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**FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PLANNING WORK SESSION MINUTES
January 29, 2019
1:00 P.M.**

BOC: Commission Chairman Thomas Bridges
District 1 Commissioner Robert Franklin
District 2 Commissioner Dr. Jason Macomson
District 3 Commissioner Ryan Swails
District 4 Commissioner Eddie Wester

Media: Shane Scoggins, Franklin County Citizen Leader

Staff: County Manager Beth Thomas
County Clerk Elaine Evans

Item 1: Call meeting to order – Chairman Bridges called the planning work session to order at 1:00 p.m.

Item 2: Invocation and Welcome – Chairman Bridges led the invocation and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Item 3: Items for discussion

A. Public Comment – None.

B. Franklin County Accomplishments

Chairman Bridges said 2018 was a good year for Franklin County and a lot was accomplished. One of the biggest accomplishments was the ruling from the FCC for the market modification although a time line has not been set for the change. And the state officials including Governor Brian Kemp need to be made aware of the situation.

Commissioner Franklin said he is receiving positive feedback about the improvements at the Senior Center. Mrs. Thomas said the senior population is about 19% of the total population of Franklin County. The participation at the Senior Center from last March to current has increased from 12 to 20 people to 22 to 30 coming in every week. For the Valentine party there is over 50 people interested. On the home delivered meals the client list has grown from 54 to 82 with a waiting list of 9 people.

Mrs. Thomas said the 2018 audit has been received and it was a clean opinion with no findings. There are carryovers from previous years but no new audit findings. The software was a successful conversion with anticipation of increasing accuracy. Another



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accomplishment was a 3% raise was given to employees.

Franklin County received one of the largest ARC grants along with loan forgiveness from GEFA. Mrs. Thomas said Franklin County entered into an agreement with its largest water customer which is allowing for system improvements to be made without placing the burden on taxpayers. The work has also begun on the waste water treatment facility. The move to a new Elections building was good for the citizens and staff. The elections cycle was smooth due in large part to the way the Elections Board work together although they are from different political parties.

Mrs. Thomas said a FEMA grant was received for the winter storm clean up. The Hazard Mitigation Plan was also updated. She said some of this year's accomplishments will be completed next year but they have been started.

Commissioner Wester said the County is financially better off than four years ago when he came into office. He said in four years under the guidance from Mrs. Thomas and department heads and constitutional officers the County is much better off although it still is not where it needs to be.

C. Presentations

Chairman Bridges said as the presenters come in, they will be allowed to speak.

D. Financial and Operational Review

Mrs. Thomas gave an overview of the active SPLOST accounts; SPLOST III, SPLOST IV and SPLOST V. The balance in the SPLOST III account was isolated for jail expenses and Sheriff's operations and was authorized to be used for this by the Commissioners. Mrs. Thomas said the previous balance was approximately \$85,000 and was used to upgrade some security features and other capital expenditures and a balance is left of about \$12,900. Mrs. Thomas said there are some invoices that are in transit for expenses at the jail. After these expenses are paid this account should go to a zero balance and will be closed.

SPLOST IV has a balance of approximately \$425,000. Mrs. Thomas said there are some immediate expenditures that will be paid in the next week. There are small balances left for the airport and public buildings. The Airport has requested their funds and this will be released to them. Mrs. Thomas said new furniture was bought for the Superior Court Judge out of the public buildings balance. After the payments for the Airport and the office furniture the balance will be \$416,000. Of the \$416,000 the Recreation department is assigned \$300,000. Mrs. Thomas told the Commissioners they will need to determine how the \$116,000 will be spent. She said the roof and gutters at the Recreation building need to be replaced. The kitchen at the Senior Center needs a renovation and furniture is also needed. 4-H is in need of a van and this could be shared with the Senior Center.

Mrs. Thomas said a smaller vehicle is needed for Senior Center meal deliveries instead of using a van. She said the ideal vehicle would be an Escape and she is in the process of



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getting quotes. Immediate needs are a vehicle for the Maintenance department and two mowers for the Road department. Mrs. Thomas said a vehicle is also needed for EMS. The Maintenance and EMS vehicles are in desperate need of replacing, they are cutting off in the middle of the road. Mrs. Thomas asked the Commissioners to vote at the February regular meeting on the EMS F250 vehicle, replacement Road mowers and the Senior Center meal transportation vehicle. Chairman Bridges said these three items would be voted on at Monday night's meeting.

