

**FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING
May 4, 2015
5:30 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: Kandice Eberhardt, Franklin County Citizen Leader

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

Chairman Bridges called the public hearing to order and thanked everyone for their attendance. He said that there are three items on the public hearing agenda. Each item will be allowed 10 minutes; five minutes to speak for and five minutes to speak against. These items will then be voted on at the regular board meeting immediately following the public hearing.

The first agenda item is for a conditional use permit for Thann Tran. Chairman Bridges asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of Mr. Tran's request. Tim Lewallen spoke on behalf of the Tran's. Mr. Lewallen said that he is the land surveyor who prepared the site plan for Mr. Tran. The Tran's are proposing to build a poultry farm on 28 acres of land in the New Bethel Community. This property has road frontage on both New Bethel Road and Edward McFarlin Road. The Tran's proposal is to build four layer houses – 530' x 45'. All the setback requirements have been met. The drive access for the poultry farm will come off of Edward McFarlin Road, a county dirt road. Chairman Bridges thanked Mr. Lewallen for speaking on behalf of Mr. Tran.

Chairman Bridges asked if anyone else wished to speak for the conditional use permit approval for Mr. Tran. No one else came forward to speak. Chairman Bridges then asked if anyone wished to speak against the request by Mr. Tran. There was no opposition.

The second agenda item is a conditional use permit for Wesley Allen. Chairman Bridges asked if anyone wished to speak for the request from Mr. Allen. Wesley Allen came forward to

He said that his plans are to build eight broiler houses on 87 acres that he and his brother own jointly. They have already received a letter of intent from a poultry integrator and obtained the loan to start the process. The site plan is already prepared and this information was previously given to the Planning Commission. Mr. Allen said that the only thing left is to receive the conditional use permit. The grading process for the broiler houses will begin after the permit is approved. Chairman Bridges thanked Mr. Allen for his comments.

Chairman Bridges asked if anyone else wished to speak for the request from Mr. Allen. No one else came forward to speak for Mr. Allen's request. Chairman Bridges asked if there was anyone who wished to speak against the request for Mr. Allen's broiler houses. There was no one to speak against the request.

The third agenda item is the abandonment of Clarks Creek Church Road. Chairman Bridges asked if anyone wished to speak in support of abandoning Clarks Creek Church Road. Lisa and Stan Humphrey came forward to speak in support of abandoning Clarks Creek Church Road. Mrs. Humphrey said that in October 2014 they purchased most of the property that encompasses Clarks Creek Church Road. She stated that part of her reason for asking to close the road is that a lot of trash is dumped in this area. People also come on the property and shoot without permission. Mr. Humphrey said that people hunt this property at night and he is concerned for the safety of his grandchildren. He is afraid that someone will get hurt. He would like to be able to keep the area clean and safe.

Mr. Humphrey said that animals have been shot and the carcasses are left to rot in the fields. Chairman Bridges asked Mr. Humphrey if he owned both sides of the property on Clarks Creek Church Road. Mr. Humphrey said that he and his wife own the majority of the property on both sides of Clarks Creek Church Road. Chairman Bridges asked Mr. Humphrey if he and his wife owned the entire property on both sides of Clarks Creek Church Road. Mr. Humphrey said that he and his wife own the entire road except for the corner of Clarks Creek Church Road and Clarks Creek Road. He said that the little corner is not part of the road. Chairman Bridges thanked Mr. and Mrs. Humphrey for coming to speak on this issue. Chairman Bridges asked if there was anyone else who wished to speak in favor of closing Clarks Creek Church Road. There was no one else who wished to speak in support of abandoning the road.

Chairman Bridges asked if there was anyone who wished to speak in support of keeping the road open. Barbara Pitts Bowers said that she owns property on both sides of Clarks Creek Church Road. Mrs. Bowers said that as a taxpayer of Franklin County that she and any of her family should be able to get to a road that is maintained by the County. She said that in the 1960's Clarks Creek Church Road was paved and it went through more of her mother and dad's property than any other property on the road. This is a landmark to her because it is still a portion of the old Clarks Creek Road which was used many years ago by many residents of the County. Mrs. Bowers stated that she does not want to see the road closed up. She then thanked the Commission Board for allowing her to speak. Commissioner Strickland asked Mrs. Bowers where her property is located. She said that she owns both corners.

Chairman Bridges asked if there was anyone else who wished to speak. There was no one else who wished to speak at the public hearing. The public hearing remained open until the

beginning of the regular board meeting. The public hearing officially closed at 6:00 p.m.

Signed on the _____ day of _____, 2015

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