

**FRANKLIN COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**WORK SESSION**  
**May 31, 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*  
Buddy Hardigree, *WLHR*

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

**Item 1 & 2: Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance** – Chairman Bridges called the work session to order and welcomed everyone. He then led the invocation and pledge to the American flag.

**Item 3: *Items for discussion:***

**A. Public Comment** – Chairman Bridges asked if anyone would like to speak in public comment. Carmen Westbrook with *Hearts for Families* came forward to speak. She stated that she was here to follow up on the March 29 meeting where she presented information on a social host ordinance. Ms. Westbrook said that this ordinance would hold the adults accountable and not just the youths who participate. She asked for an update from the Commission Board on when this will be passed. Chairman Bridges said that this issue has been tabled and no action has been taken by the Commission Board. Commissioner Jacques stated that he read the draft ordinance and he does not have any questions or comments at this time. Chairman Bridges thanked Ms. Westbrook for coming before the Board.

Clerk of Court Missy Holbrook asked the Commission Board is there a time table for when this issue will be revisited or if it will be revisited. Chairman Bridges said that he is unable to provide an answer at this time. Ms. Holbrook asked if this issue is dead in the water. Chairman Bridges said that this issue is sort of sitting there. Ms. Holbrook thanked Chairman Bridges for his answer.

Brenda a volunteer with *Hearts for Families* came forward and gave the Commission Board statistics about youth alcohol use and the associated costs. She said that she does not understand how the Commission Board can say no to this ordinance. Chairman Bridges thanked Brenda for her comments.

Commissioner Strickland said that he wanted to publicly congratulate Chairman Bridges; Sheriff Thomas; Tax Commissioner Bobby Martin; and Clerk of Court Missy Holbrook on their elections. He said that he knows that everyone has Franklin County's best interest at heart. Chairman Bridges told Commissioner Strickland that he appreciated those comments.

## **B. Road Requests**

**1. Sullivan Road – GDOT Registry** – Chairman Bridges asked Commissioner Jacques to go over this issue. Commissioner Jacques gave each Commissioner a packet of information concerning Sullivan Road. He also thanked the residents of Sullivan Road for attending the meeting. Commissioner Jacques said that he has received several calls over the past few years about the maintenance and lack thereof on Sullivan Road. He said that he has consulted with the County Attorney Bubba Samuels and with his guidance he would like to have Sullivan Road County Road 52 included in the list of County roads so maintenance can be provided. Commissioner Jacques would also like for County Road 52 to be added to the Sullivan Road sign and for documentation to be provided to each property owner of Sullivan Road to circumvent any further lapse of maintenance. And for the County to work with GDOT to include County Road 52 Sullivan Road back on their registry.

Commissioner Jacques said that from the photos he provided to the Commission Board it shows that Sullivan Road is bordered by a fence on each side and this is normal for property owners for road maintenance. He also said that in the past the County has placed signs showing that the road dead ends. There is also evidence of a Windstream underground facility that runs on the south side of Sullivan Road which is normally seen in a defined right of way. Commissioner Jacques said that the tax map shows the right of way clearer on Sullivan Road. He also showed the Commission Board a plat for Sullivan Road with the County Road 52 which proves that at some point and time this was a County road. On the 2005 Franklin County road map Sullivan Road was listed as County Road 52.

In his research and talks with County employees Commissioner Jacques was able to conclude that Sullivan Road had maintenance provided which predates any current Road Department employee. Maintenance has been provided from fence to fence, not ditch to ditch because this is a dedicated right of way. Commissioner Jacques said that maintenance was provided on Sullivan Road up until about two years. He said that he thinks that this is a paperwork glitch that dropped Sullivan Road off of the GDOT Registry. On the latest GDOT Registry Sullivan Road is not listed. Commissioner Jacques said that the only way a road should have been taken off the GDOT Registry was through a formal and legal process of abandonment which would have been started by the property owners of the road and voted on by the Commission Board. Commissioner Jacques said that there is not any record of Sullivan Road being advertised or voted on for abandonment.