Presentation – Tax Assessor Board (1:30 p.m.)

Chairman Bridges welcomed Gary Farmer, Chairman of the Tax Assessor Board and Chief Appraiser Rick Cothran to the meeting. Mr. Cothran said his office is audited annually on the values of the properties. There are guidelines that the Tax Assessor office has to follow given by the Georgia Department of Revenue. Mr. Cothran said the re-evaluations are driven by set guidelines. Reviews are performed by the DOR every three years. The last review for Franklin County was done in 2016 and it was a good one. Mr. Cothran said the last audit was in 2017 and was probably the best one for valuations. 2019 is a review year and this is the time to correct the values before the tax digest is completed. The potential fine for the values being set incorrectly is \$5 per every parcel listed in the County.

Mr. Cothran said all property returns are due by April 1 of each year. Everyone is excited about the power plant but at this point the Tax Assessor office is waiting on the return to be able to set the values. The plant is not in operation yet so the equipment cannot be taxed at 100%. Some of the equipment may be tax exempt because of federal guidelines. The values for all property are set as of January 1 each year.

The Tax Assessor building is leaking at the back door when it rains. Mr. Cothran said the leak needs to be fixed to keep the building from further damage. The carpet needs to be replaced and the front counter is in bad shape. He said the building he is located in has not been worked on since the 1990's. Most of the staff in the Tax Assessor office has been employed less than four years. Mr. Cothran said these employees are excited about their jobs and want to learn.

Mr. Cothran said no tax revenue can be collected unless the Chairman of the Assessor Board signs the digest document. He said Mr. Farmer has a lot of responsibility and Franklin County is fortunate to have him.

Mr. Farmer thanked the Commission Board for the opportunity to serve the people of Franklin County. He informed the Commissioners that the Tax Assessor office will be losing three of their six employees in four years. The Tax Assessor office needs to maintain a good staff because everything starts in that office. Commissioner Swails questioned if these employees will be lost due to retirement. Mr. Farmer confirmed yes and it is the chief appraiser, deputy chief appraiser and office manager. Chairman Bridges asked if they were training anyone. Mr. Cothran said it is up to the Assessor Board but one employee is interested.



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Mr. Farmer and Mr. Cothran told the Commissioners they are available to answer questions from them and the public. Mr. Farmer encouraged the Commissioners to attend their meetings. Mr. Cothran informed the Commissioners and the public there is a Tax Assessor website for information.

Presentation – Probate Judge (1:50 p.m.)

Chairman Bridges welcomed Probate Judge Ken Eavenson. Judge Eavenson said the Probate Court faces challenges but has benefited from the location of the Georgia State Patrol office in Lavonia. He presented handouts showing the increases in the case load and the revenues collected. The revenues collected increased 46% from FY14 to FY18. The case load increased 60% from FY14 to FY18.

Judge Eavenson said the increases are in all areas of the Probate Court, not limited to traffic but including weapons permits, marriage licenses, and certified copies of birth and death certificates. At some point another employee may need to be added.

Storage is a problem for both Probate and Magistrate Courts. Judge Eavenson said 20 years of traffic cases have to be kept. He said from 2013 and forward the records have been scanned but the original still must be kept. Parking is also a problem for both Probate and Magistrate on court days. Judge Eavenson stated due to the expenses incurred he holds court two to three days per month. He expressed thanks to the Magistrate Judge and the Assistant Magistrate Judge for help on his court days when the pleas are taken.

Judge Eavenson said he is in the process of negotiating with a collection agency due to changes in State legislation. There is an uncollected balance of \$1,953,551 with cases dating back to 1998. Judge Eavenson stated half of the uncollected balance is from 2013 to the present. He said if this can be collected it will be beneficial to the County.

