

FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 2, 2016
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

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

Item 3: Approval of Minutes:

April 4, 2016 Public Hearing
April 4, 2016 Regular Board Meeting
April 26, 2016 Work Session

Chairman Bridges said that the minutes were presented to each Commissioner for review. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Strickland made the motion to approve all three sets of 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 Chairman Bridges; Commissioner Strickland; Commissioner Jacques; Commissioner Franklin; and Commissioner Wester.

Item 4: Items for discussion:

A. Public Comment – Chairman Bridges asked if anyone would like to speak in public comment. Walter Brown asked to be recognized. He said that he previously brought the problem about his road to John Phillips and Commissioner Jacques. Mr. Brown said that the road is being graded like a gravel or dirt racetrack.

Some of the banks on this road are turned way up. The road shape also allows water to run onto property. Mr. Brown said that this is a dangerous road because of the curves. He said that the road needs to be reshaped. Commissioner Strickland asked Mr. Brown to state his name and address for the record. Mr. Brown stated Walter Brown, 885 Aderhold Road. Chairman Bridges said that this issue has been addressed before with the Sheriff's Office and the Road Department. He asked John Phillips to look into this and see if it can be resolved.

Commissioner Jacques asked for clarification of whether the only right of way on Aderhold Road is ditch to ditch. Mr. Phillips confirmed that this is correct. Commissioner Jacques said that structural changes can be made to the road if the right of way is deeded to the County. He said that an appeal has been made previously to the citizens on Aderhold Road for right of way. Commissioner Jacques said that the appeal for right of way can be made again so that the structural work can be done along with the water and drainage issues. He told Mr. Brown that he and Mr. Phillips would be willing to meet with him and the other property owners. Mr. Brown said that he is appreciative of this and the Sheriff's Office for stopping dirt bikes and four wheelers on the road.

Chairman Bridges asked if anyone else would like to speak in public comment. Gary Smith, 124 Roberts Street in Lavonia, who spoke as an employee. He asked that during budget time that the prescription medications be looked at. Mr. Smith said that with the current contract if an employee wants to purchase 90 days of medication, it has to be bought through mail order. He said that this does not allow for local pharmacies to be used. There is a cost savings with the 90 day purchase but he does not like taking business out of the County. Mr. Smith said during contract negotiations to please be mindful of this. Chairman Bridges said to please bring this to the attention of the County Manager during budget talks.

Commissioner Strickland said that he would like to see the budget process begin in January. This would give more opportunity for review by the departments. It would not cut the budget process so close to the wire. Chairman Bridges thanked Commissioner Strickland for his comment and said that this was something to think about.

B. Public Hearing item – Chairman Bridges said that there are two public hearing items to be voted on. These were presented to the Commission Board prior to the regular board meeting.

The first public hearing item for consideration is a conditional use permit for poultry houses for Aubrey and Terri Lunsford. Chairman Bridges said that the recommendation from the Planning Commission is in favor of granting the permit. He asked for a motion to accept the recommendation from the Planning Commission to grant a conditional use permit for Aubrey and Terri Lunsford. Commissioner Strickland made the motion. 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 Strickland; Chairman Bridges;

Commissioner Jacques; and Commissioner Wester.

The second public hearing item for consideration is a rezone and conditional use permit for Trace and Joy Embry of Shepherd's Hill Academy. The recommendation from the Planning Commission is to approve the request. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Jacques made the motion to approve the request as submitted by Milford and Milford Attorneys on behalf of Shepherd's Hill Academy and as recommended by the Planning Commission. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Franklin 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.

C. Manager Report –

1. Capital Expense – Equipment – Mowers and Lasers – Mrs. Thomas stated that the inmate crews are responsible for maintaining many of the governmental buildings as well as the land sites. These crews are cost beneficial to the County. At this time there is a lot of down time due to mowers beginning to wear out. Quotes have been obtained from three different suppliers. Out of the suppliers that were looked at John Deere is the cheapest at \$7,100. Mrs. Thomas recommended that the Commission Board approve the purchase of two mowers at a cost of \$7,100 each. She said that this purchase would be made out of SPLOST V funds under the building allocation. Commissioner Strickland asked if this is the local John Deere place. Mrs. Thomas confirmed yes. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the recommendation from the County Manager. Commissioner Strickland made the motion. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Franklin 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 Strickland; Commissioner Wester; Commissioner Franklin; and Chairman Bridges.

