



**FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 6, 2017
6:00 P.M.**

BOC: *Commission Chairman Thomas Bridges
District 1 Commissioner Robert Franklin
District 2 Commissioner Dr. Jason Macomson
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 called the March regular board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He thanked everyone for taking the time to attend. Chairman Bridges asked Dr. Macomson to give the invocation and lead the pledge of allegiance to the American flag.*

Item 3: **Approval of Minutes:**

*February 6, 2017 Public Hearing
February 6, 2017 Regular Board Meeting
February 28, 2017 Work Session*

*Chairman Bridges said that there were three sets of minutes for the February meetings that need approval. He asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Commissioner Jacques made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Dr. Macomson 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 Wester; Commissioner Jacques; Dr. Macomson; and Commissioner Franklin.*

Item 4: **Items for discussion:**

A. **Public Comment** – *Chairman Bridges asked if anyone would like to*



come forward and address the Commission Board. Jeff Sadler came forward to thank the Commission Board for all the work that they do. He also thanked the Planning Board for their work and for the efforts of both boards to update the Planning regulations. There were no further comments from the public.

B. Public Hearing item – Chairman Bridges said that there was no one who spoke for or against the public hearing item for a conditional use for a poultry farm on Casey Road. He asked Mr. Phillips to give an update on this item. Mr. Phillips said that the applicant did not attend the two Planning Board meetings and attempts to get in touch with him failed. The recommendation from the Planning Board is to deny the request. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to approve the denial recommendation from the Planning Board. Commissioner Franklin made the motion to deny. 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 to deny passed by five (5) **YES** votes to zero (0) **NO** votes. The YES votes were Commissioner Franklin; Dr. Macomson; Chairman Bridges; Commissioner Jacques; and Commissioner Wester.

C. Lakota Trail abandonment request – Chairman Bridges said that the abandonment request for Lakota Trail was talked about at the work session. He asked Mrs. Thomas to give an overview of the request. Mrs. Thomas said that Tracy Parkerson has requested that the section of Lakota Trail that is totally within her property limits be abandoned as was discussed at the work session. The recommendation from Mrs. Thomas to the Commission Board is to begin the abandonment process given the site map and Ms. Parkerson's request. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the recommendation from Mrs. Thomas. Commissioner Jacques made the motion to accept the recommendation from staff to move forward with the advertisement for abandonment of Lakota Trail that was denoted on the map that was given at the work session. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Dr. Macomson 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; Commissioner Franklin; Dr. Macomson; and Chairman Bridges.

D. Planning Board appointment – Chairman Bridges said that there are several openings on the Planning Board. He asked Mrs. Thomas to explain this further. Mrs. Thomas said that there was a resignation on the Planning Board this past December. The subcommittee met and recommended Daniel Culp for this opening. The recommendation to the Commission Board from Mrs. Thomas is to appoint Mr. Daniel Culp to the Planning Board tonight. Mrs. Thomas said that another resignation has taken place on the Planning Board. Applications for this position will be taken through March 24. She said at that time the Commission Board or the subcommittee can review the applications. There is also a term limit that is up in March but Mr. Harold Gillespie would like to continue serving. The opening created by the resignation as well as the term limit will need to be appointed at next month's meeting.



Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the recommendation from Mrs. Thomas to appoint Daniel Culp to the Planning Board. Dr. Macomson 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 Chairman Bridges; Commissioner Franklin; Commissioner Wester; Commissioner Jacques; and Dr. Macomson.

E. SPLOST V expenditures – Chairman Bridges asked Mrs. Thomas to go over the SPLOST V expenditures item.

1. Roads and Highways – Mrs. Thomas said at the work session the SPLOST V projections were presented. She said that one of the items included in the projections was a slope mower for the Road Department. She said that the Road staff has located a demo slope mower that will yield a savings of \$13,000. Mrs. Thomas gave her recommendation to the Commission Board to approve this purchase so that this can be placed in rotation for road maintenance. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the recommendation. Commissioner Jacques made the motion to accept the recommendation from staff as relating to the purchase of the slope mower. He also thanked the staff for their due diligence in finding a slope mower that yielded significant cost savings to the County. 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 Franklin; Commissioner Wester; Commissioner Jacques; Dr. Macomson; and Chairman Bridges.

