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**FRANKLIN COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
January 8, 2018  
6:00 P.M.**

**BOC:**                    *Commission Chairman Thomas Bridges  
District 1 Commissioner Robert Franklin  
District 2 Commissioner Dr. Jason Macomson  
District 3 Commissioner Jeff Jacques  
District 4 Commissioner Eddie Wester*

**Media:**                *Shane Scoggins, Franklin County Citizen*

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

**Item 1:**        **Call meeting to order** – *Chairman Bridges called the regular board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2018.*

**Item 2:**        **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance** – *Dr. Macomson led the invocation and pledge of allegiance to the American flag.*

**Item 3:**        **Approval of Minutes:**

*December 4, 2017 regular board meeting  
December 19, 2017 work session*

*Chairman Bridges said the December minutes were sent to the Commissioners for review. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Jacques made the motion to approve the minutes. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Dr. Macomson 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, Dr. Macomson, Chairman Bridges, Commissioner Jacques and Commissioner Wester.*

**Item 4:**        **Items for discussion:**

- A.    **Public Comment** – *There was no public comment.*
- B.    **Public Hearing items**



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**Variance** – Karen Brucker – Mrs. Thomas said the request from Ms. Brucker is for a variance for the side yard. The applicant is seeking to divide her 12-acre parcel into two parcels of 1.5 and 10.5 acres for the purpose of selling the property. Due to the way the mobile homes sit on the property the division will leave a shortfall of 12 feet. The recommendation from the Planning Commission is to approve the variance request from Ms. Brucker.

Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the recommendation from the Planning Commission to approve the variance for Ms. Brucker. Dr. Macomson made the motion to approve the variance. 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 five (5) **YES** votes to zero (0) NO votes. The **YES** votes were Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Jacques, Chairman Bridges, Dr. Macomson and Commissioner Franklin.

**Rezoning** – Mike Carson and Dennis Brawner – Mrs. Thomas said the property owners and applicants requested that the property be changed from agricultural intensive to commercial general. This is a 3.9-acre parcel and the building has existed and operated as a business for several years. Mrs. Thomas said due to the change in business the grandfather clause went away and the current leaser of the property has to have applicable zoning in order to be able to get a license for his business. The recommendation from the Planning Commission is to approve the change request from AI to CG.

Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the rezoning recommendation from the Planning Commission. Commissioner Franklin made the motion to approve. 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 five (5) **YES** votes to zero (0) NO votes. The **YES** votes were Chairman Bridges, Commissioner Franklin, Commissioner Wester, Dr. Macomson and Commissioner Jacques.

**Conditional use permit** – Steve M Ledford – Mrs. Thomas said Mr. Ledford has applied for a conditional use permit for a poultry farm to add two broiler houses onto his recently acquired property. The present zoning for the property is AI. The site plan for these houses shows adequate set-backs will be met. The Planning Commission reviewed the application and recommends approval for the conditional use permit.

Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to approve the poultry houses for Mr. Ledford. Commissioner Wester made the motion to approve. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Jacques seconded the motion. Chairman Bridges said he is glad it is Mr. Ledford placing additional poultry houses and not him. There was no further 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 Dr. Macomson, Commissioner Franklin, Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Jacques and Chairman Bridges.



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**C. OneGeorgia Grant Application and Resolution** – Chairman Bridges said the OneGeorgia grant and resolution was given to the Commissioners for review. He asked Mrs. Thomas to explain this item further. Mrs. Thomas said the resolution was drafted by GMRC (Georgia Mountains Regional Commission) who is helping with some grant applications. Due to the deadline this has to be presented and action taken on the same night. Mrs. Thomas said the resolution states the Board of Commissioners will seek equity assistance for grant funding from the OneGeorgia Authority as a necessary component for the water infrastructure improvement project due to the Georgia Renewable Plant in Franklin County. Mrs. Thomas asked the Commission Board to approve the resolution and allow the Chairman to execute it as written. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Jacques made the motion. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Dr. Macomson 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, Dr. Macomson, Chairman Bridges, Commissioner Jacques and Commissioner Wester.

**D. Annual Planning Session date** – Chairman Bridges said the Commissioners have an annual planning session to discuss the needs of the County. Mrs. Thomas thanked the Commissioners for working with the County Clerk to schedule the meeting. The annual planning session will be January 25 beginning at 1:00 p.m. and going until 4:00 p.m. or a little after. This meeting will be held at the Carnesville Community Center.