Mrs. Thomas said that one of the first events that she attended as County Manager was the grand opening of the GSP Post 52 on Hwy 77. It was predicted that this post would have a huge impact on this area and Mrs. Thomas believes this to be true. Mrs. Thomas said that with attending meetings and talking with other leaders, she discovered that it is not unusual for governmental agencies to purchase equipment and donate to the GSP. This is similar to the way that the County volunteer fire departments use forestry equipment grants. Mrs. Thomas recommended to the Commission Board to purchase a couple of lasers and donate to GSP Post 52 in appreciation of the work that they do. She said that she has not spoken to the GSP Commander so she does not know exactly what they need. The cost of the lasers is estimated to be \$5,000 to \$6,000. This is a broad range so that the GSP can choose options.

Chairman Bridges said that the GSP has been busy. He asked Mrs. Thomas if this is a motion. Commissioner Strickland asked if the County should check with the GSP and see what they really need. Mrs. Thomas said that if everyone is in agreement

that she will. At this stage it is being done proactively. She said that she wants Franklin County to partner with the GSP. Commissioner Strickland made the motion to authorize the \$5,000 to \$6,000 to purchase lasers for the GSP. 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 Franklin; Commissioner Strickland; Chairman Bridges; Commissioner Jacques; and Commissioner Wester.

Before moving to the next item, Commissioner Strickland asked Mr. Phillips if he had time to check into pricing for a spreader truck. Mr. Phillips said that he has not completed this yet. Commissioner Jacques asked if the laser purchase could be paid for with SPLOST funds seeing as how it will be utilized by another agency. Mrs. Thomas said that she would have to see what allocation bucket it could come out of. Commissioner Jacques said that he has a concern because of the budget numbers. Mrs. Thomas said that she would not have made the recommendation if she did not feel comfortable that the \$5,000 to \$6,000 would be well worth the investment. Chairman Bridges said that it would be up to the discretion of Mrs. Thomas because it is approved.

2. Capital Expense – Buildings – Historical Society – Mrs. Thomas gave information on the Historical Society area in the BOC office. She said that there have been recurring plumbing issues in the BOC office. Multiple attempts to diagnose the root cause have proved futile. There is no concrete explanation. Currently the basement of the BOC is used for the Historical Society as well as storage. Mrs. Thomas has looked into other places for the Historical Society. At this point cost is a factor. Some of the solutions will take a while to get there. Mrs. Thomas said that due to this issue, she and Judge Eavenson made the decision to close the basement off to the public. The Historical Society can still use the basement at their discretion with the bathroom upstairs at the BOC office being available to them.

Mrs. Thomas said that the County crew will work to move the pipes so that they are no longer going through the basement. The County crew is also working with the City of Carnesville to provide a new connection. This change should eliminate the plumbing issue and keep the documents intact. Mrs. Thomas said that she will continue to work with Judge Eavenson to find a location for the Historical Society. She acknowledged the important work that the Historical Society does for the County.

Commissioner Strickland asked Mrs. Thomas if she had asked Mrs. Betty LeCroy about renting the building across from the BOC. Mrs. Thomas said that she understood from the prior tenants that this building is having the same type of issue. She said the other problem is the location of the bathroom which is upstairs. The safety of the volunteers and the clientele has to be considered. Chairman Bridges stated that his understanding is that Mrs. Thomas is working with Judge Eavenson to find a new location for the Historical Society. Mrs. Thomas affirmed that she is. There was no further discussion

3. Budget Update – Mrs. Thomas said that the Commission Board has been provided information through March 2016. She said that this is provided as a comparison to begin the FY17 budget. According to projections the budget year should end exactly as planned. Everyone is running on target.

LOST revenue is down because of lower gas prices. Mrs. Thomas said it is great when filling up your vehicle but awful to the County's bank account. Some other good, positive things have helped in revenue to offset the decrease in LOST. On the expense side there have been some positive results on the self-insured roll out. Mrs. Thomas said that she does not doubt that the County made the best decision to move out of self-funded health insurance. She said that no matter how you look at the numbers it cannot be hid that we have an unhealthy population. The preliminary increase for health insurance is 47%. Mrs. Thomas said that she is beginning to look at multiple health plans to keep the insurance from skyrocketing by \$500,000. She said that this is not formal presentation only information so that the Commission Board will know.

The tax digest is not available at this time but Mrs. Thomas is making the assumption that property taxes will stay constant. Mrs. Thomas said that all the budgets were issued to the department heads and elected officials last week. She is in the process of scheduling meetings. Chairman Bridges thanked Mrs. Thomas for the information. He instructed each Commissioner to study the data and ask questions.