Judge Eavenson told the Commissioners the security of the Justice Center needs to be addressed. This has been discussed with the Magistrate Judge and the Sheriff. More people are seen at the Justice Center than are seen at the Courthouse. Judge Eavenson said when asked the Sheriff sends an officer to help with security. It would be better if all court could be handled in one building to have a more secure place. Judge Eavenson said at some point in the future this does need to happen.

Chairman Bridges stated a judicial building is something that has been discussed. Judge Eavenson said if this does happen, he and Judge Grizzle would like to be involved in the planning for the vault size and security.

SPLOST V Review

Mrs. Thomas said April will begin the third year of the SPLOST V cycle. At the beginning of the SPLOST V cycle advance borrowing was done by the County for the start of immediate projects. Mrs. Thomas told the Commissioners she would like authorization to borrow the rest of the authorized funds. She said she thought the cities might be interested in this also.



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Andrew Tritt of Strifel said in 2015 the SPLOST V was approved with 14 million being the authorized amount. The borrowing took place before the collections were received. Mr. Tritt said the debt does not go beyond the authorized SPLOST V cycle. The plan for the borrowing is for the cities to get their money upfront 100% with the County to advance a portion of its collections.

Mr. Tritt said in 2015 when SPLOST V was voted on the projected collections were \$19,600,000. The collections are running ahead of this projection. If the collections remain at this rate the collections should be around 22 million. Mr. Tritt said the collections for Franklin County historically have percentage wise been ahead of the neighboring counties. The projected remainder is approximately \$8,375,000. Mr. Tritt said there should be excess funds in this SPLOST which will split according to the intergovernmental agreements.

Mrs. Thomas said the benefit of borrowing is the immediate needs of the County. The projects go up in cost if the funds are not available. Mrs. Thomas said if the borrowing is approved, she would immediately make the cities and IBA money available to them but kept in a separate bank account until it is asked for. The IBA and the City of Carnesville owe the County for their portions of the waste water treatment facility. By making the funds available to them, the IBA and City of Carnesville will be able to repay the County.

Dr. Macomson asked what the biggest drawback to borrowing is. Mrs. Thomas said the interest payback. Mr. Tritt clarified the money will be invested to draw interest until it is spent. This will help defray the cost of borrowing.

Break from 2:35 to 2:45

Presentation – Sheriff (2:45 p.m.)

Sheriff Stevie Thomas thanked the Commission Board for the opportunity to speak. He said he is running overbudget in overtime and salaries due to employees leaving and going other places. Sheriff Thomas said he has had 12 employees to leave since last July. When employees leave, they have to be replaced and the terminating employee has to be paid all their personal leave time, which makes the budget go over because two positions are being. Sheriff Thomas said the biggest reason for employees to leave is Franklin County's salaries are lower than surrounding areas. He said each time he submits a salary increase in the budget it is cut. Dr. Macomson asked what the starting salary for deputies is. Chief Deputy Jimmy LeCroy answered \$16.54. Commissioner Wester asked Sheriff Thomas if he thought the employees would have left if the salaries were better. Sheriff Thomas said if the salaries were comparable to other counties these employees would have stayed.

Mr. LeCroy stated the cost of service continues to climb but the inmate population is beginning to decline because of the court system. He said as soon as court is over the list is generated and given to the Clerk of Court to move the inmates out of the custody of the County into the State custody. Mr. LeCroy said last June when the budget overages were looked at the three categories were salaries, overtime and vehicles. Sheriff Thomas



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and Mr. LeCroy are working to cut as much as possible from these categories. Mr. LeCroy said there is not a relief factor in their department. A relief factor would be an employee or employees hired to cover when other employees take off work. Because of not having a relief factor Mr. LeCroy said the only alternative is to pay overtime when someone takes time off. In talks with Mrs. Thomas both she and Mr. LeCroy agree it is more cost effective to pay overtime than have the relief employee. Although the budget will be over in salaries and overtime, the vehicle budget will be cut due to buying them out of asset forfeiture money.

The Board of Education has agreed to help with the School Resource Officers' salaries. Mr. LeCroy said his officers continue to search for grant money to help with mandates. A drug agent has been hired and funds should start to come in for the salary. Mrs. Thomas said the County should receive 50% of her base salary. Mr. LeCroy said he and Sheriff Thomas are continuing to work with Mrs. Thomas for their budget.

