

**FRANKLIN COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**August 1, 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*  
Buddy Hardigree, *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 called the regular board meeting to order. He asked Commissioner Wester to lead the invocation and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag.

**Item 3: Approval of Minutes:**

July 11, 2016 Public Hearing  
July 11, 2016 Regular Board Meeting  
July 26, 2016 Work Session

Chairman Bridges said that the minutes for the July meetings were sent to the Commission Board for review. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Franklin made the motion to approve the minutes. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Strickland made the second. There was no discussion. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The motion passed by four (4) YES votes to zero (0) NO votes. The YES votes were Commissioner Strickland; Commissioner Franklin; Commissioner Jacques; and Commissioner Wester.

**Item 4: Items for discussion:**

**A. Public Comment** - Chairman Bridges asked if anyone would like to come forward and speak in public comment. **Angie Sheriff** of 655 Colston Drive stated that she came before the Commission Board several years ago. Ms. Sheriff said that she is before the Board to plead for some kind of help. She said that there is a hill on Colston Drive that is rough. Because of this hill Ms. Sheriff said that she is unable to get trash service. She asked if the County would help with scraping or put gravel on the hill. Chairman Bridges asked Ms. Sheriff to clarify the name of the road. Ms. Sheriff said

Colston Drive. Commissioner Jacques stated that Colston Drive is a private road. Ms. Sheriff confirmed that yes, it is private. She said that when she bought the property four years ago, she was told that in the past the County worked the road. She said that it would be nice to have the County's help, at least on the hill. Chairman Bridges thanked Ms. Sheriff for coming and giving her comments.

**Warren Caswell** asked to be recognized. He said that he is the brand new full time Juvenile Court Judge as of January 1 of this year. Judge Caswell said that previously he was part time but that now he is full time and does not have an office. He said that the records for Juvenile Court are sealed and private and have to be kept under lock and key. Judge Caswell said at this time because he does not have an office the juvenile records are sitting in the middle of his living room at his home.

Judge Caswell said that he lives in Madison County and that Madison County has found space that he can move into after the first of the year. Judge Caswell said that he is not wedded to this; he is open to any option. Madison County will be contacting Franklin County because help will be needed to finance the office space. Judge Caswell requested that the Commission Board look upon this request favorably.

Efficiency has improved in the juvenile court. Judge Caswell said that court starts at 9:30 a.m. sharp and the cases are being pushed through. Cost savings measures have been put into place with the use of electronic formats. He said that the Department of Family and Children Services is represented by a special assistant to the Attorney General. Previously the special assistant was from Clarke County. Now the special assistant is from Franklin County and is Kevin McFarlin, who has an office in Royston. Judge Caswell is pleased with Mr. McFarlin as he is local and can help with the families.

Judge Caswell said that about 32% of the cases come from Franklin County. There are 19 open parental terminations in Franklin County which are the most serious cases. There are four children with open delinquency cases. Judge Caswell also requested that Item 4C on tonight's agenda be approved. He thanked the Commission Board for their time and consideration. Chairman Bridges thanked Judge Caswell for the job he is doing.

**Ken Martin** of Fieldale asked for permission to answer the questions that were brought up in the public hearing. Mr. Martin said that anyone who has a poultry farm in the State of Georgia has to have a waste management plan of where the manure is going to go. He said that the vast majority of the farmers sell the manure. Most of the manure is sold to farmers in South Georgia for row crops. The manure has to be stored under cover to prevent runoff.

Mr. Martin stated any construction that disturbs more than one acre of land has to have an EPD Storm Water Management Plan. This plan has to be filed with the State before construction can begin. These poultry houses will be 300 to 400 feet away from the creek. According to EPD the houses can be within 25 feet to a creek unless it is a trout stream. Mr. Martin offered to speak further with anyone after the meeting who had concerns. Chairman Bridges thanked Mr. Martin for his comments.

**B. Public Hearing items** – Chairman Bridges said that the public hearing items will be discussed one at a time. He asked Mr. Phillips to discuss the first item.

Mr. Phillips said that a request was filed for a **rezone, conditional use by Charles Wayne Cooper** for the property at 49 Woodrow Lane. The Planning Commission reviewed the application and is recommending denial. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the recommendation from the Planning Commission for denial. Commissioner Strickland 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 four (4) YES votes to zero (0) NO votes. The YES votes were Commissioner Wester; Commissioner Jacques; Commissioner Strickland; and Commissioner Franklin.