Commissioner Jacques said that he would like to put Sullivan Road back on the County map as well as the GDOT Registry. He said that he does not know if a motion is needed because there is no record of action being taken to remove Sullivan Road from County maintenance. He said that he would like for Sullivan Road to be included in the County maintenance of roads the next time that they work that area. This will not be

immediate but the road should be included on the road schedule. Commissioner Jacques would also like for County Road 52 to be placed on the road sign to avoid future confusion. He also wants documentation to be given to the property owners of Sullivan Road in case of County personnel changes.

County Attorney Bubba Samuels said that Commissioner Jacques stated everything correctly. Conversations have taken place with both Commissioner Jacques and County Manager Beth Thomas about Sullivan Road. Mr. Samuels said that a road is a County road and part of the County's road system until it has been abandoned and gone through the abandonment process. The GDOT Registry is supposed to be reflective of the County road system. GDOT is usually very responsive if contacted by a county that a mistake has been made without a lot of back and forth. Mr. Samuels stated that even if a County road has been left off the GDOT map that does not make or mean that it is not a County road.

Mr. Samuels said that the appropriate action by the Commission Board is to give direction to County staff to have the road sign changed out and to direct staff to notify GDOT in writing along with documentation to the residents of Sullivan Road. Commissioner Jacques said that this would be added to the GDOT Registry but not to the map until the next time that an inventory is done by the County. At Monday night's regular board meeting Commissioner Jacques said that he will make this motion. He said that this will give each Commissioner a chance to review the provided information.

Mrs. Thomas said that the goal has always been to get Sullivan Road back on the GDOT Registry. She said that Sullivan Road would not meet the present standards of the County for a road. Commissioner Jacques said that his issue was that the County residents were not able to have this road maintained for the past two years through no fault of their own. Mrs. Thomas said that there is one house on the road. Commissioner Jacques said that is irrelevant. Mrs. Thomas said that she did not want to miss something. Commissioner Strickland said that the road looks pretty good. Commissioner Jacques said that the road was initially done very good. Mrs. Thomas said that there are many roads in the County that have been maintained previously. She said that there is a question of what makes a road a County road – is it being previously worked or being on the GDOT Registry. She said that being on the GDOT Registry gave this issue a little more teeth. Chairman Bridges said that this issue should be easily resolved.

**2. Arial Road – Abandonment Request** – Chairman Bridges said that it has been requested that Arial Road be abandoned. He said that his preference is to table this request at the regular board meeting so that all the Commissioners have a chance to look at this road and at this request. He would also like for County Engineer John Phillips to look at this road. Commissioner Franklin said that he looked at this road. He said that half of Arial Road was previously abandoned. Now both sides of the road are owned by Mr. Davis. Commissioner Jacques said that he did a quick look at the tax map. He has not been out to evaluate the property but it looks like a single property owner. Mrs. Thomas said that she provided each Commissioner with the paperwork from the abandonment process in 2008 for review.

**3. Spreader Truck** – Chairman Bridges asked Commissioner Strickland to go over the spreader truck item. Commissioner Strickland said that he looked at some

of the gravel purchase prices which seemed a little bit excessive to him. He said that \$150,000 seems like a lot. Commissioner Strickland said that Franklin County is the only county around that is using a company that is located in White County that comes to Stephens County and then Franklin County and then back to White County. Commissioner Strickland said that it seems it would be more cost effective for the County to purchase a truck and hire a driver for \$13 an hour. He said that he thought it would be possible to hire a driver with a CDL for this amount. If Franklin County had a driver it would cut out the delivery cost for gravel.

Commissioner Jacques said that for a CDL driver \$13 an hour is way low. Chairman Bridges asked the Commission Board to look at the data that was given to them by Mr. Phillips. Commissioner Jacques said that this can be put out for bids. Commissioner Strickland agreed. Commissioner Jacques said that if this is put out for bids then there is current information to compare costs with.