**E. Board Appointments**

**Tax Assessor Board** – Chairman Bridges said there was one application received for the Tax Assessor Board from Gary Farmer who is presently serving as the Chairman. He asked for a motion to appoint Mr. Farmer to the Tax Assessor Board. Commissioner Wester made the motion to appoint **Gary Farmer** to the Tax Assessor Board. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. Mrs. Thomas clarified this vote has to be done in the form of a resolution due to State rules. She asked that the resolution be part of the motion. Commissioner Wester restated the motion to include the resolution reappointing Mr. Farmer back to the Tax Assessor Board. Commissioner Franklin seconded the amended 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, Commissioner Franklin, Dr. Macomson and Chairman Bridges.

**Recreation Board** – Chairman Bridges said there are several positions open on the Recreation Board with very good applicants. He said each appointment would be voted on individually.

Commissioner Wester made the motion to appoint **Orie Hurt** to the Recreation



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*Board. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Dr. Macomson 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 Chairman Bridges, Commissioner Franklin, Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Jacques and Dr. Macomson.*

*Commissioner Wester made the motion to appoint **Michael Rich** to the Recreation Board. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Dr. Macomson 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, Dr. Macomson, Chairman Bridges, Commissioner Jacques and Commissioner Wester.*

*Commissioner Wester made the motion to appoint **Kenneth Roach** to the Recreation Board. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Dr. Macomson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed by five (5) **YES** votes to zero (0) NO votes. The YES votes were Dr. Macomson, Commissioner Jacques, Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Franklin and Chairman Bridges.*

*Commissioner Wester made the motion to appoint **Wesley Varner** to the Recreation Board. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Dr. Macomson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed by five (5) **YES** votes to zero (0) NO votes. The YES votes were Commissioner Franklin, Dr. Macomson, Chairman Bridges, Commissioner Wester and Commissioner Jacques.*

***Industrial Building Authority** – Chairman Bridges said there are two positions to fill on the Industrial Building Authority. He said each position will be voted on separately.*

*Dr. Macomson made the motion to appoint **Cary Bennett** to the Industrial Building Authority. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. Chairman Bridges said Mr. Bennett retired from Georgia Power and he appreciated him stepping up to take this on. There was no further 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 Franklin, Dr. Macomson, Commissioner Wester and Commissioner Jacques.*

*Dr. Macomson made the motion to appoint **John Hylton** to the Industrial Building Authority. 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 five (5) **YES** votes to zero (0) NO votes. The YES votes were Commissioner Franklin, Commissioner Wester, Dr. Macomson, Commissioner Jacques and Chairman Bridges.*

*Chairman Bridges thanked all the applicants for the board positions. He said the applications will be kept on file for one year for consideration for other openings.*



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#### **F. Staff Appointments**

**County Attorney** – Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to continue using the Samuels Firm and appoint Bubba Samuels as county attorney. Commissioner Jacques made the motion to continue using Bubba Samuels as the county attorney. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. Commissioner Wester thanked Mr. Samuels for all the hard work that he has put in for Franklin County and helping to maintain. Commissioner Jacques thanked Mr. Samuels for all the times that he consults with the Commissioners and does not charge the County. It is greatly appreciated and has helped tremendously through some tough financial times. Chairman Bridges agreed that this is appreciated. There was no further 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, Dr. Macomson, Chairman Bridges, Commissioner Jacques and Commissioner Wester.

**County Clerk** – Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to continue Elaine Evans contract with the County as county clerk. Commissioner Wester made the motion to reappoint Mrs. Elaine Evans. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Jacques seconded the motion. Chairman Bridges stated that Mrs. Evans always goes out of her way to get what the Commissioners need. Dr. Macomson said he appreciates the hard work that Mrs. Evans does. 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, Commissioner Franklin, Dr. Macomson and Chairman Bridges.

**County Manager** – Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to continue Mrs. Beth Thomas contract with the County. Commissioner Jacques made the motion. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Dr. Macomson seconded the motion. Commissioner Franklin asked for clarification if the vote is for 12 months. Chairman Bridges said the vote is for 12 months as there are plans to reorganize the office. The vote is for a continuation of Mrs. Thomas contract until the reorganization is complete. Commissioner Wester thanked Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Evans for all the hard work that they do for the County. Commissioner Jacques said the work has been done lately with less staff but with the same level of responsiveness and results which is noted and greatly appreciated. Chairman Bridges said John Phillips resigned in November as the county engineer and Mrs. Thomas has taken over those duties until things can be reorganized. 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, Dr. Macomson, Chairman Bridges, Commissioner Wester and Commissioner Jacques.

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#### **G. Announcements:**

Mrs. Thomas said the game starts at eight o'clock – GO DAWGS!



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*Commissioner Wester announced there will not be an IBA meeting in January.*

*Chairman Bridges adjourned the meeting at 6:21 p.m.*

*Signed on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018*

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*Chairman J. Thomas Bridges*

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*Robert L. Franklin, District 1 Commissioner*

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*Dr. Jason Macomson, 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*