

**FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
July 6, 2015
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
MJ Kneiser, WLHR

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

Item 1 & 2: Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance – Chairman Bridges welcomed everyone and called the regular board meeting to order. He then asked Commissioner Strickland to lead the invocation and pledge to the American flag.

Item 3: Approval of Minutes:

June 1, 2015 Public Hearing
June 1, 2015 Regular Board Meeting
June 11, 2015 SPLOST Meeting
June 23, 2015 Budget Public Hearing – 10 a.m.
June 23, 2015 Budget Public Hearing – 6 p.m.
June 30, 2015 Budget Public Hearing
June 30, 2015 Work Session

Chairman Bridges said that there are seven sets of minutes for the meetings in June. He said that each commissioner had been given the opportunity to review the minutes that were sent out by County Clerk Elaine Evans. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Commissioner Jacques made the motion to accept the minutes as written. Commissioner Strickland seconded the motion. Chairman Bridges asked for discussion. Commissioner Jacques thanked County Clerk Elaine Evans for getting the minutes quickly to the Commission Board for review. Chairman Bridges and the other members agreed. He then 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; Commissioner Strickland; and

Commissioner Franklin.

Chairman Bridges recognized Commissioner Jacques to amend the agenda. Agenda item A1 was added under items for discussion – library board appointment, which was made in the form of a motion by Commissioner Jacques. Commissioner Strickland 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; Commissioner Strickland; Chairman Bridges; Commissioner Jacques; and Commissioner Wester.

Item 4: Items for discussion:

A. Public Comment – Chairman Bridges asked if anyone would like to make a public comment. There was no one for public comment.

A1. Library Board Appointment – Chairman Bridges said that the applicant for the library board appointment is Cindy Bryant. He said that each commissioner has her application for review. Commissioner Jacques asked for clarification if Ms. Bryant's was the only application received. County Manager Beth Thomas said that this application was sent directly to the library board instead of the Board of Commissioners. No other applications have been received by the County. Commissioner Jacques asked if this applicant is per the recommendation of the library board. Mrs. Thomas confirmed that it was. She also said that the term will be for three years, going through 2018. Commissioner Strickland said that he thought there had not been any applicants and the date of this application is May 12th. Mrs. Thomas said that this application went to the library board instead of the County. Commissioner Strickland asked if it had been sitting with them instead of with the County. Mrs. Thomas said that this is correct. She said that when the announcement was made that the County did not have any applications that the library board contacted the County. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to appoint Cindy Bryant to the library board. Commissioner Wester seconded the motion. 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; Commissioner Wester; Commissioner Jacques; and Commissioner Strickland. Chairman Bridges along with Commissioner Strickland said that they were pleased that someone with Ms. Bryant's qualifications is willing to serve on the library board.

B. Food Bank of Northeast Georgia – John Becker – Chairman Bridges recognized Mr. Becker and asked him to come forward to speak to the Commission Board. Mr. Becker thanked Chairman Bridges and the Commission Board for the opportunity to speak about the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia. He said that he wanted the public to know the good works of the citizens of Franklin County. Over 400,000 meals have been provided through the Food Bank to struggling families in Franklin County by the people in Franklin County. Mr. Becker said that there are a lot of good caring people in Franklin County who work hard to help provide food to those who are struggling. The mission of the Food Bank is to end hunger. The way that they do this is

to partner with other agencies in the counties.

Mr. Becker said that the Food Bank is working on a new program which is a Food Hub. He said that Feeding America looks at this program as a national model. He said that excess food will be bought from farmers both inside and outside of Franklin County, but the food will be available for Franklin County residents also. Mr. Becker said that this will be an individual quick frozen line. He said that this will be processed in Rabun County but available for all of the service area of the Food Bank. This food will most likely be sold in the larger areas. He said that this should solve cash flow and excess crops for the farmers. Mr. Becker said that more information will be forthcoming on this. He then thanked the Commission Board for allowing him to speak and again thanked the citizens of Franklin County for their generosity.

Commissioner Strickland asked Mr. Becker if this agency was part of the community churches that give out food. Mr. Becker said that these churches are part of the Food Bank itself. He said that the part that he explained today is another chunk of the Food Bank to help establish jobs. The Food Bank is working with farm school in Habersham County and with Rabun County. He said that UGA is onboard to help train members of the Food Hub in good agricultural practices and to also offer free services. He said that the hope is that this will create some agricultural jobs. Chairman Bridges thanked Mr. Becker for bringing this information to the Commission Board.

C. Tax Anticipation Note – Chairman Bridges asked County Manager Beth Thomas to go over the tax anticipation note agenda item. Mrs. Thomas said that this was talked about at last month's work session. The County will need a temporary cash flow mechanism until property taxes begin to be collected. She said that the resolution is for Franklin County to take out a tax anticipation note in the amount of 2.2 million dollars with an interest rate of 1.74% to be repaid before December 31, 2015. This document has been reviewed by County Attorney Bubba Samuels. Mrs. Thomas asked that this be approved to be able to make the first draw within the next two weeks. Commissioner Jacques asked if this could be repaid sooner than December if the finances improved. Mrs. Thomas stated yes that this will be paid off as soon as possible. She said that the least amount of interest the County has to pay the better. Commissioner Jacques then asked if this loan will be with a local bank. Mrs. Thomas said that it is a local bank with a very good rate. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the resolution for the tax anticipation note. Commissioner Strickland made the motion. Commissioner Jacques seconded the motion. 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 Strickland; Commissioner Franklin; Commissioner Jacques; Commissioner Wester; and Chairman Bridges.

D. Tax Digest and Update – Chairman Bridges asked County Manager Beth Thomas to comment on the tax digest and update. Mrs. Thomas said that she has prepared all of the tax digest submission forms that the County will be required to complete along with a schedule for the public hearings and advertisements. No action is needed at this time, this is for information. In this week's *Franklin County Citizen Leader*

the five year taxes levy history and the advertisement will be published. Three public hearings are required. The public hearings will be held on July 21st at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. The third public hearing will be held on July 28th at 5:30 p.m. before the work session. The Commission Board will need to vote on the millage increase at the work session on July 28th. Mrs. Thomas thanked Tax Commission Bobby Martin and Chief Appraiser Rick Cothran for helping with the review of the information for the tax digest. She then asked each commissioner to review this and let her know if any changes are needed. Chairman Bridges thanked Mrs. Thomas for the information. He asked each commissioner to review the information that was given by Mrs. Thomas.

E. Executive Session – Litigation & Personnel – Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to go into executive session. Commissioner Strickland made the motion to close regular session and go into executive session. Commissioner Wester seconded the motion. 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 Wester; Commissioner Jacques; Commissioner Strickland; and Commissioner Franklin. Regular session closed at 6:16 p.m. to go into executive session.

Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to close executive session and go back into regular session. Commissioner Jacques made the motion to come out of executive session and go back into regular session and also for the Chairman to sign the closed meeting affidavit where litigation and personnel issues were discussed. Commissioner Strickland seconded the motion. 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 Strickland; Chairman Bridges; Commissioner Jacques; and Commissioner Wester. Regular session resumed at 6:55 p.m.

Chairman Bridges asked if there was any other discussion. There was no further discussion. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion and second to adjourn the regular board meeting. Commissioner Strickland made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Jacques seconded the motion. 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; Commissioner Strickland; and Commissioner Franklin. The meeting adjourned at 6:57 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