4. Cash Management – TAN – Mrs. Thomas said that at the March work session the need to look forward to FY17 and cash management was discussed. She said that FY16 budget was not constructed to generate any excess revenue. This same strategy will be used for the FY17 budget. Because of the lack of reserve funds that is the need for the Tax Anticipation Note (TAN). The process will be the same as last year.

Mrs. Thomas said that this year's Tax Anticipation Note will be taxable unlike last year's. The reason for the taxable is because of the overall financing plans that the County is currently working on which includes the hospital and SPLOST V. The interest rate is higher for this year but because of the short duration of the loan it will not make a significant impact on the County's funds. One local bank opted not to quote as they could not beat the rate and closing costs of the other bank. Mrs. Thomas said that just like last year Northeast Georgia Bank has proved to be an effective partner.

The recommendation to the Commission Board from Mrs. Thomas is for the approval of a resolution for a Tax Anticipation Note with Northeast Georgia Bank at a rate of 2.98% for an amount to not exceed 3.5 million dollars. This is being requested as part of an overall treasury management plan. The funds will not be borrowed until absolutely necessary. Commissioner Jacques asked if this debt service would be retired upon receipt of proceeds. Mrs. Thomas said that this would be just like last year. It must be paid off by the end of the calendar year.

Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the recommendation from Mrs. Thomas for the Tax Anticipation Note. Commissioner Jacques said at this point the

County does not have a choice until the cash reserves are built back up. He made the motion to move forward. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Strickland 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 Wester; Commissioner Jacques; Chairman Bridges; Commissioner Strickland; and Commissioner Franklin.

5. Hospital Refinancing Update – Mrs. Thomas said the County is moving closer to refinancing the hospital. This move was for better rates; shortened term; and fairer tax through the use of SPLOST. The underwriting team and Mrs. Thomas have been working diligently for completion. The due diligence checklist has been covered by both legal teams. Mrs. Thomas said that the credit rating should be received Wednesday. At this time a cost benefit analysis will have to be done to determine if the bond insurance is a savings or not. The official statement should be ready for public offering next week. A special called meeting will need to be scheduled to approve the bond resolution and post compliance resolution after everything is completed. Mrs. Thomas asked that each Commissioner review the preliminary documents before approval of the resolutions.

Mrs. Thomas said that if everything continues on this timeline that all of the closing will be done in order for the next hospital payment which is due June 1st. She said that although a lot of things have been misreported this method has prevented any hospital payment from touching property taxes or the budget. Payments were made by negotiations at the hospital closing as well as the sale of assets. The December payment will also be given back to the County.

Commissioner Jacques requested to talk more in depth and detail and be given clarification on the lasers. He asked where this money would come from in the budget. Mrs. Thomas said that it is not currently built in the budget. She said that for the current year projections there is a small growth and that is where she would pay for the lasers. She said that this is a very small investment for what the County would receive in return. Commissioner Jacques said that it is a small investment. He also said that this was for something that has not been requested or asked for. This is for something that has not been clearly defined as a need. Commissioner Jacques stated that this has never been done since he has been on the Board. He said that the more he thinks about this, he would like to go back and vote again and take whatever protocol is necessary. He said that he is very supportive of the GSP and law enforcement but the County has a tough budget. He is opposed to funding something that has not been requested. He said that he thinks there are other priorities, namely personnel that could be addressed instead of this particular item.

Chairman Bridges stated that Commissioner Jacques' comments referred to a previous item and not to the hospital refinancing. Commissioner Jacques said that he would like to go back and rescind his vote in favor of the lasers. He expressed his apology but said that he cannot vote in good conscience for something that has not been requested. Chairman Bridges asked Commissioner Jacques if he wanted to

rescind his vote. Commissioner Jacques said that he would defer to counsel. County Attorney Bubba Samuels said that the appropriate motion would be a motion to reconsider. It is in order because of being in the same meeting. Mr. Samuels said that it would be proper for Commissioner Jacques to make the motion because he was on the winning side of the previous vote.

After the statement from Mr. Samuels, Commissioner Jacques made the motion. Commissioner Strickland seconded the vote. Chairman Bridges asked for discussion. Commissioner Strickland said that it would be better to get with them to see what they might need instead of coming up with something. Mrs. Thomas said by doing it at this meeting it gave her a month to be able to work before the start of the new budget. Commissioner Strickland said it was always best to ask. Mrs. Thomas said that sometimes you have to spend money to make money. Commissioner Jacques said that he understands but based on what Mrs. Thomas is telling, there has not been a formalized request. Mrs. Thomas said that this was intended as building a relationship, extending the County's hand in partnership. She said the Commissioners have the vote. The GSP can come and present this to the Board. Commissioner Jacques said that the GSP does not need to come and present, he only wants to know that there is a defined need. He is very supportive of them and they play a vital part of the safety of Franklin County, particularly on the Interstate.

