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**FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 1, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

- Present:** Chairman Jason K. Macomson
District 1 Commissioner Robert Franklin
District 2 Commissioner Kyle Foster
District 3 Commissioner Ryan Swails
District 4 Commissioner Eddie Wester
- Media:** Shane Scoggins, Franklin County Citizen
MJ Kneiser, *WLHR* via Zoom
- Staff:** County Manager, Derrick Turner
Interim County Manager, Terry Harris
County Clerk, Kayla Finger
Planning & Zoning Director, Scott DeLozier
County Marshal, Matt Hailey
- Guest:** County Attorney, Bubba Samuels
- Item 1:** **Call Meeting to Order** – Chairman Macomson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and welcomed everyone.
- Item 2:** **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag:**
Commissioner Foster gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Item 3:** **Approval of the Agenda:** Commissioner Foster made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor, 4-0.
- Item 4:** **Personnel Report:** None.
- Item 5:** **Approval of Minutes:**
- A. February 4, 2021 Regular Board Meeting*
 - B. February 9, 2021 Special Called Meeting*
 - C. February 23, 2021 Work Session*

Commissioner Foster made a motion to accept all the minutes as presented.



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Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. No discussion.
All were in favor, 4-0.

Item 6: *Public Comment:* None.

Items for discussion:

- A. **Conditional Use Permit:** Director DeLozier reviewed Mr. Mark Lydon's application for a Conditional Use Permit to build a 265 ft wireless communications tower on a 41.8-acre tract. The property is located on Hwy 320 and is further identified as Tax Parcel 009-070. The Planning and Zoning board found that the proposal met all requirements and recommended approval of Mr. Lydon's application. Commissioner Wester made a motion to approve the permit application as presented. Commissioner Swails seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor, 4-0.
- B. **Conditional Use Permit:** Director DeLozier reviewed Ms. Wendy Doyle's application for a Conditional Use Permit to build a 265 ft wireless communications tower on a 47.27-acre tract. The property is located on Hwy 198 and is further identified as Tax Parcel 010-059. Director DeLozier stated this application also met all requirements and the Planning and Zoning board recommended approval. It was also noted that these towers will benefit Verizon's coverage of Franklin County as they recognize it is a growing market. Commissioner Foster made a motion to approve the permit application as presented. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor, 4-0.
- C. **Rezoning Application:** Director DeLozier reviewed Mr. Todd Kahler's application to rezone from AI (Agriculture Intensive) to CI (Commercial Industrial) 5.02-acre tract. The property is located at 252 Komplex Drive and is further identified as Tax Parcel 028-078. Director DeLozier stated that the Planning and Zoning board recommended approval of the application with some added conditions. These conditions were: A.) Komplex Drive is maintained to ensure emergency vehicles can easily access the warehouse if necessary; and B.) the building has an engineered fire protection plan and the fire suppression system is properly permitted and installed prior to operation of the space. The applicants understood and agreed to these conditions. Commissioner Swails made a motion to approve the permit application with the recommended conditions as presented.



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Commissioner Wester seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor, 4-0.

D. LMIG Bids & Awards: Interim Manager Harris reviewed the 2021 LMIG project as previously presented in the work session. This project will include resurfacing on the following eight county roads:

1. Jackson Bridge Road from SR 145 to the first bridge
2. Parkertown Road from Lavonia City Limits to the Hart County Line
3. Hillshore Court
4. Park Street
5. Blue Ridge Place
6. Diamond Lane from Salem Road to Bond Bridge Road
7. Blue Water Place
8. Ross Place

Sealed bids were opened on February 11, 2021. Out of the eight bids received, Stratton & Sons submitted the lowest bid at \$741,178.47. The county received \$543,955.94 of funds for the 2021 LMIG Fund from Georgia Department of Transportation and the project will be supplemented with SPLOST road funds to cover the difference. Mr. Harris recommended awarding the bid to Stratton & Sons.

Commissioner Wester motioned to award the bid to Stratton & Sons Construction, Inc. for the 2021 LMIG Asphalt Resurfacing Project in the amount of \$741,178.47. Commissioner Foster seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor, 4-0.

E. Roadway Spraying: Interim Manager Harris reviewed the proposal from County Engineer John Phillips to contract out roadway spraying as previously discussed in the work session. DBI services submitted a bid for all paved roads with two applications, (one in the spring and one in the summer) for \$41,625.00 per application for a total of \$83,250.00. Gravel roads were proposed to cost \$33,790.00 and after discussing it, the county staff decided to continue to spray gravel roads with county resources. Mr. Harris noted that this will be funded by anticipated GEMA funds in the amount of \$80,000 that the county will receive for hurricane cleanup efforts last summer. Annual spraying is projected to eliminate one complete bush-hogging cycle each year. The county will also save on the cost of herbicide, employee time spent spraying and bush-hogging, and wear and tear on equipment. Commissioner Swails motioned to approve the proposal to contract with DBi Services for \$83,250.00 for two applications of herbicide



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to paved road shoulders in 2021. Commissioner Foster seconded the motion. No further discussion. All were in favor, 4-0.

Commissioner Macomson noted for the record that this did not have to be bid out since they are a state contracted entity. Mr. Harris stated that was correct and DBI is already working in the area.

