



You Are Why We Are Here

**FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 5, 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 meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Item 2: Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance – Chairman Bridges led the invocation and pledge of allegiance to the American flag.

Item 3: Approval of Minutes:

*January 8, 2018 public hearing
January 8, 2018 regular board meeting
January 25, 2018 planning session*

*Chairman Bridges said the minutes had been sent to the Commissioners for review. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Jacques made the motion to approve the minutes as distributed. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved by five (5) **YES** votes to zero (0) **NO** votes. The **YES** votes were Chairman Bridges, Commissioner Jacques, Commissioner Franklin, Commissioner Wester and Dr. Macomson. Chairman Bridges expressed his appreciation to Mrs. Evans for her good work on the minutes.*

Item 4: Items for discussion:

A. **Public Comment** – Chairman Bridges asked if anyone wished to speak



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in public comment. He said to please come forward and state your name for the record and make your comment.

Walter Brown of Aderhold Road came forward to speak. He said big rocks were dumped on Aderhold Road to try and stop the drainage near a culvert and the rocks are sticking out in the road. The culvert needs to be replaced. Mr. Brown said when the road is graded it needs to be widened as it is very narrow. Chairman Bridges asked Mr. Brown if he had reported this to the office. Mr. Brown said no he had not. Chairman Bridges asked Mrs. Thomas to look into the situation on Aderhold Road. Mr. Brown said the road is being torn up on the far end next to Dollie Phillips Road. Chairman Bridges asked if he was talking about the road being torn up by vehicles. Mr. Brown said yes, they are making circles which is making trenches. Sheriff Thomas said this would be looked into and he would love to catch them.

B. Culpepper Road – Karen Harper

Chairman Bridges welcomed **Karen Harper** to come and speak about Culpepper Road. Mrs. Harper said she requested to be placed on the agenda to be able to express her concerns to the Commission Board about Culpepper Road. She said she spoke with Mrs. Thomas and she was able to get most of her questions answered. Her first question was about the weight limits on bridges and there is not a State requirement for this. Mrs. Thomas said the information in the County file for Culpepper Road is postings are not required for weight limits. Mrs. Harper said at one time there was postings on Culpepper Road for weight limits and the residents are concerned because of the power plant.

Mrs. Harper said Mrs. Thomas told her that Franklin County has an agreement with the power plant for the trucks to not come down Culpepper Road or Burke Road. Chairman Bridges said that is correct there is an agreement in place. Mrs. Harper said she discussed signs with Mrs. Thomas to put up no truck traffic signs on the roads. She asked if a sign was also put at NeSmith Road. Mrs. Thomas said she had a sign put at Culpepper Road and at Burke Road but she will have to get one put up at NeSmith.

The amount of water that will be used at the power plant was questioned by Mrs. Harper. She said when another drought happens she is concerned that the wells in her neighborhood will go dry. Chairman Bridges said he understands her concerns but the County will not be drawing from wells on Culpepper Road unless someone comes forward with a well capable of selling water to the County.

The last concern Mrs. Harper spoke about was the trash on JF Shirley Road. Mrs. Harper said when Petro first opened they kept the trash picked up on the road. Chairman Bridges questioned which road. Mrs. Harper said JF Shirley which is the road that Petro uses as their back exit. She said there is no question that the trash on the sides of the road is thrown out by truck drivers as some of the trash is urine jugs. Mrs. Harper questioned if the County could ask Petro for help with cleaning up their trash on JF Shirley Road.



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In the past Mrs. Harper has called the County Marshal's office and asked for the sides of the road to be cleaned up. She said she has never spoken with him, has only left a message but in a few days, it is like magic the road is always taken care of. Mrs. Harper said she would like to commend the County Marshal for the incredible job that he does. Chairman Bridges told Mrs. Harper he appreciated her coming and letting the Commissioners know her concerns. Mrs. Harper asked Chairman Bridges if it would be possible to get Petro to put a big receptacle with a target in their back-parking lot for trash. Steve Harper said if the truck drivers are not stopping for the stop sign then he is sure they won't slow down to put trash in a receptacle.