Sheriff Thomas said he has been approached about drug court in Franklin County although he does not have the details. Clerk of Court Missy Holbrook said there are over 1,000 open drug cases in Franklin County. Sheriff Thomas said with the officers working the Interstate the drug cases are there. He issued an invitation to the Commissioners to ride with any of his officers and to visit the Jail to see what they go through daily.

E. Public Works (3:10 p.m.)

County Engineer John Phillips gave an update on the sewer project. The bids for the project came in approximately double of the budgeted amount which made the project nine million dollars. Mr. Phillips said the County was able to get the nine million down to six million dollars with the same end product of a treatment facility. The project is ahead of schedule with about 80% completion. The equipment is scheduled for testing beginning in February with training of county employees thereafter. Mr. Phillips said the projected date to begin operations is sometime during the month of March. The water from the force main located on Hwy 59 will be pumped to this facility for treatment.

Mr. Phillips said the water blending system is in process. A one-million-gallon ground storage tank is being built on Turkey Creek Road. This will allow the County to take the well water with quality issues and mix with other wells that do not have issues so the end product will meet all the State requirements. The tank will also provide additional storage for emergency situations.

The contract for the tank construction has been awarded. Mr. Phillips said because of the weather the tank contractor has not been able to start work. The second part of this contract was for the construction of two wells. Mr. Phillips said construction of both of these wells has started. The pumps for the wells will be put in over the next several weeks. The line work phase has begun also. Mr. Phillips said the targeted completion date for these projects is the month of May.

Mr. Phillips said the elevated water tank project on Black Snake Road is in process. This project may go a little slower because of the stipulation of using American



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made products. Mr. Phillips said the completion date for this project is the Fall. Commissioner Wester asked how many wells the County uses. Mr. Phillips said there are three wells on the County's current permit. Two wells are under construction and these will be added when they are completed. Commissioner Swails asked if the County's water comes only from wells. Mr. Phillips said no, the County uses the wells and also purchases from the City of Toccoa, connections with the City of Lavonia and the City of Royston for potential purchases and the wells. There is also a connection with Banks County for water to move in either direction. Franklin County also sells water to Madison County.

Mrs. Thomas informed the Commissioners the water expansion is being done with the current staff of four, one of which is the supervisor. It may become necessary to add staff at some time in the future.

Commissioner Wester questioned if the County is seeing a lot of damage to the asphalt roads. Mr. Phillips said Franklin County has used surface treatment (tar and gravel) on many of the paved roads through the years because it is less expensive. On these roads Mr. Phillips said there has been quite a bit of damage. Mr. Phillips said the main problem is the life span of these roads and the asphalt paved roads is nearing the end. Franklin County does not receive enough funds from the State to be able to maintain all the roads properly.

Commissioner Franklin said ditch work needs to be done on some of the dirt roads. Mr. Phillips said ditch work is done by the County on a rotation basis. The recent heavy rains have made this impossible to do. Mr. Phillips said one of the biggest problems to the ditches is the private driveways that are not maintained or constructed properly.

Dr. Macomson asked how many dirt roads are in the County. Mr. Phillips said there is approximately 436 miles of dirt roads in the County and the mix is close to 50/50 of dirt and paved. The cost to pave per mile is around \$700,000. Mr. Phillips said this is the reason more paving is not done. When funds are available the roads are looked at and scored according to need. The funds received annually from the State for roads is approximately \$500,000 with the County match bringing the total to around \$700,000. Mr. Phillips said the greatest road need is done each year with this amount.

Chairman Bridges said the legislation changed so individual counties can pass a single county T-SPLOST for roads. The County is losing ground on the roads and this would be a way to fix the roads. This would need to be taken before the voters maybe titled Road and Bridges Improvement. Mrs. Thomas said one cent currently would generate about 3.2 million dollars a year. An agreement has to be in place with the cities to collect the full cent otherwise the maximize amount a county can collect is .75 of a penny tax.

