point, Mississippi where he was born and raised. He said that he acquired property on South Fairview from Chip Vandiver. He is working with Scoot Rice and ISE Company out of Newberry, SC. Mr. Litwiller made his request for a permit to put some poultry houses in. Chairman Bridges asked if anyone would like to speak against the request from Mr. Litwiller. There was no opposition.

There were no additional comments or concerns on either public hearing item. The presentations concluded at 5:50 p.m. Chairman Bridges left the meeting open until 6 o'clock at the start of the regular board meeting to give an opportunity for additional comments or concerns on both items. There were no further comments or concerns.

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