Mrs. Harper said the residents of Culpepper Road wanted this put in the minutes so the Commissioners would be aware of their concerns. She told the Commission Board that any help would be appreciated. Mrs. Harper told Sheriff Thomas that people go too fast on Culpepper Road. Chairman Bridges said Sheriff Thomas could help with this as well as the trash problem. Sheriff Thomas said this will be looked into. He also said when Mrs. Harper calls with trash complaints that Chris (Ayers) gets an inmate crew and goes and picks up the trash.

Sheila Baker *expanded on the comments made by Mrs. Harper concerning Culpepper Road. She said there is a tremendous problem with speeders. Ms. Baker said Culpepper Road is used as a cut through road. She said she reported the stop sign missing at NeSmith Road and within a week it was gone again. There is an extreme problem with trash as well as dogs being put out on Culpepper Road. Mailboxes also get knocked down several times a year. Ms. Baker said there have also been problems with people trying to run the school buses out of the road in the mornings. The residents of Culpepper Road would love to have more of a presence from Franklin County on their road.*

Jennifer Renzetti *asked if the County is going to let the power company know the big trucks are not to be on Culpepper Road. She was run off her own road by a big boom truck that was going to the electric company and she did not appreciate having to get herself out of the ditch. Chairman Bridges questioned if this was on Culpepper Road. Mrs. Renzetti said yes that the big trucks are the ones who are doing a lot of the speeding on the road. There are also a lot of other speeders on the road. Her biggest concern is the weight limit of the trucks coming on their road. Chairman Bridges asked what kind of trucks they are. Mrs. Renzetti said some are the cherry picker type of trucks, some dump trucks and some heavy trucks. They are not semi-trucks just big heavy trucks. Commissioner Jacques clarified that they are construction type of trucks. Mrs. Renzetti said yes, exactly.*

Chairman Bridges said it was needed to find out who is using the road. Ms. Baker said the whole construction crew at the power plant and everybody who cuts through from the Interstate to Hwy 198 and the people going to the truck stop. Mrs. Renzetti questioned who would she call to report this. Mrs. Thomas said law enforcement should be called to enforce the signs. She said part of the rezoning for the



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plant was that those type of vehicles would not use any of the county-maintained roads. Mrs. Thomas said she would call and remind them of this agreement. She said there is nothing that can be done for personal vehicles other than to report speeding.

Walter Brown came forward again to ask about Dollie Phillips Road. He asked if there are plans to put water down Dollie Phillips Road. Commissioner Jacques said there have not been any requests for water from the residents and there are currently no plans in that area. Mr. Brown asked when will water be run throughout the County. Chairman Bridges said Franklin County is already connected to the adjoining counties. He said the County is working on running water for everyone in the County. Mr. Brown said his house is about 170 years and there has never been any water down his road (Adherhold). Commissioner Jacques told Mr. Brown there is not right-of-way on his road. There also has to be demand for the water. Mr. Brown asked what to do to get the right-of-way. Commissioner Jacques said the residents would have to deed it over to the County. This allows for water expansion and for the road to be maintained better.

C. **Character Area Map** – comprehensive update – Chairman Bridges said the character area map was discussed at the planning session. He asked Mrs. Thomas to give an update. Mrs. Thomas said the Planning Commission made revisions to the Zoning Ordinance and the character area map. This area went from a large Interstate corridor to a more centralized area around the exit locations. There are also buffers around the cities. This revision helps with the poultry house regulations of the rural areas of the map. The process for these changes is acceptance by the Commissioners and then to be given to GMRC who will submit to the State as part of Franklin County's Comprehensive Plan. Mrs. Thomas gave her recommendation to follow the Planning Commission's recommendation to accept the map. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the character area map from the Planning Commission. Commissioner Wester made the motion to accept the changes to the character area map from the Planning Commission. 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. **Jail Referendum** – Chairman Bridges asked Sheriff Stevie Thomas to come forward and speak about the jail referendum. Sheriff Thomas said his understanding is this will be voted on tonight for the next election for four million dollars. He said he spoke with Mrs. Thomas to clarify how much of the four million will go to the project and all will go to the project. Sheriff Thomas also spoke with the architect Tom Wright and he said everything is in order. The savings for this project will come from the labor of the County. This will have to be sold to the public and Sheriff Thomas said he has plans to do this every day.

