



You Are Why We Are Here

**FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 7, 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: Shane Scoggins, Franklin County Citizen

Staff: County Manager Beth Thomas
County Clerk Elaine Evans

Item 1: Call meeting to order – Chairman Bridges closed the public hearing and opened the regular board meeting at 6:00 p.m.

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

Item 3: Approval of Minutes

April 2, 2018 public hearing
April 2, 2018 regular board meeting
April 24, 2018 work session
April 30, 2018 special called meeting

Chairman Bridges said the Clerk sent the minutes to the Commissioners for review. He asked for a motion to accept all the minutes for April in one motion. Commissioner Franklin made the motion to accept all the minutes for April. 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 Franklin, Dr. Macomson, Chairman Bridges, Commissioner Jacques and Commissioner Wester.

Item 4: Items for discussion

A. **Public Comment**

Chairman Bridges recognized **Anne Marie Phillips** to speak on behalf of the residents of Riverbend Estates community. Mrs. Phillips stated the Riverbend residents would like to have their roads resurfaced. She provided pictures of the deterioration of



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the roads showing potholes, sides of the roads breaking off and tree roots growing through the roads. Mrs. Phillips stated it has been over 20 years since the roads were resurfaced. The residents of Riverbend Estates work together to maintain their properties. She then commended Franklin County for the consistent bush hogging and upkeep of road signs. Chairman Bridges asked Mrs. Phillips to clarify the name of the roads. Mrs. Phillips said the roads are Riverbend Road and Riverbend Circle, off Bond Bridge Road.

Chuck Viers *stated coming out of his driveway is a bump that is scary because the oncoming traffic cannot be seen. He said this needs to be leveled out or resurfaced and the deterioration of the roads does need to be addressed. Mrs. Phillips said there are places where the asphalt is so thin it is breaking in the middle of the roads. She said grass is starting to grow in the cracks in the roads.*

Norman Holley *said on Bond Bridge Road there are several driveways that are unimproved and uneven and covered with large number four stone. He said it is a farmer that lives there. This rock coming into the road is a safety issue and has cost Mr. Holley two windshields. Mr. Holley said on a muddy day the owner covers the road with mud. There are several more driveways that mud spill out into the road causing more safety issues.*

B. Public Hearing items

Conditional use permit *for Clinton Alexander & Kayla Nicole Hart. Mrs. Thomas said Alex and Kayla Hart applied for a conditional use permit for poultry houses on Grady School Road. She said Mr. Hart attended the Planning Commission public hearing. The recommendation from the Planning Commission is approval for the application with no conditions or restrictions. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the recommendation for approval. Commissioner Jacques made the motion to approve. 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, Dr. Macomson, Commissioner Franklin, Commissioner Jacques and Chairman Bridges.*

Conditional use permit *for Chris Williamson. Mrs. Thomas said Mr. Williamson has a business that is being operated out of his home in residential zoning. The Zoning Ordinance states that any business in the residential zoning must obtain a conditional use permit. Mrs. Thomas said the parcel owned by Mr. Williamson is very well maintained. The business Mr. Williamson operates is a lawn care business. Mrs. Thomas went over the conditions that Mr. Williamson agreed to as stated in the Zoning Ordinance Section 14.11 and describes the conditions for a home-based business, such as no open storage and everything must be maintained neatly along with the restriction for the sign. She said the recommendation from the Planning Commission is for approval for the conditional use permit for the business for Mr. Williamson with the conditions that Section 14.11 be abided by.*



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*Chairman Bridges asked Mr. Williamson if he understood the conditions placed by the Planning Commission. Mr. Williamson affirmed by a nod of his head. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept. Commissioner Wester made the motion. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. Mrs. Thomas thanked Mr. Williamson for going through the correct process. 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 Dr. Macomson, Commissioner Jacques, Commissioner Franklin, Commissioner Wester and Chairman Bridges.*

Rezoning and variance for M & I, LLC dba Marc & Ian, LLC. *Mrs. Thomas said the next three items are all in the same situation. These properties were zoned in 2004 as zoning that did not match up. Mrs. Thomas said this business has always been operated as commercial and is still active under its grandfather clause. She said the request is to be moved from agricultural general to commercial industrial. This parcel also needs the variance on the rear setback due to the building being on the property line. The recommendation from the Planning Commission is approval for this parcel.*

*Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the recommendation from Mrs. Thomas. 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 Chairman Bridges, Commissioner Franklin, Dr. Macomson, Commissioner Jacques and Commissioner Wester.*

Rezoning for FTS Holdings, LLC. *Mrs. Thomas said this is neighboring properties with the previous request. This applicant chose to be proactive to rezone from agricultural general to industrial commercial. Mrs. Thomas said the recommendation from the Planning Commission is for approval. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept. 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 Chairman Bridges, Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Jacques, Commissioner Franklin and Dr. Macomson.*