Chairman Bridges asked Mr. Phillips to discuss the second public hearing item. Mr. Phillips said that the request is for eight poultry houses on a 78 acre tract on Cole Road and is a **conditional use for a poultry farm from Steve Phan**. The Planning Commission has reviewed the request which satisfies the County minimum setback requirements and recommends approval. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the recommendation from the Planning Commission to approve. Commissioner Strickland made the motion to approve. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Jacques made the second to approve based on review and the recommendation from the Planning Commission and in concurrence with the zoning regulations of Franklin County. There was no discussion. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The motion passed by four (4) YES votes to zero (0) NO votes. The YES votes were Commissioner Strickland; Commissioner Franklin; Commissioner Jacques; and Commissioner Wester.

**C. Juvenile Court Judge Agreement** – Chairman Bridges asked Mrs. Thomas to go over the Juvenile Court Judge agreement. Mrs. Thomas said that the agreement was given to the Commission Board to look over. She thanked Judge Caswell for coming to the meeting. Mrs. Thomas said that the State will pay the juvenile judge's full time salary of \$85,000. She said that Madison County is asking the Circuit to help pay the taxes; benefits; and insurance. Franklin County currently pays about \$1,200 for the judge's insurance to Madison County. The increase for the new contract is approximately \$3,100 of which \$105 is for insurance; \$1,700 for retirement and \$1,200 for salary taxes. The total per month will now be approximately \$4,300.

Mrs. Thomas recommended that the Commission Board approve this agreement. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to approve the intergovernmental agreement for the juvenile court judge. Commissioner Strickland made the motion. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Jacques seconded the motion to get to discussion. Chairman Bridges asked for discussion. Commissioner Jacques asked if this would require a budget amendment and if so where will the money come from. He said that from his review of the budget between revenues and expenditures there is only \$12. Mrs. Thomas said that the legal control for budgets is at the departmental level. She said that she believes there are areas that the County can have savings. There has been a gain of \$1,700 in LOST collections and in a few other areas. She said that for the benefit to the County she is in favor of this agreement. Mrs. Thomas said that she would like to talk to Judge Caswell about other areas that can be streamlined. Commissioner Strickland asked if this amount would go toward the office request. Mrs. Thomas said that the two are separate requests. She said that this needs to move forward and then the other request can be taken care of after the information is

received. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The motion passed by four (4) YES votes to zero (0) NO votes. The YES votes were Commissioner Franklin; Commissioner Strickland; Commissioner Jacques; and Commissioner Wester.

**D. BOE Contract** – Chairman Bridges said that the County has been looking for additional space for the Historical Society. The County and the Board of Education have been working on an agreement. Chairman Bridges asked Mrs. Thomas to discuss this issue. Mrs. Thomas said that the contract allows the County to use two rooms at the old middle school wing for the price of \$200 per month. She said that this is a very fair price. A budget modification will not be asked for yet as this should be able to be absorbed in other areas. Mrs. Thomas recommended that this agreement move forward so that the Historical Society can be moved. After the Historical Society is relocated then the County will begin the project of record retention and assessing the needs for now and the future.

Commissioner Jacques asked if part of the records will come from the Clerk of Court's office. Mrs. Thomas stated that this will take care of vital records from the Probate Judge's office. This is a priority to get these records moved out of the basement. Mrs. Thomas said that the basement is good now and there is not a plumbing issue and it is now a safe place to store records. The Historical Society needed to move so that they would have the use of facilities for the public and for themselves. Freeing up space in the basement will help with the other storage issues.

Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the recommendation from Mrs. Thomas. Commissioner Wester made the motion to accept the BOE contract. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Jacques seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The motion passed by four (4) YES votes to zero (0) NO votes. The YES votes were Commissioner Wester; Commissioner Jacques; Commissioner Strickland; and Commissioner Franklin.

**E. Budget Modifications** – Chairman Bridges asked Mrs. Thomas to go over the budget modifications item. Mrs. Thomas said that the legal level of control is at the department levels and budget modifications are not needed for individual line items. She said that because the budget is so much smaller she is bringing to the Commission Board that insurance for the governing body included nothing for FY17. Mrs. Thomas said that this is not the case now because at open enrollment insurance was taken and \$3,500 needs to be added to the budget. This is a larger percentage of the budget and this adjustment needs to be looked at. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to modify the budget for the governing body insurance. Commissioner Strickland made the motion and stated that he is the one that it is pertaining to and it is only fit. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. The motion died for lack of a second.

Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to adjourn the regular board meeting. Commissioner Jacques made the motion to adjourn. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Strickland seconded the motion. The motion passed by four (4) YES votes to zero (0) NO votes. The YES votes were Commissioner Franklin; Commissioner Strickland; Commissioner Jacques; and Commissioner Wester. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
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