Chairman Bridges clarified that Commissioner Jacques only wants to rescind the lasers and not the mowers. Commissioner Jacques said that there is a need for the mowers. There was no further discussion on the lasers. Chairman Bridges called for a vote to rescind the approval of the lasers for the GSP. The motion passed by four (4) YES votes to one (1) NO vote. The YES votes were Commissioner Wester; Commissioner Jacques; Commissioner Strickland; and Commissioner Franklin. The NO vote was Chairman Bridges.

D. Retirement – Chairman Bridges said that the next item on the agenda is for retirement. Mrs. Thomas said that it was at the request of Mrs. Holbrook to be placed on the agenda on a Monday regular board meeting to have the most in attendance. Mrs. Thomas yielded the floor to Mrs. Holbrook with the intention of getting it back afterwards. Clerk of Court Missy Holbrook came forward to speak. She referenced a memo that was written in 2002 by then County Manager Frank Ginn. The memo was to all full time employees with the subject being additional retirement. Mrs. Holbrook said that this match was approved and voted on. She said that she has spoken with each Commissioner about this issue with the exception of Commissioner Strickland. Before she continued, Mrs. Holbrook asked if any of the Commission Board would like to make a motion or address your County Manager to pay the funds due for 2015 for the 457 plan. Commissioner Strickland asked if this was the \$8,000 to \$10,000. Mrs. Thomas said the amount was \$7,018 based on 2014 contributions. Commissioner Strickland said he is in favor of doing this for the employees.

Chairman Bridges told Mrs. Holbrook that he told her two weeks ago that the Commission Board would do the honorable thing and take care of the issue. Mrs.

Holbrook said yes sir, but it has not been done. She said that the contribution is four months behind and these accounts make a little bit of interest. Mrs. Holbrook said that this was brought to your County Manager's attention in March. She said that the Commission Board did not know anything about it. Chairman Bridges told Mrs. Holbrook that the Commission Board will do the honorable thing. He will ask for a recommendation from Mrs. Thomas when Mrs. Holbrook is finished speaking. Mrs. Holbrook said that Mrs. Thomas could go ahead. Mrs. Thomas stated that the Commission Board needs to hear from her. Mrs. Holbrook said that if the Commission Board is going to make a recommendation then there is no point in going further. It was voted to do the match on August 5, 2002. There has been no vote to discontinue the match yet this has not been contributed to.

Mrs. Holbrook said that she knew something had been said about the personnel policy. She said that she did not know who wrote the book but there is very little about retirement in the personnel policy. Commissioner Strickland said that his opinion was that this part was accidentally left out of the update. Chairman Bridges said that this was an oversight and needs to be corrected. He will refer this to Mrs. Thomas for a recommendation. Mrs. Holbrook said that the Commission Board has indicated that this will be done. She asked for a time frame of when the contribution will be made and if any interest is due to the employees.

Chairman Bridges said that Mrs. Thomas has worked long and hard on this issue. She is still new. Mrs. Holbrook asked if anyone else would like to speak about the retirement. Jeff Love of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office spoke. He said that the percentage that is given on his contribution is not a huge amount but it is very personal to him as it is part of his retirement. He is working on his 12th year with the Sheriff's Office. Deputy Love said that this match has occurred each year since 2002. He doesn't understand why or what happened. He said that he is disturbed because something had to happen with the Commission Board collectively for the match to not be made, yet no one was notified of this. He would like an answer as to why the match was not made. Chairman Bridges said he thought this could be cleared up with the presentation from the County Manager. Mrs. Holbrook asked would the employees have a chance to respond to Mrs. Thomas. Mr. Samuels said that the order of presentation is up to the Chairman. Chairman Bridges said that he would analyze it when the time comes.

Chairman Bridges asked Mrs. Thomas to come forward and make her presentation. Mrs. Thomas began her presentation with two quotes "when a person cannot control you, they will try to control how others see you" and "misinformation will feel unfair but stay above it, trusting that other people will eventually see the truth". She said that the last quote has gotten her through these last several weeks. She has seen Facebook posts and misinformation calling for her job, asking for her to be reprimanded. All she asks for is patience and due process because she likes to be very thorough.

