

**FRANKLIN COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**July 11, 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*  
Buddy Hardigree, *WLHR*

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

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

**Item 3: Approval of Minutes:**

June 6, 2016 Public Hearing  
June 6, 2016 Regular Board Meeting  
June 16, 2016 Budget Hearing  
June 28, 2016 Work Session

Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the four sets of minutes for the month of June. Commissioner Strickland made the motion to accept all the minutes. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Wester seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The minutes were approved by four (4) YES votes to zero (0) NO votes. The YES votes were Commissioner Franklin; Commissioner Strickland; Commissioner Jacques; and Commissioner Wester.

**Item 4: Items for discussion:**

**A. Public Comment** – Chairman Bridges asked if anyone who would like to present an issue to the Commission Board for consideration. There was no one who wished to speak.

**B. Public Hearing items** – Chairman Bridges said that there are two items from the public hearing. He said that the public hearing remained open for 30 minutes to give an opportunity for comments.

The first public hearing item to be voted on is the **abandonment of Ariail Road**. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion. Commissioner Franklin made the motion to abandon Ariail Road. He said that this would help the County because half of the road had already been abandoned. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Jacques seconded the motion. Chairman Bridges clarified that this is not East Ariail Road or West Ariail Road; this is only a small portion to be abandoned. Commissioner Jacques said that it is around 500 feet, plus or minus as shown on the map provided by the Planning Director. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The motion passed by four (4) YES votes to zero (0) NO votes. The YES votes were Commissioner Wester; Commissioner Jacques; Commissioner Strickland; and Commissioner Franklin.

The second public hearing item to be voted on is the **proposed name change for a portion of Holbrook Road**. Chairman Bridges said that Holbrook Road is a little section that goes between Bold Springs Road and Hwy 365. He said that the proposed name change section is an extension of Holbrook Road and for 911 purposes the road will be named Holbrook Lane. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to change the section from Holbrook Road to Holbrook Lane. Commissioner Jacques made the motion. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Strickland seconded the motion. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The motion passed by four (4) YES votes to zero (0) NO votes. The YES votes were Commissioner Jacques; Commissioner Strickland; Commissioner Franklin; and Commissioner Wester.

**C. Gateway Sewer** – Chairman Bridges said that the Gateway Sewer was discussed at the previous work session. He said that this will involve the County granting an easement along A.T. Mauldin Road and the surrounding property to the City of Carnesville for the purpose of managing sewage for Gateway Believers Fellowship. Chairman Bridges said that the County would have an opportunity to review the plans. He asked for a motion to move forward with this proposal. Commissioner Strickland made the motion. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion.

Chairman Bridges asked for discussion. Commissioner Jacques asked for clarification if this would be a construction easement or a permanent easement. County Engineer John Phillips said that this would be a permanent easement. Commissioner Jacques said for access maintenance. Mr. Phillips said correct. There was no further discussion. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The motion passed by four (4) YES votes to zero (0) NO votes. The YES votes were Commissioner Strickland; Commissioner Jacques; Commissioner Wester; and Commissioner Franklin.

**D. LMIG 2016** – Chairman Bridges said that the LMIG 2016 projects are the next items to be discussed. He thanked John Phillips for sitting in for County Manager Beth Thomas who is out of town. Chairman Bridges then asked Mr. Phillips to comment on the LMIG 2016 projects.

Mr. Phillips said that the County accepted bids for the 2016 LMIG resurfacing project which includes five roads. The low bid was submitted by Stratton and Sons Construction Company in the amount of \$440,025.91. The recommendation is to **award the paving contract** to Stratton and Sons. Chairman Bridges said that this was talked about at the work session. He asked for a motion to accept the bid from Stratton and Sons for the paving. Commissioner Jacques made the motion based on the

recommendation from the County Manager to accept the bid from Stratton and Sons for the 2016 LMIG. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Strickland seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The motion passed by four (4) YES votes to zero (0) NO votes. The YES votes were Commissioner Wester; Commissioner Jacques; Commissioner Strickland; and Commissioner Franklin.

Chairman Bridges asked Mr. Phillips to go over the culvert repair item. Mr. Phillips said as part of the 2016 LMIG project two concrete box culverts are to be repaired. He said that these box culverts were identified by the Georgia Department of Transportation during bridge inspections. Mr. Phillips said that bids were received for this project. The low bid was from Georgia Bridge and Concrete in the amount of \$108,000. The recommendation to the Commission Board is to **award the culvert repair** to Georgia Bridge and Concrete. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the recommendation. 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 four (4) YES votes to zero (0) NO votes. The YES votes were Commissioner Franklin; Commissioner Strickland; Commissioner Jacques; and Commissioner Wester.

**E. FY2016 Budget Modification Requests** – Chairman Bridges asked Mr. Phillips to go over the FY2016 budget modification requests item. Mr. Phillips said that these requests were presented to the Commission Board by the Manager for review. He said that most of the requests are from funds that were received but were not anticipated. He said that this is just cleanup for the 2016 budget. Mr. Phillips said that the recommendation from the Manager is to approve the FY2016 budget modification requests. Commissioner Jacques stated that it is only inclusive of the documents that were received in the package at the work session. Mr. Phillips stated that is correct. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to approve the recommendation to accept the modification requests for the 2016 budget. Commissioner Jacques made the motion. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Strickland seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The motion passed by four (4) YES votes to zero (0) NO votes. The YES votes were Commissioner Wester; Commissioner Jacques; Commissioner Strickland; and Commissioner Franklin.

