



**FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION MINUTES
September 26, 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

Staff: County Manager Beth Thomas
County Clerk Elaine Evans

Item 1: Call meeting to order – Chairman Bridges called the work session to order at 6 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Item 2: Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Jacques led the invocation and pledge to the American flag.

Item 3: For discussion

A. Public Comment – Chairman Bridges asked if anyone would like to speak in public comment. There was no one who wished to speak.

B. Board Appointments – Chairman Bridges asked Mrs. Thomas to give an update on the board appointments. Mrs. Thomas said the County Clerk provided the information from the Boards spreadsheet on the positions that will expire at the end of the year or the beginning of next year. At this time there is an open position on the Department of Family and Children Services Board that expired in June. One application has been received for this position and has been provided to the Commission Board for review. There is also an open position on the Library Board and an application has been received. The Boards spreadsheet has been updated with information received from these boards.

Mrs. Thomas said the expiring positions are two for the IBA, one for the Tax Assessor Board and four for the Recreation Board. These positions will be advertised in the newspaper during the month of October. A letter will be written to each Board Chairman by the County Clerk confirming the open positions along with an



application for the current members if they are willing to continue serving. After the advertisements the appointments need to be made for the Department of Family and Children Services and the Library Board. After review of the applications the Commission Board will be asked to vote on the remaining positions prior to their expirations. Applications for board positions can be downloaded from the County's website as well as picked up or mailed from the BOC office.

C. Hazard Mitigation Plan – Mrs. Thomas said the Hazard Mitigation Plan has been discussed several times and thanks have been expressed to the cities for being a part of it. The report has been sent electronically to each Commissioner for review. Mrs. Thomas asked for this to be voted on at the October meeting. A requirement of this is for two public comment periods to be held before sending to GEMA. The public comment periods will be held within the next few weeks. Hazard Mitigation Plans are required to be updated periodically. The update will allow Franklin County to be eligible for GEMA and FEMA funds.

D. Manager's Report – Mrs. Thomas said the County is always working on expanding the water system in the County as water is a major component in economic development. Franklin County has been working with the potential developer for the power plant which will be a heavy water user. Mrs. Thomas said Franklin County is exploring all avenues to ensure that everything is in place for economic development.

Mrs. Thomas announced that County Engineer John Phillips has put in his resignation effective October 4. Arrangements have been made with Mr. Phillips to come back for several half day periods. Mrs. Thomas said Franklin County will definitely miss Mr. Phillips. The example of excellent custom service from Mr. Phillips will be carried on by the office staff as much as possible.

Commissioner Jacques asked for an update on the quotes for the sewer expansion. Mrs. Thomas said this is being worked on to get the price down so the County can move forward. The quotes came in much higher than anticipated so with approval from USDA, Franklin County is working with the sole bidder to get the price down. This is ongoing and the price is being looked at again.

E. Executive Session – Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to close regular session and go into executive session. Commissioner Jacques 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, Dr. Macomson, Chairman Bridges, Commissioner Jacques and Commissioner Wester. The regular session closed at 6:10 p.m.

Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to come out of 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 give the Chairman authorization to sign the closed meeting affidavit in which personnel was discussed. 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 Wester, Commissioner Jacques, Dr. Macomson, Commissioner Franklin and Chairman Bridges. The regular session resumed at 7:10 p.m.*

F. Announcements – *Commissioner Wester gave an update on the information given at the IBA meeting about the Georgia Renewable Plant locating in Franklin County. He said initially Georgia Renewable will be hiring 36 employees. With this plant being built the projection is that 500 jobs will be affected by it. Commissioner Jacques asked if this is both plants combined. Mrs. Thomas said she understood it is the impact of the trucking, construction and other jobs. Commissioner Wester said it is very good and they also plan to purchase water from the County. Dirt has already been moved for this plant. Chairman Bridges said this is green energy to produce power for Georgia Power. Commissioner Jacques said the information he previously received about Georgia Renewable is that contracts are already in place and their capital investment was over 150 million dollars. Mrs. Thomas said this has been revised to over 180 million dollars. Commissioner Jacques said this would help the tax digest.*

Commissioner Wester said the wood that will be burned for the energy is waste wood, nothing that can be used in the construction industry. Commissioner Franklin asked if there is a time frame of when they will need the water. Mrs. Thomas said this will not be known until the loan is closed. Commissioner Jacques questioned if the water rate structure will be changed. Mrs. Thomas said she does not intend on changing the present rate structure. She said that negotiations may be needed with Madison County to help provide the water demand. Commissioner Franklin asked if the line is large enough to provide the water. Commissioner Wester said the President of the company said that 1.2 million gallons would be what the County needs to prepare for and this would be on the worst of the worst days. It was also stated that Georgia Renewable wants to be a friend to the community and they will try to not use water during peak times.

Commissioner Jacques said the line size will handle the capacity, the volume is the question. Commissioner Franklin suggested a storage tank be used and filled up at night to not cause interruption to the neighbors. Commissioner Jacques asked if they would reuse. Mrs. Thomas said they will be doing as much as possible to reclaim the water. Commissioner Wester said the President of Georgia Renewable stated at the meeting that the plants in Franklin County and Madison County will be the cleanest burning plants in the country.

*Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Franklin made the motion. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. 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 Franklin and Dr. Macomson. The meeting adjourned at 7:22 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