Commissioner Wester said Franklin County has been penalized because of the previous rejection. He said he is for this if the citizens are in agreement. Commissioner Swails said he has not been a commissioner long enough to receive road complaints from citizens but he drives the roads daily and sees the need, therefore he is for this. Dr.



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Macomson agreed this is needed. Commissioner Franklin said he sees the need also. Possible dates for the referendum were discussed. Mrs. Thomas said to keep the County from paying for a special called election the best date would be November 5 as the cities would have an election that day. She said education for the citizens would be needed before the vote. Chairman Bridges said to place this on the agenda for the February regular board meeting.

Financial Status (Item D continuation)

Mrs. Thomas said the cash position for the middle of the fiscal year in December due to property tax collections was better than in previous year and this amount has to carry the County until the next cycle of tax collections. As of December, the cash position has grown by approximately one million dollars over last fiscal year. The revenue projections have exceeded expectations, in particular with LOST growing by 18%. Because of no reserves and low cash flow the County borrowed money in 2015 to meet payroll. Since that time no borrowing for this has occurred and the County is slowly gaining.

Mrs. Thomas said the software conversion was successful. She said she has put the financial reports on a shared Google drive for constitutional officers and department heads and Commissioners. Budget modifications will also be needed before the end of this fiscal year.

A purposed FY20 calendar with due dates was introduced by Mrs. Thomas. She told the Commissioners to be thinking about their goals for the next fiscal year and let her know. Some of the departments may need rate adjustments. The goals Mrs. Thomas said she would like is pay increases for employees, fair and equitable rate adjustments when necessary and position replacements. She does not want to increase the mileage rate.

Dr. Macomson said he does not want to raise taxes but the County should take the inflationary increase for reserves until the County is healthy financially. Mrs. Thomas said a reserve policy would help the County. She will create a budget based on the goals of the Commissioners.

Mrs. Thomas said health insurance has the same issues as in previous years. The small population of unhealthy employees drives the insurance cost. These are long-term ongoing claims. Mrs. Thomas said she anticipates to begin insurance talks with a 10% to 15% increase.

One of the companies doing work at the power plant purchased the Senior Center a new treadmill, several sewing machines, and delivery bags in their efforts to be good neighbors. Chairman Bridges said the power plant will be paying a considerable amount of taxes which will help the County tremendously.

Mrs. Thomas told the Commissioners to let her know the goals and objectives for staff that have not been achieved that they would like to see completed. An organizational chart was given to the Commissioners of the reporting system and the budgeting method.



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This chart also let the Commissioners see the positions.

Break from 4:10 to 4:20 p.m.

F. Administration – Projects

1. *Mrs. Thomas said GMRC is designated by DCA to help Franklin County with Service Delivery Strategy and Comprehensive Plan updates and there is not a cost to Franklin County. These plans are worked on jointly with the cities. Mrs. Thomas told the Commissioners they are welcome to come to these meetings. She said this is updated every 10 years and tells the responsibilities of the County. Mrs. Thomas asked the Commissioners to look over the Mission Statement on page 4 and update as needed. She also asked the Commissioners to look over page 60 for the short-term work program for the grants that Franklin County may be interested in applying for.*

2. *Mrs. Thomas said the re-codification process was started a while back with Municode. She said there is a lot of invalid information in the codes. A re-codification would be a complete review. After this process the Commissioners would approve and this would be the law. Mrs. Thomas asked the Commissioners to pick a sub-committee to go over the sections. She said she would like for this to be placed on the February regular meeting agenda to move forward with the re-codification process and pick a sub-committee. Dr. Macomson said he is in favor of this and of putting the code online. Chairman Bridges said this would be placed on the agenda for Monday night.*

3. *The Human Resources personnel policy was updated five years ago. Mrs. Thomas said a thorough review for legal changes needs to be done. She said she would like for authorization to begin the update process with a sub-committee and GMRC to do the bulk of the work. Chairman Bridges said to place this on the February agenda.*

4. *The 2020 Census is very important for everyone to be counted. Mrs. Thomas said she has plans to attend a census class of how to make sure everyone is counted. Chairman Bridges said to get the Chamber of Commerce involved with the process.*

