



APPROVED

12-4-2023

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION MINUTES
September 26, 2023
6:00 P.M.**

- BOC:** Chairman Jeff Jacques
District 1 Commissioner Robert Franklin
District 2 Commissioner Kyle Foster
District 3 Commissioner Elizabeth Busby
District 4 Commissioner Josh Smith
- Media:** Shane Scoggins, Franklin County Citizen Leader (via Zoom)
MJ Kneiser- Radio 92.1 WLHR - Lake Hartwell Radio (via Zoom)
- Staff:** County Manager, Terry Harris
Kelsey Hill
- Item 1:** **Call meeting to order** - Chairman Jacques called the meeting to order
- Item 2:** **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance** - Commissioner Franklin led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.
- Item 3:** **Approval of the Agenda** - Chairman Jaques asked for a motion to approve the agenda; Commissioner Busby made a motion to approve the agenda, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Foster. A vote was taken; all approved 5-0.
- Item 4:** **Public Comment**
- a. Sidney Esposito spoke about the sewer expansion
 - b. Courtney Long spoke about the sewer expansion
 - c. Carolee Coker spoke about the sewer expansion
 - d. Phil Flatley spoke about the sewer expansion
 - e. Polly Walker spoke about protecting the locals.
 - f. Jason Boyce spoke about voting, elections, and taxes.

- g. Commissioner Smith spoke about the balance between rural land and industry/possibilities for the citizens of the county.

Chairman Jacques announced that the public comment portion of the meeting was closed.

New Business

A. Meeting Enhancements – Audio, Visual & Virtual Format Updates

Chairman Jacques spoke about seeking better equipment to enhance the audio and visual quality of the meetings and asked that staff would find something by January of 2024.

Commissioner Franklin spoke about the difficulty of hearing in a large room with hearing aids.

Commissioner Foster agreed that it would be helpful for staff to find a way to make improvements to the audio and visual aspects of the meetings.

Commissioner Busby spoke about the potential of having a way to show presentations.

Commissioner Smith spoke about the difficulty of hearing the meetings via Zoom.

Chairman Jacques informed the audience that their input is welcome as well.

B. Planning & Zoning Request Update

Chairman Jacques spoke about the linking zoning requests to businesses, development, etc.

Commissioner Smith, Busby, Foster, and Franklin agreed.

C. County Clerk Advertisement

Chairman Jacques informed the room that the ad would be closed out Friday, October 6, 2023. He asked Commissioner Busby and Commissioner Smith to lead the subcommittee.

Commissioner Smith asked that he and Commissioner Busby have ample time to go through the applications.

Chairman Jacques thanked Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Busby. He asked Terry Harris if he had any remarks, and Mr. Harris expressed that the response had been good and that many applications had been submitted.

D. Comprehensive Plan Update

Chairman Jacques informed the room that the GMRC had agreed to work with and lead the county in developing an updated Comprehensive Plan that will be implemented in 2024.

Commissioner Busby informed the room that their input is important and encouraged the citizens to read the paper and stay informed.

Commissioner Smith expressed his approval to use GMRC for the updated Comprehensive Plan and he also reiterated what Commissioner Busby spoke about, that the process included citizen involvement.

Chairman Jacques asked Terry Harris if there were any remarks from him or staff; Mr. Harris had none.

E. Employee Emergency Service Benefit

Commissioner Smith recommended that county staff revisit the policy and not make full time employees pay for their ambulance ride out of pocket.

Commissioner Franklin asked what happened to people in the earlier days.

Chairman Jacques wanted to know what the process looked like over the past five years. He also asked whether Commissioner Smith had taken into consideration whether or not the ambulance ride was life threatening or not when making his recommendation.

Commissioner Smith explained that there are different tiers for cost.

Chairman Jacques explained that he wanted to make sure to go over everything thoroughly.

Commissioner Smith brought up the deductible.

Chairman Jacques expressed that he was open to the idea of the recommendation.

Commissioner Busby asked for clarification about who would be covered under Commissioner Smith's recommendation; Commissioner Smith

informed Commissioner Busby that it would only cover full time employees but not their families.

Steve Thomas brought up the point that the county insurance does not recognize Franklin County Services.

Chairman Jacques asked Terry Harris if he would like to make any comments; Mr. Harris expressed that he was not aware that Franklin County EMS was not covered. Mr. Harris spoke about how minimal the cost would be to the county for the Franklin County EMS to transport a full-time employee in an ambulance because of the rarity of the situation.

F. 911 Radio Systems

Chairman Jacques yielded the floor to Commissioner Foster.

Commissioner Foster wanted to know what the plan would be to pay for the radio system.

Terry Harris expressed that the only way to pay for the radio system at the moment would be going into debt.

Chairman Jacques brought up the potential of the jail expansion as well, and how everything would work together financially.

Commissioner Smith expressed his concerns about how the county would pay for the radio system, and Chairman Jaques also discussed how they would pay for it financially without straining the taxpayer.

Terry Harris expressed that the radio system is in urgent need of repair.

Chairman Jacques agreed and expressed that he would like to look at everything.

Item 6: Announcements

Chairman Jacques invited the public to come speak with the Commissioners at the end of the meeting if they want to talk.

Terry Harris informed everyone that the Ethics Board applications were still being accepted and could still be turned in to the Commissioner's Office.

Item 7. Adjourn Commissioner Busby made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Foster seconded the motion. There was no discussion; the board made a vote. The motion carried 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned.

Signed on the 4th day of December 2023.



Chairman Jeff Jacques


Robert L. Franklin, District 1 Commissioner


Kyle Foster, District 2 Commissioner


Elizabeth Busby, District 3 Commissioner


Josh Smith, District 4 Commissioner


Terry Harris, County Manager

Kelsey Hill

