

**FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 5, 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 Engineer, John Phillips
County Attorney, Bubba Samuels

Item 1 & 2: Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance – Chairman Bridges welcomed everyone to the October 5 regular board meeting. He asked Commissioner Wester to lead the invocation and pledge to the American flag.

Item 3: Approval of Minutes:

September 14, 2015 – Public Hearing Minutes
September 14, 2015 – Regular Board Meeting
September 22, 2015 – Public Hearing/Work Session

Chairman Bridges said that there are three sets of minutes to be approved. He said that the minutes were sent out by the county clerk for review. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion and a second to approve the minutes. Commissioner Strickland made the motion to approve the minutes. 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 Franklin; Commissioner Strickland; Chairman Bridges; Commissioner Jacques; and Commissioner Wester.

Item 4: *Items for discussion:*

A. Public Comment – Chairman Bridges said that Judge Ken Eavenson had an announcement to make on behalf of the Franklin County Historical Society. Judge Eavenson extended an invitation to the Commission Board and the public to meet

Daniel (Dan) Crumpton. Mr. Crumpton graduated from the UGA School of Forestry in 1957. He entered into private practice in 1965 with Forest and Land Services, Inc. in Warrenton, GA. He has been a district supervisor with Warren County Soil and Water Conservation for over 26 years. Mr. Crumpton has a passion for preservation of cemeteries; land; streams; forests; and ponds. He is a winner of the outstanding contribution to the field of genealogy. His most recent book is *Wilkes County Georgia Land Records*. He is also a director in Ag Georgia Farm Credit and will be attending a stock holders meeting in Carnesville on October 27. Mr. Crumpton will be at the Carnesville City Hall meeting room on October 27 to make a map presentation of the four Franklin County academy tracts and will allow time for questions and answers. Judge Eavenson extended again to the Commission Board and the public from the Historical Society the invitation to meet Mr. Crumpton. He also recognized the valuable work that the Historical Society volunteers do each Tuesday and Thursday. He asked that the Commission Board take the time to thank the Historical Society volunteers.

Chairman Bridges said that he wanted to thank everyone for their efforts during the weather impact from this past weekend. He thanked all of the employees of Franklin County as well as the citizens who helped clear the debris from the roads. The emergency response from the Sheriff's employees; EMS; volunteer fire departments; road employees and citizens was greatly appreciated. Chairman Bridges thanked the County management team. He said that everyone involved in the cleanup of the storm deserved thanks and appreciation from the Commission Board. Franklin County is blessed to have such good employees and citizens.

Chairman Bridges thanked the County management team for making application to the Appalachian Regional Commission for a sewer system grant. Franklin County has received notification that \$300,000 is being awarded for the project. Chairman Bridges and the Commission Board thanked the management team led by County Manager Beth Thomas and County Engineer John Phillips.

There were no other comments from the Commission Board. Chairman Bridges asked if there any additional comments from the public. There were no additional comments or concerns from the public.

B. Planning and Zoning items – Chairman Bridges said that there are three planning and zoning items on the agenda to be voted on. He asked County Manager Beth Thomas to comment on the first item of a conditional use for Phuong Ha. Mrs. Thomas said she concurs with the recommendation from the Planning Commission in approving the conditional use permit for Mr. Ha. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion and a second on the recommendation from Mrs. Thomas. Commissioner Strickland made the motion to approve. 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; Commissioner Strickland; and Commissioner Franklin.

Chairman Bridges asked Mrs. Thomas to explain the second planning and zoning item. Mrs. Thomas said that the public hearing for Ms. Yen Tran Pham for a conditional use has already occurred. The site survey has been received. The recommendation from the Planning Commission is for approval on a conditional basis that no footings be poured until a licensed surveyor comes out to make sure that the site plans are accurate and setbacks are met. Mrs. Thomas concurs with the recommendation from the Planning Commission. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion and a second. Commissioner Jacques made the motion for approval with the conditions stated by Mrs. Thomas. 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.

Chairman Bridges asked Mrs. Thomas to comment on the third and final planning and zoning item. Mrs. Thomas said that the public hearing for GRP Franklin was held for rezoning on two parcels of land from AI to CI. The request for rezoning was for safety reasons. Mrs. Thomas recommended that the rezoning be approved with the condition that GRP Franklin limits trucks on county roads. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion and a second. Commissioner Franklin said that he is glad to make the motion. This plant is in his district and he is happy that it is in his district because of the new jobs. Commissioner Jacques seconded the motion with the conditions set forth by Mrs. Thomas and the original recommendation from Planning Director John Phillips. He said that it is Burke Road where the access will be limited. 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 Strickland; Commissioner Jacques; and Commissioner Wester.

C. District Attorney Contract – Chairman Bridges asked Mrs. Thomas to explain the district attorney contract. Mrs. Thomas said that each year the County enters into an agreement with the State of Georgia Prosecuting Attorneys Council of Georgia which relates to the state paid county reimbursed personnel. Franklin County covers 25% and Elbert County covers 75%. Mrs. Thomas stated that she has had the contract signed for a while. She was in disagreement with the total obligation as written. The District Attorney Mr. White worked with Mrs. Thomas to make the wording in the contract satisfactory. Mr. White included a worksheet to show Franklin County's portion. Mrs. Thomas asked that Chairman Bridges be authorized to execute the agreement. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion and a second on the recommendation from Mrs. Thomas. Commissioner Wester made the motion. Commissioner Jacques 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 Wester; Commissioner Jacques; Chairman Bridges; Commissioner Strickland; and Commissioner Franklin.

D. DB Plan Update – ACCG – Chairman Bridges asked Mrs. Thomas to go over the DB plan update. Mrs. Thomas said that each Commissioner was provided with the information from ACCG. The Defined Benefit (DB) plan has been frozen since 2011.

No new employees can be added. Although no one can be added to the DB plan, the plan has to be updated as the IRS rules change. The plan will not be opened back up, only updated per IRS regulations. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the recommendation from Mrs. Thomas. Commissioner Strickland made the motion. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. Commissioner Strickland asked if this is a budgeted amount. Mrs. Thomas said that each year there is an actuarial report done to determine the current year funding for the DB plan. The actuarial report funding amount was lower than what was budgeted by the County. There was no other 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 Strickland; Commissioner Franklin; Commissioner Wester; and Chairman Bridges.

E. Water Tank Removal – State Route 59 – Chairman Bridges said that the next item is the removal of the water tank on Hwy 59. He asked County Engineer John Phillips to comment on the water tank. Mr. Phillips said that this is one of two tanks that have been in the County since around the mid 1990's. When the water system first started these water tanks served a purpose. This tank is not needed because of the million gallons storage tank near the Stephens County line which is now used. This tank has not been used for water storage but has been used for height for communications antennae. The condition of the tank continues to deteriorate. Mr. Phillips said that he would not recommend putting money into painting the tank because it is not useful to the County. He would like for the County to pursue the removal of the tank by sending out requests for proposals. Chairman Bridges asked for a recommendation to allow Mr. Phillips to send out RFP's for removal of the water tank. Commissioner Strickland made the motion. Commissioner Jacques seconded the motion. Commissioner Strickland stated that by putting out to bid the County would get paid for the tank. Mr. Phillips said ideally that is what will happen. Commissioner Jacques said that there should be some salvage value even if it is minimal. 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 Wester; Commissioner Jacques; Commissioner Franklin; and Chairman Bridges.

There were no other comments or concerns. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Strickland made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Wester seconded. 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. The meeting adjourned at 6:25 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