5. *The FCC/TV update was discussed during Franklin County Accomplishments by Chairman Bridges.*

G. Planning and Zoning

1. *Mrs. Thomas said planning and zoning is busy. Growth cannot come to a county without planning ahead of time. The commercial market is headed to Franklin County and housing has to be available. Information was given to the Commissioners on an Inspections Program developed by the Planning Commission. The recommendations from the Planning Commission for an Inspections Program is to enforce the International Building Codes mandated by the State, service delivery be done by a third party (Bureau Veritas) and revenue sharing basis with 20% to stay at the County and 80% to Bureau Veritas. The scope of services is limited to residential, all new construction and expanded footprint but excludes renovations within the existing footprint. Commercial industrial is built according to State regulations by licensed contractors. Any public use facility will also be inspected. Accessory buildings with no septic are excluded.*



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An appeals process is also included in the Inspections Program document. Mrs. Thomas said the Planning Commission recommended for this to be implemented as soon as possible and for County staff to work with Bureau Veritas staff to develop a webpage, publication of documents, policies and procedures relating to communication and a process flow chart. Outreach including meetings with builders and homeowners' associations prior to effective date is also part of their recommendations.

Included in this document is a penalty for failure to obtain the proper permits prior to projects. Mrs. Thomas said the enforcement will run through the County. She said the permit fees will increase but this includes nine inspections. The Planning Commission worked hard on this to maintain the rural atmosphere of Franklin County but also make housing affordable.

Commissioner Swails said he was part of the Planning Commission while the Inspections Program was being developed and he will answer any questions. Commissioner Franklin stated he does not like the idea of getting an outsider to do the inspections. He said he has a big problem with them not being a County employee. Mrs. Thomas said one of the problems with having a staff inspector is if they are out of the office for any length of time there is no one to cover for them. The company is an expert in inspections while the Planning Director and County Manager may not be.

Chairman Bridges told Commissioner Franklin there are pros and cons each way but one of the biggest savings to the County will be the salary and benefits. Commissioner Swails said the reasoning behind the third party is to eliminate the bias with roots in the community, the employee cost and this is all the company does so there are multiple checks and balances. The Planning Commission developed this with the anticipation of new growth that is already heading this way.

Dr. Macomson questioned the rating of Bureau Veritas and how many employees would do inspections. Mrs. Thomas said she did not know the rating but the City of Commerce, City of Nicholson, Banks County and Jackson County are using them. There will be dedicated employees for the inspections so the builders will see the same person throughout the process. Mrs. Thomas said all files will stay at the County. The Veritas employees will do the inspections and then bring the paperwork back to the County.

Commissioner Wester said Georgia codes need to be followed. He said the County needs to follow this and not add anything to it. Chairman Bridges said to put this on the agenda for Monday night. Dr. Macomson said have public meetings about halfway through the rollout process for education. Mrs. Thomas said town hall meetings can be scheduled.

2. Mrs. Thomas gave her recommendations for the Commissioners to get the Planning Commission to review home occupations and subdivision policies. The County has to prepare for growth. The Subdivision Policy is dated 1995 and Zoning Policy is dated 2005 so there is some disconnect on regulations. Mrs. Thomas and Commissioner



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Swails said the County does need to plan for growth. Chairman Bridges said to place this on the agenda. Dr. Macomson said to move forward with town hall meeting dates. Mrs. Thomas clarified the agenda item would be to move forward with meeting dates and a contract with Bureau Veritas.

Presentation – IBA (5:10 p.m.)

Tonya Powers of the Industrial Building Authority said she wants to keep the communication between her department and the Commission Board open. She is much appreciative of the help from Commissioner Wester with this. Commissioner Swails asked if the Commissioners can meet with potential or existing business owners to understand what they need or want. Mrs. Powers said the visits to the existing business owners could happen but not for potential owners because of confidentiality. There is a lot of interest in Franklin County.

Presentation – Tax Commissioner (5:20 p.m.)