Mrs. Thomas said the Jail Subcommittee met this summer and made recommendations. The recommendations were for expansion and renovations of the



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jail and equipment and also call for the ballot. Mrs. Thomas said there are very limited ways that governments can go into debt; capital lease, revenue bond and voter referendum. Voter referendum has to be advertised in such a manner that the Commission Board will have to take action tonight in order for the first advertisement to be in the paper by February 15. Mrs. Thomas said advertising costs will be incurred as this will have to be run in the paper for five weeks to meet all the deadlines.

Mrs. Thomas said what was determined at the planning session is for four million dollars for a period of 10 years to keep the payback period from exceeding the life of the expansion. The payback schedule has to be part of the advertisement. The payback is \$355,000 to a range of \$455,000 over the 10-year period. Mrs. Thomas said the four million dollars includes the closing costs. If this is approved by the voters it will include a tax increase for the first year to ensure the principal payback is in the bank for the first payment in January. As part of the recommendation from the Jail Subcommittee the Sheriff's Office will have to provide the budget for the operations to be able to calculate the millage rate.

*Chairman Bridges said a lot of discussion has taken place about the jail and it needs to move forward to meet the time table. He expressed his appreciation to the Jail Subcommittee members and to all the people involved with the planning. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to move forward to advertise for the jail referendum. Commissioner Jacques made the motion and clarified this is a non-binding referendum that includes only the capital improvement component of the jail and not the operational costs. The costs for operations will need to be included in any tax increase for clarification for all parties. 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 Wester, Commissioner Franklin, Commissioner Jacques, Dr. Macomson and Chairman Bridges.*

*E. **Surplus Equipment** – Chairman Bridges said the Commissioners were given a list of the surplus items at the planning session. He asked Mrs. Thomas to go over this further. Mrs. Thomas recommended to the Commission Board to declare the list of items from the Road and EMS departments as surplus equipment. This will allow the County to get rid of the items and covert them to cash and allow for cleanup at the Public Works area. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the recommendation from Mrs. Thomas. Commissioner Franklin made the motion to get rid of the surplus equipment and said if it is not being used it is not needed. 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 Jacques, Commissioner Wester, Dr. Macomson, Commissioner Franklin and Chairman Bridges.*

G. Announcements:

Mrs. Thomas announced the Senior Center received a private grant in the



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amount of \$2,000 from the Thanks Mom and Dad Fund. With this grant Mrs. Thomas will be purchasing a large screen television for the Senior Center along with a computer for the clients. There will be technology-based learning experiences along with a movie day once a week. Mrs. Thomas said her goal is to get the Senior Center on FACEBOOK. A new director is being sought and there will be changes. The Senior Center is also in need of a new van and new tables and chairs. With changes Mrs. Thomas has hopes of increasing the participation.

Commissioner Wester announced he will not be able to attend the February 25 work session as he will be out of town.

Chairman Bridges said a training session will be held on March 7 for new elected officials hosted by GMRC. He said this would be great training experience for elected officials. It would also be beneficial for any citizen that is interested in GMRC.

Commissioner Franklin expressed his appreciation for the Road department employees for their work on Hicks Road off of Hwy 63. They did a great job and the residents were pleased.

Item 5. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Jacques made the motion to adjourn. 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 Dr. Macomson, Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Franklin, Commissioner Jacques and Chairman Bridges. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.



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Signed on the _____ day of _____, 2018

Chairman J. Thomas Bridges

Robert L. Franklin, District 1 Commissioner

Dr. Jason Macomson, District 2 Commissioner

Jeff Jacques, District 3 Commissioner

Eddie Wester, District 4 Commissioner

Elaine H. Evans, County Clerk