**F. Audit Engagement** – Chairman Bridges said that at the June work session the Manager recommended to the Commission Board that the audit engagement from Duncan and Kitchens be approved. This engagement will cover the fiscal years 2016; 2017; and 2018. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to approve the audit engagement from Duncan and Kitchens. Commissioner Strickland made the motion to approve Duncan and Kitchens. 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 four (4) YES votes to zero (0) NO votes. The YES votes were Commissioner Franklin; Commissioner Strickland; Commissioner Jacques; and Commissioner Wester.

**G. Code of Ordinances** – Chairman Bridges said that the code of ordinances is being worked on and it is desperately needed. He said that the management team has been working on this for some time. Chairman Bridges asked Mr. Phillips to go over this item further. Mr. Phillips said that the Manager has presented

and recommended approval of a contract with Municode to update the Franklin County Code of Ordinances. This update would include the codification of all approved legislation since June 2002. The estimated cost for the project is \$7,500. Mr. Phillips said that the Manager is requesting approval of the contract with Municode for the code of ordinances update and the online services. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the contract with Municode to update the code of ordinances and online services. Commissioner Strickland made the motion. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Jacques seconded the motion. Chairman Bridges asked for discussion.

Commissioner Strickland said that he wanted to thank Mrs. Thomas for checking with the Georgia Mountains Region Commission. He said that GMRC said that it would be in the best interest of the County to go the route of Municode. Commissioner Jacques said for clarification can or will this project be funded by all or part of the Law Library funds that are available. Mr. Phillips said that his understanding is that it will be funded by the Law Library. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The motion passed by four (4) YES votes to zero (0) NO votes. The YES votes were Commissioner Franklin; Commissioner Strickland; Commissioner Jacques; and Commissioner Wester.

**H. Water Rates** – Chairman Bridges said that the water rates for the County have not been raised in many years. He asked Mr. Phillips to explain the rate increase. Mr. Phillips said that the FY2017 budget included increases in service revenue, one of which is through the water system. The Manager presented a proposal for increases that will go into effect September 1 of 2016. The last increase in water rates was in 2011. Mr. Phillips said that the proposed increased water rates were given to the Commission Board in their packs. The recommendation from the County Manager is to approve the water and sewer rate schedule and connection fees as presented.

Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the request from the Manager to increase water rates. Commissioner Strickland made the motion. Chairman Bridges said that this motion will accept the water rates as well as approval of the connection fees. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Jacques seconded the motion. Chairman Bridges asked for discussion. Commissioner Jacques said for clarification 2011 was the last time that the water rates were raised. He said in the County's contract with the City of Toccoa, one of the primary suppliers to Franklin County, there is an inflationary rate index built in annually. This increase will basically offset the increase from what the County is paying for the water supply. Commissioner Jacques stated that the County has borrowed a good bit of money through GEFA for the initial system improvements. He said that GEFA monitors water rates against loan values. Because of this GEFA was almost ready to mandate an increase be made by the County. Mr. Phillips said that this is correct that GEFA looks at the revenue being generated versus the loan amount.

Commissioner Franklin asked Mr. Phillips what the new rate will be for residential customers. Mr. Phillips said that the base rate will go from \$18 to \$21 per month for the typical residential customer. Commissioner Jacques said that he would like for this information to be placed on the County website if approved. There was no further discussion. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The motion passed by four (4) YES votes to zero (0) NO votes. The YES votes were Commissioner Wester; Commissioner Jacques; Commissioner Strickland; and Commissioner Franklin.

**I. IBA Liaison Resignation and Appointment** – Chairman Bridges congratulated Commissioner Jacques for serving on the Industrial Building Authority. He said that Commissioner Jacques did a great job in keeping the Commission Board informed. He said that now Commissioner Jacques is ready to pass the baton. Commissioner Jacques said that it has been his distinct pleasure to serve on the IBA as the Commission Board liaison. He said that he was a non-voting member who attended meetings. He said that he passed information back and forth between the IBA and the Commission Board. Commissioner Jacques said after seven years being on the IBA he would like for one of his colleagues to begin serving. Chairman Bridges said that he appreciated Commissioner Wester stepping up and taking on the extra duty. He said that this would be a consensus type of approval. Chairman Bridges asked the Commission Board if anyone is opposed to Commissioner Wester being the IBA liaison. There was no opposition. Chairman Bridges and Commissioner Jacques thanked Commissioner Wester for accepting the position.

Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Strickland made the motion. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Jacques seconded the motion. Chairman Bridges thanked everyone again for coming out. The motion passed by four (4) YES votes to zero (0) NO votes. The YES votes were Commissioner Franklin; Commissioner Strickland; Commissioner Jacques; and Commissioner Wester. The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Signed on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016

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Chairman J. Thomas Bridges

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Robert L. Franklin, District 1 Commissioner

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David R. Strickland, District 2 Commissioner

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Jeff Jacques, District 3 Commissioner

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Eddie Wester, District 4 Commissioner

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Elaine H. Evans, County Clerk