Mrs. Thomas said that when she took this job, she did not know about the hospital. She said that she found out like everybody else did, when she heard it on the radio three days after she took the job. She said that she might have an issue with how

she was interviewed. Mrs. Thomas stated that she dug through the reports and came up with a plan to work through the closing. She said that insurance was a big deal to her. When she learned that the subcommittee had given information that they should have known a little bit more about, it cost the County \$660,000. This was the cost because no one dug into it to learn the details. On the fund balances, Mrs. Thomas dug through years of audits and realized that the County's overspending was masked by use of funds. In each of these things she has been very thorough and consistent in researching. She stated that she has not been perfect. There may also be someone who could do the job better than she.

In the retirement situation, Mrs. Thomas said that it was no different and she wanted to be thorough. She asked for patience. Mrs. Thomas stated that the things presented by Mrs. Holbrook are absolutely true. Knowing what she knows now, it would be easy to make a recommendation. Mrs. Thomas quoted Albert Einstein and asked that no one misuse it, "if any fool can know but the point gentleman is to understand". She said that we know that there are contributions out there and there was a memo. Now we know what we have to fix.

Franklin County has three retirement plans. Mrs. Thomas said anyone hired prior to 2001 was on a defined benefit plan. She said that it has been reported that this plan is underfunded by 2.6 million which is absolutely not true. Commissioner Strickland said that he checked with the GEBCorp representative while attending ACCG conference in Savannah and it is not underfunded. Mrs. Thomas corrected the 2001 to 2011. 2011 is the correct year. She said anyone hired after 2011 is on a 401a plan. Mrs. Thomas said that the only issue being talked about is the 457 plan. This plan crosses everybody. She said that this match was not listed in the plan documents or in the audits. Mrs. Thomas asked for proof of the match. Memo and minutes were found. She said that in the employee handbook there is not much about retirement. Each of the department heads and elected officials had an opportunity to review the handbook. It is stated clearly in the minutes that their employees do not have to follow the handbook. This is the handbook for Franklin County. Mrs. Thomas also reviewed the 457 plan. She checked this plan to make sure that this contribution is allowed and how it came about. Discretionary contributions are allowed. It is to be determined each year.

Mrs. Thomas said that during her research, GEBCorp sent her the wording from the prior handbook. It is very clear that the contribution is allowed and stated the method. It is a one percent match for each year of service up to a cap of \$1,000. In 2014 there were 41 employees. The total contribution was \$7,000. She said that there were 16 additional employees who did not receive contributions. She just wanted everyone to be treated equal.

The recommendation that Mrs. Thomas gave the Commission Board is to make everybody whole. She said that her intentions have been good; she just wanted to find the root cause. Mrs. Thomas said that she does not think any other motions are needed except to correct the handbook. The intent from Mr. Ginn when the match began was to encourage active participation in employee retirement. Mrs. Thomas said that the

employees hired before 2011 earn a 300% return on their investment. Those employees hired after 2011 only get 75%. This is the difference in the plans. The plans were changed to stop the bleeding in the finances.

Chairman Bridges asked Mrs. Thomas to clarify her recommendation so that the Commission Board can move forward. Mrs. Thomas said her recommendation is to make everyone whole with making the match for the employees on the DB and DC plans who contribute into the 457 plan. She also asked that the employee handbook be updated to include the prior statement concerning the employee match. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion. Commissioner Strickland made the motion to accept the recommendation from Mrs. Thomas. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. 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 Franklin; Commissioner Strickland; Chairman Bridges; Commissioner Jacques; and Commissioner Wester.

Commissioner Jacques asked what action was needed to show this change to the handbook. Mr. Samuels said to add to the motion to include the prior language to the handbook. Chairman Bridges asked Mr. Samuels if anything else is needed. Mr. Samuels said to clarify the motion is to reinstate the left out paragraph from the previous handbook to the new handbook under retirement. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the recommendation from Mr. Samuels. Commissioner Strickland made the motion. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Jacques seconded the motion. Chairman Bridges asked for discussion. Commissioner Wester said that moving forward as a County that in the future everything needs to be offered to all employees. Commissioner Strickland said that the employees have a choice to participate or not. 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 Wester; Commissioner Jacques; Chairman Bridges; Commissioner Strickland; and Commissioner Franklin.

Chairman Bridges asked for a motion and a second to adjourn. Commissioner Jacques made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Strickland seconded the motion. 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. The meeting ended at 7:00 p.m.

Signed on the _____ day of _____, 2016

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