



You Are Why We Are Here

**FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION MINUTES
October 30, 2018
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: Kandice Eberhardt, Franklin County Citizen

Staff: County Manager Beth Thomas
County Clerk Elaine Evans

Item 1: **Call Meeting to Order** – Chairman Bridges called the October work session to order and welcomed everyone.

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

Item 3: **Items for discussion:**

A. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

B. Presentation

Chairman Bridges said the Probation Office was unable to come to tonight's meeting and asked to be allowed to come next month. The Probation presentation will be placed on the November work session agenda.

C. Tax Commissioner

Tax Commissioner Bobby Martin came forward to speak. He said the tax bills were mailed in August with a due date of November 15. The goal for the collections is 99%. The collections for last year are 99.8%.

Mr. Martin said one of his employees is having to be out due to some unforeseeable medical issues. Due to this problem he would like for his part-time employee Cindy Jackson to become full-time. Changing Ms. Jackson to full-time will require a budget amendment of about \$27,000. Mr. Martin told the Commissioners he would appreciate their making this change happen. Chairman Bridges stated the Commissioners are sorry for the issue with the employee but expressed appreciation to



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Mr. Martin for the way he runs his office. This item will be placed on the regular board meeting agenda for November.

Commissioner Jacques said the 99% collections rate from Mr. Martin is top tier in the State and Franklin County is very fortunate to have this.

D. Board Appointment updates

Chairman Bridges asked Mrs. Thomas to give an update on the board appointments. Mrs. Thomas said no applications have been received for the open positions. There are two openings on the Recreation Board and one on the Planning Commission due to the member becoming a Commissioner in January. Mrs. Thomas said she is hoping for interest in these positions. Commissioner Wester said he attended the Recreation Board meeting and recommended to them to seek applications from people who have a direct interest in recreation.

E. Public Works

Mrs. Thomas said everything is running ahead of schedule for the sewer project. Some of the buildings including the control room are being worked on. Mrs. Thomas said Franklin County has met their portion of the financial piece of the project and will begin the draw downs for the USDA funds and the ARC grant.

Three separate bids will be opened on November 1 for the water expansion relating to the GRP plant. Mrs. Thomas said there are several contractors who are ready to start if they are awarded the projects. The bid amounts will be sent to the Commissioners after they are opened. Mrs. Thomas said she would like for this to be considered at the November regular board meeting. Chairman Bridges questioned if all the information will be sent for review. Mrs. Thomas said County Engineer John Phillips will check the bids for completeness and send the information to the Commission Board.

Dr. Macomson asked what projects are the bids for. Mrs. Thomas said this is the water expansion which was separated into three parts; well development, line work and mixing tank. At a later date a fourth project of an elevated tank will also be tied into this. Commissioner Jacques asked for the start up date of GRP, when they anticipate coming on line. Mrs. Thomas said the last date given was for April 2019 and June 2019. The April date is to make sure the water flows and the June date is the anticipated start date. Although the County has not been given any updates regarding the schedule for GRP, the work is ongoing with the assumption they are on target.

Mrs. Thomas said the LMIG list is being worked on and will be given to the Commissioners prior to the January meeting. Road work is always a tough issue with limited funds available.

F. Manager's Report

Mrs. Thomas said the annualized call volume numbers are higher in both EMS and E911 than the previous year. She said since 2009 the EMS call volume has steadily



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increased. Approximately 18 months ago the SQVR (Supervisor Quick Response Vehicle) was added. The SQVR through October of this year has responded to 870 calls. Compliments have been received regarding this addition as they are able to make calls on their own and respond as backup. Mrs. Thomas said long-term she does not expect the call volume for EMS to go down.

In addition to the call volume, Mrs. Thomas presented a trend in revenue and expense for EMS since 2011 in which revenue increased by \$593,000 or 72%. During this same time period the expenditures only increased \$436,000 or 25%. The EMS revenue is a combination of volume of calls and rate. Rates in EMS were adjusted in 2017 but statistics are not currently available.

Mrs. Thomas said the calls for E911 are a combination of emergency calls and admin calls. The afterhours calls for the cities are handled by the E911 department. Mrs. Thomas said an interesting aspect of the inbound 911 calls is over 85% are from wireless instead of landlines.

Planning and zoning stats were presented by Mrs. Thomas. She said the lowest year for building permits was 2013 with 61 being issued. Since 2013 the building permits have grown by 187%, with the assumption of the same growth pattern, the County is on-target to issue 175 permits this year. During this same time period mobile home permits have increased by 10%.

Mrs. Thomas said she took over the plat reviews last October. So far, she has reviewed 126 and is on-target to do 152 by the end of the year. She said this is a 36% growth in reviews. The phone calls regarding zoning are not counted in these numbers. The Board of Commissioners Office takes phone calls for roads, water, solid waste, planning and zoning, business license and employees. Mrs. Thomas said the Water Clerk and AP Clerk field as many of the questions as they are able to answer before giving them to her. She said at least 70% of her day goes toward planning and zoning questions and reviews. If this continues to grow, Mrs. Thomas said at some point a review will be needed to determine whether or not to make the Planning Director a full-time position.

The tally for early in person voting through today is 2,624 which is more than 2014. Mrs. Thomas said 274 of the 441 absentee ballots have been received. At this point the County is only 1,600 away from the November 2016 in person voting total. On election night, Elections Superintendent Gina Chappelar and the Elections Board will partner with the School System for 12 Anchor Club members to help.

Mrs. Thomas said many of the Elections workers have expressed thanks to the Commissioners for the parking at the new Elections Office as well as for the building. She said this has been a great success and she is thankful for the parking with the heavy volume of voters for early voting. Chairman Bridges said the early voting is running smooth with a good place to park. Commissioner Franklin said he was glad the Elections Office was able to move to a place with room to park. It was chaos to try



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to find a place to park downtown when coming to early vote.

G. Announcements

Mrs. Thomas announced the Democratic candidate for the 9th Congressional District, Josh McCall is at the Royston Library tonight for a town hall meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Commissioner Wester congratulated the Franklin County Lady Lions Fastpitch Softball 3A State Champions on their first time for Franklin County High School. He said the young ladies and coaching staff did a great job and the whole County should be proud of not just how they played but how they represented Franklin County.

Commissioner Wester announced Tonya Powers was appointed as the IBA Director at their last meeting. He said Mrs. Powers is sending an update by email each Friday afternoon which is then forwarded to the Commission Board if necessary. Commissioner Wester said there is a lot of interest in the County with a lot of people coming to visit.

Chairman Bridges asked the Commission Board to go over the ACCG legislative updates. He said there are several issues which could potentially hurt counties especially new voting machines and Broadband with county rights-of-way.

There was no further discussion. Chairman Bridges adjourned the October work session at 6:23 p.m.

Signed on the _____ day of _____, 2018

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