Mrs. Thomas said that with the savings from the slope mower and the projected LMIG, the County should have about \$171,000 per year for road allocations in SPLOST V. She said that John Phillips has located a grant opportunity through the GTIB (Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank) and has been working on it for some time. The due date for this grant application is March 17. One of the requirements for the grant is that the Commission Board approves the submission. Mrs. Thomas said that typically an announcement would not be made until after a grant has been approved but this is a different requirement. The amount being requested from GTIB is \$200,000 to match the SPLOST V funds to possibly resurface Ross Place. Mrs. Thomas requested that the Commission Board approve the submission request for the GTIB application grant. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the recommendation from Mrs. Thomas. Dr. Macomson made the motion. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Jacques seconded the motion and stated that by the content and thoroughness of the information provided to the Commission Board that Franklin County should be at the top of the list.

Dr. Macomson questioned what kind of process would be needed to change the right turn only where Ross Place comes out into Hwy 17. Mrs. Thomas said that this part is in the City of Lavonia; Franklin County and the City of Lavonia share Ross Place. Dr. Macomson said that he knew that the County would need to work with the



State to get this changed. Commissioner Jacques said that a letter of request would need to be submitted to Brent Cook and Sue Ann Decker and ask that this be reviewed for feasibility and give an explanation of why it is needed for growth and development along Ross Place. Dr. Macomson asked if this should come from the County or from the City of Lavonia or from both. Mrs. Thomas said that the City of Lavonia looked the grant application over for the County. The County would be happy to go into a partnership with them over this request.

*Commissioner Franklin asked if there are plans to widen Ross Place. Mr. Phillips said that the project that is being submitted includes a two feet widening on each side. He said that the road now is 20 feet and if approved this will take the road to 24 feet and then resurfacing. Commissioner Wester said that this something that the County really needs to get done because of Cracker Barrel locating there and the traffic from the hospital. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The motion passed to submit the grant application to GTIB by five (5) **YES** votes to zero (0) **NO** votes. The YES votes were Chairman Bridges; Commissioner Wester; Commissioner Franklin; Dr. Macomson; and Commissioner Jacques.*

*2. **ERP System/Software and Hardware** – Mrs. Thomas said software implementation has been talked about for quite a while. There were several stages to go through before the decision was made. The first thing was to secure the funding which was done through SPLOST V by allocating \$100,000 for technology updates. The software selection process was gone through and is completed. Mrs. Thomas recommended to the Commission Board to go with Edmund and Associates. The decision to go with Edmund and Associates was made by peer surveys; site visits to other users; and demonstrations to the staff by the top three vendors. Mrs. Thomas said at this time that the authorization of the \$100,000 to purchase and a conversion timeline needs to be established. The current server does not have an operating system backup, only a partial one. There has not been a complete system backup in almost eight years. With the current server problems the County is in a critical condition.*

Mrs. Thomas said that when approved Edmunds and Associates said that a team can be brought in so that this can be implemented by July 1. This timeline will be hard on the staff and will take full dedication from them. Mrs. Thomas asked the Commission Board to approve this tonight to give the manager the authorization to spend the \$100,000 on the purchase of Edmunds and Associates software; all necessary hardware and infrastructure needed. The infrastructure is the network support; the computers, servers, and all the wiring. Included in this software purchase is the financial module, utility module, employee self-serve and payroll. Fixed assets will not be part of the purchase as the County is not ready to use it. A time clock system is also not included as none of the vendors included one. Mrs. Thomas said that to move to a time clock system is a goal for the end of the next fiscal year.

Dr. Macomson asked if this would include the hardware to redo the network inside the County office. Mrs. Thomas said that the \$100,000 will. The \$65,000 is only for the software. With the reminder of the \$100,000 a file server, server for actual



software, computers for the entire office, and the wiring will be purchased. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the recommendation from Mrs. Thomas. Dr. Macomson made the motion. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. 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 Franklin; Dr. Macomson; Chairman Bridges; Commissioner Jacques; and Commissioner Wester.

F. GDOT presentation – Chairman Bridges welcomed Tim Matthews with the Georgia Department of Transportation and asked him to come forward and give the information for the bridges to be replaced. Mr. Matthews, senior project manager in the Design and Build office, came forward and thanked the Commission Board for allowing the time to explain the information. He said that there are four bridges to be replaced in Franklin County. The bridges to be replaced are on Neal Road; Cedar Ridge Road; Old Stagecoach Road; and Brown Road. All of the bridges to be replaced are over I-85. He said that these roads are considered minor roadways with very low volume traffic. These bridges were chosen because they met the requirements for the federal funding because of low volume, minor roads, and rural roads. These bridges were also chosen because they are close to each other to contain the replacement costs.