Rezoning for Daren and Daryl Black. *Mrs. Thomas said this parcel is located on Hwy 320. The applicants and owners have not attended either public hearing, but it is a similar situation. The parcel is located off I-85 and has always operated as a commercial business. Mrs. Thomas said this property had been vacant for a while. When the business was restarted, and an occupational tax certificate was applied for, it was found that the zoning was nonconforming. The request is to move from agricultural general to commercial industrial. Mrs. Thomas said the recommendation from the Planning Commission is for approval for this parcel which is in the newly deemed gateway corridor right off I-85. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Franklin made the motion. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Jacques seconded the motion. There was no discussion.*



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*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 Dr. Macomson, Commissioner Jacques, Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Franklin and Chairman Bridges.*

C. Board Appointments

Recreation – *Chairman Bridges said a subcommittee consisting of Commissioner Wester and Dr. Macomson was formed to look over the applications for the two open positions on the Recreation Board. He asked Commissioner Wester to give further information on this. Commissioner Wester recommended Chip Faircloth and Davie Mayfield for appointment to the Recreation Board. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept. Dr. Macomson made the motion to accept. 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 Franklin, Commissioner Wester, Dr. Macomson, Commissioner Jacques and Chairman Bridges. Chairman Bridges asked for these people to be modified of their appointments.*

D. Manager's Report

Health Insurance – *Mrs. Thomas said she is still working with the broker to get the finalized numbers for the health insurance. When negotiations were started there was a 12% increase. Mrs. Thomas said the company was asked to come down four percentage points and unfortunately United Healthcare did not agree. They would come down 2% but not 4%. Mrs. Thomas stated her goal is to keep the cost containment at \$100,000. Alternative plans are being looked at with the broker. When this information is received, Mrs. Thomas said it may be necessary to have a special meeting or vote at the May work session to be able to meet the time table for employee open enrollment.*

Mrs. Thomas said the cost for the County is two-fold. Part is an increase in staff with benefits taking about \$40,000 of the \$100,000. The remaining is the rate increases. Mrs. Thomas said there are two plans offered to employees. One plan is offered at no cost to the employee, the other is a buy-up plan with the employee paying the cost differential. The base plan which is a high deductible is operating at a 40% loss ratio and means people are managing their health care. The buy-up plan which is 25% of the population of the employees is running in the red. Mrs. Thomas stated she would welcome comments or suggestions from the Commission Board for guidance.

Commissioner Jacques asked for clarification if the increase of \$100,000 includes the \$40,000 that is additional employees. Mrs. Thomas said this is inclusive. The employees that have been added and being over budget are creating a situation that benefits are having to be carved out for the whole. \$100,000 is the goal of where to keep the insurance increase. Mrs. Thomas said the cost overrun in staffing is causing benefits to be cut. Chairman Bridges questioned if the number of employees has increased. Mrs. Thomas said she compares this year's employee count by



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department to last year's employee count plus open positions by department. When this is compared and including open positions there are five more employees in the Sheriff's department than what was budgeted for last year. The cost for these five people is around \$40,000.

Budgets – *Mrs. Thomas said the models are not completely updated from the software conversion. She presented information to the Commissioners of department standings through March. Budget modifications will be presented before the end of the fiscal year for approval. Mrs. Thomas said the budgets will be started using last year's information as a baseline with budget requests or increases based on known items.*

Commissioner Jacques questioned if the tentative digest numbers are available. Mrs. Thomas said last week when she spoke with the Tax Assessors they were hopeful they would be a week early, but she will follow up for more information. She said based on the preliminary discussions there is no inflation in it.

Mrs. Thomas said sales tax is slightly up for this year by a little over \$100,000 from the budgeted amount. The fines collected are down a little. In the past the fines have been so far over budget they have helped with shortfalls in other areas. Mrs. Thomas said EMS is over budget in revenues as well in other areas and budget modifications will be presented later. Commissioner Wester questioned if the fines from the State Patrol is included or is it separate. Mrs. Thomas said everything is lumped together, the separation would have to come from the Judge.

E. Announcements

Mrs. Thomas said she received a call this afternoon from the FCC stating that a paper copy of the application will not be accepted. She said she told them she had attempted to file on three different networks on four different computers and was unable to do so. Based on the emails from the help desk Mrs. Thomas was able to prove that a paper copy would be accepted. After going through this with the FCC, Mrs. Thomas was told that Franklin County should receive their number and go to the comment period on Friday. At this time anyone can go online and flood the FCC with why they want the television change or not. This comment period will remain open until it is assigned to an attorney and there is no information on how long that will take. Chairman Bridges asked how this will get out to the public. Mrs. Thomas said she will issue a press release and place the information on the County's website.

Commissioner Franklin expressed thanks to the Water Department for their help with a meter in the Red Hill area. He said the meter was changed so a family could have water.

Chairman Bridges said he met the new Senior Center Director, Rachel Wilson. He gave an invitation to all the Commissioners from Mrs. Wilson to stop by the Senior Center on May 24 at 11:30 for hamburgers and hotdogs provided by Mrs. Wilson's father. Chairman Bridges said he would also like for the media to be able to attend. He



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then extended an invitation to all the senior citizens of the County.

*Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Jacques made the motion to adjourn. 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 Chairman Bridges, Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Franklin, Commissioner Jacques and Dr. Macomson. The meeting adjourned at 6:35 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