

**FRANKLIN COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 12, 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 welcomed everyone to the September regular board meeting and called the meeting to order. He asked Commissioner Franklin to lead the invocation and pledge of allegiance to the American flag.

**Item 3: Approval of Minutes:**

August 1, 2016 Public Hearing  
August 1, 2016 Regular Board Meeting  
August 30, 2016 Work Session

Chairman Bridges said that there were three meetings in August. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Strickland made the motion to approve all the minutes for August. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Jacques seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The motion passed by four (4) YES vote to zero (0) NO votes. The YES votes were Commissioner Franklin; Commissioner Strickland; Commissioner Jacques; and Commissioner Wester.

**Item 4: Items for discussion:**

**A. Public Comment** – Chairman Bridges asked if anyone would like to speak in public comment. He said that this is the opportunity to make comments to the Commissioners and all comments are appreciated. Sheriff Steve Thomas thanked the Commission Board and Mrs. Thomas for helping the employees. He said that one of his employees said that the insurance change had saved a considerable amount of money.

Sheriff Thomas said that when the jail was constructed in the 1990's that state of the art equipment was installed. He stated that at this time the GasBoy system for fuel is out of updates and is obsolete. Sheriff Thomas said that the cost to replace the GasBoy system is around \$15,000 to \$20,000. He said that every gas burning vehicle the County owns goes through this system. Sheriff Thomas said that the County as a whole should help replace the GasBoy system and not just the Sheriff's budget. He stated that he will bring a more accurate figure after the system has been looked at by the GasBoy folks. Sheriff Thomas said that he is seeking help from the Commission Board. Chairman Bridges thanked Sheriff Thomas for the information. He then encouraged Sheriff Thomas to sit down with the management team and discuss further.

Mrs. Thomas stated to the Commission Board that Sheriff Thomas did put the replacement of the GasBoy in his budget request from SPLOST. She said that she has checked and she supports the Sheriff in making sure that the GasBoy system is updated. It was looked at using the GasBoy or using the WEX cards. There is a financial benefit to use the GasBoy. Chairman Bridges said that this sounds like it is already being talked about.

Commissioner Wester thanked the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission (GMRC) for their help to the Sandy Cross Volunteer Fire Department in applying for a grant for equipment which included air packs. The grant was also used for a cascade trailer which is used to fill the air bottles on scene at a fire. The grant amount was \$185,885. GMRC helped with the grant writing and application and gave guidance to Sandy Cross Chief Ronnie Roach. A grant was also received by the fire department at the City of Royston. Commissioner Wester said that he is very thankful for Georgia Mountains Regional Commission for helping and for the fire departments for stepping up and trying to help themselves and not just relying on the County. Chairman Bridges thanked Commissioner Wester for this information. He said that this is good news and he is grateful for the relationship between the fire departments, the County and the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission.

## **B. Public Hearing Items:**

**1. Conditional use for a poultry farm – Jimmy Hansel Ramey** – Chairman Bridges asked John Phillips to go over the request from Mr. Ramey. Mr. Phillips said that the request for the conditional use permit is for property located at 17579 Hwy 59. The recommendation from the Planning Commission is to approve the request from Mr. Ramey for a conditional use permit. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the recommendation from the Planning Commission to grant the conditional use for Mr. Ramey. Commissioner Franklin made the motion to approve based on the recommendation from the Planning Commission. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Jacques 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 Franklin; Commissioner Strickland; Commissioner Jacques; and Commissioner Wester.

**2. Conditional use for a poultry farm – Christopher and Wanda Hart** – Chairman Bridges asked Mr. Phillips to go over the request from Mr. and Mrs. Hart. Mr. Phillips said that the request is for a conditional use permit for property located on Cromer's Bridge Road. The Planning Commission recommends approval for this

request. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Jacques made the motion based on the recommendation from the Planning Commission for the conditional use for a poultry farm for Mr. and Mrs. Hart. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Wester 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.

**C. Tower Contract – Southern Communication Services, Inc.** – Chairman Bridges said that the tower contract was discussed at the previous month's work session. He asked Mrs. Thomas to go over the contract further. Mrs. Thomas gave the recommendation to accept the amendment to the current contract. The amendment will allow Southern Communication Services to place additional equipment on the tower. For a brief period of time there will be old and new equipment on the same tower for a net increase of \$1,000 a month. When the old equipment is taken down the amount per month will decrease by \$200. This new agreement will net an additional \$800 per month. Mrs. Thomas again stated that her recommendation is to approve the contract. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the recommendation from Mrs. Thomas to approve the tower contract. Commissioner Strickland made the motion to approve the contract. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Wester 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 Jacques; Commissioner Strickland; Commissioner Franklin; and Commissioner Wester.

**D. District Attorney Contract** – Chairman Bridges said that the district attorney contract was presented to the Commission Board in the previous work session. He asked Mrs. Thomas to go over the item. Mrs. Thomas said that the contract for the FY17 budget was received from the DA's office on September 1<sup>st</sup> and was forwarded to the Commission Board for review. She said that the contract is for an increase of \$4,400 with \$2,500 being the base annual compensation change. This contract is for State paid County reimbursed personnel. Mrs. Thomas recommended approving the contract to stay in line with the FY17 budget and spending for the District Attorney. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the contract. Commissioner Strickland made the motion to approve the contract. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Wester seconded the motion. Commissioner Strickland asked if each County was equal in providing for the DA. Mrs. Thomas said that this is specific to the personnel used in the particular county as each county is different. 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. Equipment** – Chairman Bridges said that equipment was discussed in the work session. He asked Mrs. Thomas to explain this item further. Mrs. Thomas gave a list of surplus equipment and requested that the Commission Board declare it as surplus for disposal. She said that the list is brief and includes items that are unusable. There are printers from Probation; a green bar printer from the BOC office that is no longer used; and five copy machines. Mrs. Thomas stated that there is also equipment on the Black Snake Road property that was transferred to the County from TruVista on August 6, 2004. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the recommendation from Mrs.

Thomas. Commissioner Jacques made the motion. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. Commissioner Strickland asked if the equipment from Black Snake Road would be sold for scrap. Mrs. Thomas said that the best manner to dispose of the equipment will be determined. 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.

**F. Announcements** – Chairman Bridges asked Mrs. Thomas to go over the announcements. Mrs. Thomas gave an update on the FCC market modification, which is the process of getting the Atlanta stations into this area. A letter was sent to DIRECTV asking them to determine the technical feasibility of providing the services to Franklin County. Mrs. Thomas stated that the letter from DIRECTV was very generic with wording that the spot beams and engineers have determined that they could service the area. The response from DISH was a little more detailed. This letter stated that there are no factors that deem this infeasible but the project could become infeasible due to the cost. Mrs. Thomas said that it is good news that both satellite providers have stated that this is technically feasible. The next step is still being researched. Chairman Bridges said that what he is hearing is that progress is being made on this issue.

Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Jacques made the motion. 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 Wester; Commissioner Franklin; Commissioner Jacques; and Commissioner Strickland. The meeting adjourned at 6:20 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