Mr. Matthews stated that when the project is sent out for bids the cost will be less because of the bridges being close together. The advertisement for the design build team for the bridges is scheduled for March 24. The bids will be opened in June and the candidate will be selected from them. Mr. Matthews said that during the replacement of the bridges that detours will have to be done. He said that the goal is to stay within the existing right-of-way with the replacements to be completed within a six to nine month time frame. Mr. Matthews said that the bridges on Neal Road and Cedar Ridge Road will not be closed at the same time because of their closeness. Maps were given out to the Commission Board, media and public to show where the detours would be for each bridge. Advertisements for the closings will be done ahead of time so the public will be aware of the detours. The language in the contract will be written so that the impact to the County will be lessened.

The bridges to be replaced were built in the 1960's. Mr. Matthews said that the bridges will be widened enough to give a proper shoulder to today's standard. This will give some additional width to make things safer. These bridges will be constructed so that they could be widened in the future if the budget allowed for I-85 to be widened to the South Carolina line. Mr. Matthews said that after the bids are received in June it will take time to do the design build which could take an additional six months. Chairman Bridges thanked Mr. Matthews for the excellent information.

G. Announcements – Chairman Bridges asked Mrs. Thomas to comment on the announcements. Mrs. Thomas said that the County has been working on the FCC Market Modification also known as getting the Atlanta stations in Franklin County for quite some time. The STELAR Act of 2014 opened the door and gave the



counties a seat at the table. The FCC rules were adopted in 2015. She said that Representative Doug Collins office sent an email Friday afternoon stating that they had their first successful local government petition to the FCC. Representative Collins office also sent the necessary documents. Mrs. Thomas said that Franklin County is ahead based on the information received.

Mrs. Thomas said one of the things that the FCC weighed heavily on is public comment which is not in their rules and regulations. Information was given to the media as well as placed on the County's website concerning public comments for this. A survey through survey monkey for interest in this change with the link is on the County's website. An email address for public comments has also been started (comments@franklincountyga.com). Mrs. Thomas said that information from the survey along with the comments from the email address will be filed as part of Franklin County's petition to the FCC. She said that Representative Collins office will get Franklin County in touch with an attorney out of the media bureau who was successful in getting this type of information to the FCC. Mrs. Thomas stated that she will be leaning on this attorney as well as on the County Attorney to guide the County through this process. She said that in addition to the survey and email for comments that at least one town hall meeting or public hearing is needed to gain public opinion for the submittal packet. Chairman Bridges asked if she had a time table for the town hall meeting or public hearing. Mrs. Thomas said that she does not as she wants to get the survey results and email comments first.

When the comments are received from the email address, Mrs. Thomas said that she would cut and paste them into a document to turn in with the petition to the FCC. She also stated that there may be people who do not want to change as she has heard from a few who do not want to change anything. Mrs. Thomas also said that there is a possibility that the rates may go up if the Atlanta stations are offered. One satellite company stated this in a pre-coordination letter that it is feasible technically but might not be financially feasible without adjusting rates. Dr. Macomson asked if this is approved how it will affect the local channels that are currently offered from South Carolina. Mrs. Thomas said that her understanding of what will happen is that a grant order will be given that will allow Franklin County to change their demographic area. It is up to the satellite companies at that point to negotiate with the broadcast networks out of Atlanta. Mrs. Thomas said that if no agreement is reached that she does not know what would happen. She said that she has been told that the Atlanta DMA versus the Greenville DMA is significantly more expensive.

Commissioner Wester thanked Mrs. Thomas along with all of the staff who helped on this issue. He said that Mrs. Thomas took the lead for Franklin County and worked along with the other counties to get to this point. He said that he has had a good many phone calls with overwhelming support to go to the Atlanta channels. The people say that there is nothing against the Greenville channels but they would like to know what is going on in Georgia.

Commissioner Franklin expressed his thanks to the Road Department for the job



that they are doing. He said that he had received comments from several people thanking the Board for the job that the Road Department is doing on their dirt roads, for the good condition that they are in.

Chairman Bridges adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Signed on the _____ day of _____, 2017

Chairman J. Thomas Bridges

Robert L. Franklin, District 1 Commissioner

Dr. Jason Macomson, District 2 Commissioner

Jeff Jacques, District 3 Commissioner

Eddie Wester, District 4 Commissioner

Elaine H. Evans, County Clerk