**4. Easement Request – Gateway Sewer Access** – Chairman Bridges asked Mrs. Thomas to go over the easement request. Mrs. Thomas said that the daycare operated by Gateway Believers Fellowship has a failing sewage system. They would like to be able to connect to the sewer system. She provided the Commission Board with a map showing where the sewer lines would be located. Franklin County would have to grant easements to the City of Carnesville for the sewage line. Mrs. Thomas said that this was provided at this time for the Commission Board to review.

**C. Agenda Protocol** – Chairman Bridges said that Commissioner Jacques will comment on the agenda protocol item. Commissioner Jacques said that he is not asking for any type of action or format change. He said that there have been several instances of a vote being asked for when the item was not discussed at the work session. The work session was split from the regular board meeting to give the Commission Board more than ample time to do due diligence before a vote, especially concerning financial decisions. Commissioner Jacques said that as courtesy to each other and the public, County staff and the Commission Board need to work together to include items on the work session agenda prior to the regular board meeting. He said that he understood that there will be instances that require a vote without being presented at the work session for discussion.

Chairman Bridges said that Commissioner Jacques is entirely correct. Several years back the work session was split from the regular board meeting to give ample time for consideration of items before the vote on expenditures and other items. Commissioner Jacques said that when individuals see the work session items they have enough time to contact the Commission Board before the vote at the regular meeting. He said that it is a win-win for all.

**D. Hospital Financing**

**1. Post Issuance Compliance Policy** – Chairman Bridges said that the hospital financing is almost complete. He asked Mrs. Thomas to go over the post issuance compliance policy. Mrs. Thomas said that she sent this by email to the Commission Board for review. The reason for tonight's vote is there is an IRS form that was authorized in the bond resolution. On the IRS form there is a check box that states whether there is an official policy for compliance. Mrs. Thomas said that as soon as this is approved, the sooner the box can be checked and filed with the IRS. She said that

the resolution states that the county manager from now until three years after the bonds is named the compliance officer. The compliance officer is to maintain all documents and keep them on file at the office; monitor all requirements; perform periodic review with training documents and file continuing disclosure information.

**2. Cover Page of Bond Resolution – Typo** – Mrs. Thomas said that a motion is needed to authorize and direct the County Clerk to replace the cover page of the bond resolution. The typographical error is that the Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company is listed instead of U.S. National Bank.

Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the **post issuance compliance policy**. Commissioner Strickland made the motion. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Jacques seconded the motion by Commissioner Strickland to accept the resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Franklin County authorizing and adopting post issuance compliance policy and procedures for governmental tax exempt bond and tax credit. 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 Wester; Commissioner Strickland; Commissioner Jacques; and Commissioner Franklin.

Chairman Bridges asked for a motion authorizing and directing the County Clerk to replace the **cover page of the bond resolution**. Commissioner Jacques made the motion. 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.

**E. FY17 Budget** – Chairman Bridges asked Mrs. Thomas to go over the FY17 budget information. Mrs. Thomas said that the information that was given to each Commissioner is current through May 31 for the FY16 budget. Additional changes may be necessary as items are turned in. This information will be given to the Commission Board as it is updated. Mrs. Thomas said that there is a decrease in revenue by over \$900,000 due to LOST; non-recurring grant funds; court fines; and other items. She said that the LMIG revenue and expenditures was taken out of this amount due to the future payment of SPLOST. Expenditures also had to decrease by the \$900,000. At the present time the budget is in balance. Mrs. Thomas said that she would make herself available for questions or concerns about the budget.

**F. Executive Session – Litigation and Personnel** – Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to close the regular session and go into executive session. Commissioner Strickland made the motion. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. 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 Commissioner Franklin; Commissioner Strickland; Chairman Bridges; Commissioner Jacques; and Commissioner Wester. The regular session closed at 6:37 p.m. to go into executive session.

Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to come out of executive session and go back into regular session. Commissioner Jacques made the motion to come out of executive session into regular session and allow the Chairman to sign the closed

meeting affidavit in which litigation and personnel items were discussed. 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. The regular session resumed at 7:46 p.m.

Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to adjourn the work session. Commissioner Strickland made the motion. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Wester 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 work session ended at 7:48 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