



You Are Why We Are Here

**FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION MINUTES
February 26, 2019
6:00 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 February work session to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

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

Item 3: Items for discussion

A. Public Comment – Chairman Bridges asked if anyone would like to come forward and speak in public comment.

Michelle Grizzle came forward and stated her concerns about Liberty Road in Sandy Cross. This road has large ruts and is nearly impassable. Mrs. Grizzle is aware that Liberty Road is not a County road but she does not understand why it cannot be worked anyway. Chairman Bridges explained the Commission Board has rules and regulations that must be followed. Mrs. Grizzle said all of the residents on Liberty Road are willing to sign right of way except for the neighbor at the beginning of the road. Dr. Macomson questioned if the residents are trying to work the road. Mrs. Grizzle stated she did not know what to do because of the liability issue. Commissioner Franklin stated the County does not perform work on private property for the same reason.

Chairman Bridges asked Mrs. Grizzle if anyone had worked the road in the past. Mrs. Grizzle stated the neighbor who will not sign the right of way previously worked the road but now is unable because of illness. The road has not been maintained in about a year and she has concerns for safety because of the condition of the road. Commissioner Wester asked when was the last time the neighbor was approached to sign a right of way.



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Mrs. Grizzle said one of the neighbor's nieces told her this person would never sign the right of way. Although Mrs. Grizzle has only lived in Franklin County for nine years, she stated she understood this road was previously worked because of school buses and mail delivery. Chairman Bridges told Mrs. Grizzle to stay in touch with the County Manager Mrs. Thomas and County Engineer John Phillips to try to find a resolution. Commissioner Franklin told Mrs. Grizzle all of the signatures are needed to be able to work the road. Mrs. Thomas told Mrs. Grizzle she will provide her a copy of the Road Policy and this will help her to understand what can and cannot be done.

***David Strickland** of Strickland and Associates discussed work site marketing for volunteer life insurance that can be offered to County employees. The insurance is portable and a medical exam is not necessary. Mr. Strickland said this would be a way to offer extra benefits to the employees at no cost to the County. He said he is willing to meet at a later time and provide information if needed.*

***Joel Bufford** questioned the three points brought up by Mrs. Grizzle regarding Liberty Road; private road previously being worked by the County, school buses on the road and mail delivery. He said a precedence has already been set regarding Liberty Road if it was previously worked and who made the decision. Chairman Bridges told Mr. Bufford he would meet with him individually and find him an answer.*

Mr. Bufford said he would like answers as to who made the agreement to work the road. Dr. Macomson stated no one on the current Board has that information. Mr. Bufford said he knew that. Chairman Bridges said it would be looked into. Mrs. Thomas said she would ask staff to provide the work history for Liberty Road. Mr. Bufford questioned if Liberty Road is considered a private road if school buses and mail trucks can legally go on it. Dr. Macomson questioned Chairman Bridges if school buses were allowed on private property. Chairman Bridges said the Board of Education makes the decisions regarding what roads school buses travel on and the Commission Board does not regulate the mail delivery.

B. Airport Authority positions

***Chairman Bridges** asked Commissioner Swails to go over the Airport Authority positions. Commissioner Swails said it was brought to the attention of several Commissioners that appointments by the Commission Board have not been made since the creation of the Airport Authority in 1995. He said his understanding according to the Airport By-Laws is these positions should be appointed every four years by the Commission Board. Applications should be taken and a determination should be made for two positions every four years. The Commission Board has not followed the By-Laws with not opening the positions every four years for appointment consideration.*

***Commissioner Swails** said his understanding is these two positions are coming up for appointment next month but he would like this verified. The two people who are currently serving are welcome to apply along with anyone else. Commissioner Swails said these positions are not life-long appointments and they should be looked at every*



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four years with applications taken.

Commissioner Wester said former Commissioner Jacques had started looking into this. After Commissioner Jacques came off the Board, Commissioner Wester was asked to look into it. Commissioner Wester and several of the other Commissioners were approached about appointments not being done. Prior to former Commissioner Jacques looking into the Airport Authority Commissioner Wester said he was unaware the Board of Commissioners made appointments to it. There are two positions on the Airport Authority that are to be appointed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Wester said he is in agreement with Commissioner Swails that this should be looked into.

Dr. Macomson asked for the Airport Authority to be contacted as to who is currently serving as Franklin County's appointments and when the terms will end. Mrs. Thomas said we can reach out to them. She said her understanding is there was an Airport Authority Commission first and then an Airport Authority Board. The legislation for the creation of the Airport Authority Board was in 1996 at which point the Airport Authority Commission went away. Mrs. Thomas said by the creation of the Airport Authority in 1996 the appointments should fall every four years, aligning with the presidential election years. Based on this there should not be another appointment until 2020 unless the Commission Board decides to do otherwise to rectify this situation. Dr. Macomson stated the minutes do not show any appointments since 1997. Mrs. Thomas said it will be up to do the Commission Board as to how they want to handle this. Chairman Bridges said this will be looked into as to whether the applications need to be taken this year or next year.

C. Caudell Drive

Mrs. Thomas said an email was sent to the Board of Commissioners from Jon West requesting the consideration of adopting Caudell Drive. This request has been presented in the past to prior Commissioners. Mrs. Thomas provided the information that was received from Mr. West along with a map of the property.

D. Manager's Report

Mrs. Thomas said a lot of projects including training at the Waster Water facility are ongoing. Project meetings are being scheduled. Mrs. Thomas said none of the projects discussed at the January work session are completed but all are ongoing.

E. Announcements

Mrs. Thomas said the Honors Breakfast is March 1. She told the Commissioners to contact the Chamber of Commerce if they plan to attend. Leadership Franklin has started and two County employees are attending.

Commissioner Franklin expressed thanks to the Water Department employees for repairing a water main break on Prospect Road. This work was completed during the



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night. Commissioner Franklin said the citizens in this part of the County said to please tell the Water employees thank you for working the night to restore water service.

Chairman Bridges asked each Commissioner to review the legislative updates sent by ACCG. He said he and Commissioner Franklin will be attending a legislative breakfast this Thursday in Atlanta with the legislators.

Chairman Bridges adjourned the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

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