F. IGA Old Carnesville Elementary: Interim Manager Harris reviewed the agreement as previously discussed at the work session. The school board has already signed and is awaiting the signatures and approval of the board of commissioners. The enlarged space will provide the court with greater ability to socially distance during the public health crisis. Commissioner Wester motioned to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Franklin County Board of Education to lease the old Carnesville Elementary School building in order to house court sessions for one year with the option to renew and the county paying for utilities and maintenance. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. No further discussion. All were in favor, 4-0.

G. Public Safety Pay Analysis: Mr. Harris reviewed the proposal as previously discussed in the work session. It was estimated that the total cost of the pay raise for the remainder of this fiscal year would be approximately \$86,907.27. According to Mr. Harris' figures, for an entire fiscal year, it would be \$101,809.03 per year for 28 EMS employees and \$138,370.98 for 33 Sheriff's Department employees for a collective total of \$240,180.01. This raise will increase EMS employees' starting pay (for paramedics) to \$17.03/hour, and will increase deputies' starting pay to \$15.00/hr., and help close the gap in salaries from surrounding counties. Commissioner Wester motioned to approve a pay raise of \$1.00 per hour for EMS employees working med units (28 employees) and Sheriff's Department employees (33 employees) whose jobs include inmate contact (road deputies and jailers), to take effect in the last pay period of March (first pay check in April). Commissioner Foster seconded the motion. No further discussion. All were in favor, 4-0.

H. Accountant Position: Chairman Macomson discussed the need for an accounting position at the board of commissioner's office to help existing staff with the county's finances and bookkeeping. This position will be entry-level or greater and will be responsible for bookkeeping and will also provide support and backup for other county office departments as needed. Mr. Harris spoke on



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- K. National Library Week Proclamation:** This proposal was submitted to the Board by Ms. Maggie West, the branch manager of the Franklin County Libraries. Commissioner Swails motioned to approve the Proclamation designating the week of April 4-10, 2021, as National Library Week. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. No further discussion. All were in favor, 4-0.
- L. County Managers' Report:** Mr. Harris advised the Board that Mr. Ryan Parks has been hired as the new EMA/911 Director, and he will begin next Monday 3/8/2021.

Item 7: Announcements:

Chairman Macomson notified the board that Mr. Adam Hazell of GMRC will tentatively attend the March 30, 2021 Work Session to discuss updates to Franklin County's Service Delivery Strategy.

Chairman Macomson also announced that Pilgrim's Pride has applied for a zoning change request for property on Hwy 320, as well as a conditional use permit to construct and operate a poultry rendering plant which would produce meal for use in the manufacture of pet foods. These items will be discussed at the next Planning and Zoning Commission meeting to be held at 5:00 pm on Thursday, March 18, 2021, here at the Justice Center. This meeting is open to the public and members of the public will be allowed to speak on these applications. This meeting will be live-streamed on the Zoom platform for viewing only. Members of the public will not be able to comment through Zoom. Members of the Board of Commissioners may also attend by Zoom, but commissioners will not participate in the meeting itself. However, because the commissioners may be present virtually, the county will notify the press and post an announcement as such on the county website. The Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on this and other planning and zoning requests on Monday, April 5, 2021, starting at 5:00 pm at the Franklin County High School Auditorium. This meeting will also be open to the public and members of the public will have the opportunity to speak for or against the requests. This meeting will also be live-streamed on Zoom for viewing only. Comments will not be possible through Zoom.

The Board of Commissioners will take action on those planning and zoning items at the regular board meeting following the public hearing on April 5, 2021. The regular board meeting is scheduled to start immediately after the end of the public hearing. That would usually be 6:00 pm, but we will hold the public hearing until



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everyone who wishes has had an opportunity to speak. Speakers will be held to a five-minute time limit as usual in our meetings, and individuals will only be allowed to speak once.

The Board will meet next on Thursday, March 25, 2021, in Hart County at 6:00 pm to consider RFPs for the airport authority audit. The Board will also meet for a Work Session on Tuesday, March 30, 2021.

Chairman Macomson thanked all county employees for their hard work, and noted there had been a lot going on in the last couple months, from searching for and appointing a new county manager, conducting the annual audit, dealing with planning and zoning issues, as well as managing the day-to-day operations. The Board is thankful for each of the employees.

Commissioner Wester thanked Mr. Harris for his work as interim county manager, and welcomed Mr. Turner as the new county manager.

Commissioner Swails echoed Mr. Wester's remarks and noted that the pay raise for EMS and Law Enforcement employees will help Franklin County hire and retain the best and brightest for these important positions. He also thanked the Library System for the work it does for the community.

Commissioner Foster echoed the other remarks, thanking Mr. Harris and all county employees, and welcomed Mr. Turner.

Commissioner Franklin thanked Mr. Harris and the county road employees and noted right now it is difficult to work county roads due to the weather.

Item 8: Adjourn

Commissioner Wester made a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion.


All were in favor, 4-0.


Signed on the 3rd day of May, 2021

Chairman Jason K. Macomson



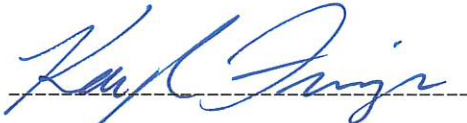
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Robert L. Franklin, District 1 Commissioner


Kyle Foster, District 2 Commissioner


Ryan Swails, District 3 Commissioner


Eddie Wester, District 4 Commissioner


Kayla Finger, Clerk