Bobby Martin said collections are going well with a little over 98% on personal property and 96% on real property. There is a tax sale scheduled for June with 364 parcels. Mr. Martin said the State is changing the motor vehicle computer system in May. The office may have to close for several days so the employees can be trained on the new system. The current system will go dead on May 23 at midnight. On May 24 the office will not be open. Mr. Martin said after Memorial Day the new system will be live.

Presentation – Recreation (5:30 p.m.)

Randall Gailey gave the Commissioners sports participation numbers. There were 32 sponsors for the basketball program at \$250 each. The Recreation department received an Atlanta Hawks grant in the amount of \$2,600. Submissions have been made for \$5,000 through the Junior NBA and a GRPA grant in the amount of \$1,000. Mr. Gailey said they are planning to work with GMRC to apply for a DNR grant.

Chairman Bridges questioned the role of the Recreation department with Little League. Mr. Gailey said Little League uses the Recreation fields and the County receives the money from concessions. Fall sports are offered by the Recreation department. Mr. Gailey said netting has been placed over the spectator seating area.

Commissioner Wester asked Mr. Gailey if grant money is still being sought for a hiking trail. Mr. Gailey said yes and they are also planning to ask for scoreboards, a walking trail and a playground. Mrs. Thomas told Mr. Gailey the County employees will perform like kind services and do whatever they can to help.

Mrs. Thomas told the Commissioners there are two open positions on the Recreation Board that need to be appointed. Chairman Bridges said this will be taken care of Monday night.

H. Public Safety

Mrs. Thomas said the Hazard Mitigation Plan has to be in place to be eligible for any type of FEMA grant. This was a \$24,000 project with the County's contribution



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being \$6,000 of which was paid for with like kind services by the various departments. Mrs. Thomas asked the Commissioners to approve the Hazard Mitigation Plan resolution for the County to be able to receive a reimbursement of \$6,000. Chairman Bridges said this would be voted on Monday night.

I. Capital Expenditures

Mrs. Thomas said there are immediate plumbing and security issues at the Jail. If SPLOST V borrowing is approved Mrs. Thomas recommended a sub-committee be formed with the Sheriff and his designees, herself and one or two Commissioners. The issues with the pods at the Jail need to be corrected soon.

1.4 million was set aside in the SPLOST for public buildings. Mrs. Thomas said of this amount a large portion needs to go to the Jail for renovations. The other item that needs to be taken care of immediately is the courthouse. Mrs. Thomas said new stairs in the upper part of the courthouse need replacing, new gutters, new roof and possibly painting the clock tower. These improvements would weatherproof the top part of the courthouse and keep it from further damage. Mrs. Thomas said there are issues at other buildings including Tax Assessor, Board of Commissioners and Elections that need some attention in the future.

Mrs. Thomas said one of the projects that Franklin County needs to look into is building a Judicial Center. The 911 Center needs to be moved to a basement location and this would be an ideal location for them. Mrs. Thomas said there is not SPLOST money for this. She said a five-million-dollar note would cost about \$400,000 a year. A four-million-dollar note would cost about \$300,000 a year. Mrs. Thomas said the new power plant would be a possible place to pay this from because it is a limited amount of growth for a limited amount of time. A capital lease could be used for this as it is a quicker way of financing. Dr. Macomson questioned if something could be built just to store records. Mrs. Thomas said yes but the Justice Center could be used if something else is built for them. Chairman Bridges said he is in favor of building a judicial center to have ample space. Commissioner Wester said he thought this has been talked enough and the wheels need to be put in motion to start the process. Dr. Macomson said this is a good economic time to start.

There are Community Block grants available for buildings. Mrs. Thomas said she would like to apply for a \$750,000 grant to build a new health department but she would like for them to split the match amount with the County. The building is the responsibility of the County but the equipment would be the State's. Mrs. Thomas said she will reach out to GMRC if the Commission Board are in agreement with this.

J. Announcements – None

Chairman Bridges adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.



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Signed on the _____ day of _____, 2019

Chairman J. Thomas Bridges

Robert L. Franklin, District 1 Commissioner

Dr. Jason Macomson, District 2 Commissioner

Ryan Swails, District 3 Commissioner

Eddie Wester, District 4 Commissioner

Elaine H. Evans, County Clerk