



You Are Why We Are Here

**FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
August 31, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

BOC: *Chairman Dr. 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 Leader
MJ Kneiser, WLHR*

Staff: *Manager Derrick Turner
County Clerk Kayla Finger*

Item 1: **Call meeting to order** - Chairman Macomson called the virtual meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Item 2: **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance** - Commissioner Foster led the invocation and pledge of allegiance to the American flag.

Item 3: **Approval of the Agenda** - Commissioner Wester motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Swails seconded the motion. All were in favor, 4-0.

Item 4: **Public Comment:** None.

Item 5: **Items for discussion**

A. Road Closure - Hanley Road: Manager Turner recommended the board close the road as requested by the residents of Hanley Road.

Commissioner Wester motioned to close the portion of Hanley Road to extending from Hudson River Church Road approximately 1,348 ft to the southern property line of Vernon Hanley at 333 Hanley Road. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. No further discussion. All in favor, 4-0.



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- B. Noise Ordinance - Chairman Macomson shared an example of a noise ordinance for the board to consider. The commissioners openly discussed the need for a noise ordinance to address both residential nuisances related to sound and those arising from commercial and industrial operations. Discussion ensued on the details of the ordinance such as hours of enforcement, definition of noise, and noise distance. A consensus was reached that a noise ordinance is needed. Chairman Macomson asked the Manager Turner to work with the attorney to research and refine the sample ordinance to present it for the board to consider at the October work session.
- C. New Subdivisions - Commissioner Wester asked the Board to consider the issue of subdivisions and their impact on the county. Chairman Macomson posed the idea of a potential moratorium on subdivisions. Commissioner Swails noted multiple factors of consideration regarding growth. He also talked about the importance of having clear vision and goals with the county comprehensive plan for future leaders, community partners, and citizens. All commissioners engaged in open discussion over the growth and future of Franklin County. Chairman Macomson asked the Clerk Finger to invite Scott DeLozier, Planning & Zoning Director to the September work session to discuss the ongoing revision process of the zoning ordinances, particularly in regard to the zoning map and areas that are being identified for housing growth. The board also asked Ms. Finger to invite representatives of the school system to the Fall Retreat to discuss the impact of housing on the school system.

Item 6: Manager's Report:

- A. CARES Act Project Update: The county received approximately \$873,000.00 in CARES funding last year, but this money was added to the General Fund and it is difficult to track exact CARES expenditures. Several projects funded by the CARES funds included the purchase of new EMS monitors, pay for quarantined staff, Hazard Pay for county employees related to the public health crisis, social distancing building



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upgrades, county website upgrades, and court real estate records digitization, which is ongoing.

B. Fall Retreat: The Fall retreat is scheduled tentatively for November 3, 2021.

C. Census 2020: According to official census numbers, Canon's census decreased by 161 individuals. Carnesville's census increased by 136 individuals. Franklin Springs' census increased by 203 individuals. Lavonia's census decreased by 13 individuals. Royston's census increased by 67 individuals. The overall population of Franklin County is 23,424, with an increase of 1,340 individuals.

D. Municode Update: Manager Turner reported that the process of consolidation and recodification of the county's code of ordinances is ongoing. The eventual online publication is anticipated to be complete towards the end of spring of 2022.

Item 7: Announcements:

Manager Turner reminded everyone of the Hometown Heroes Event scheduled for November 13, 2021, and the IBA Economic Development Summit and subsequent Leadership Summit in late September.

Chairman Macomson announce that the regular September Board meeting has been moved from September 6, 2021, to the following Monday, September 13, 2021, in observance of the Labor Day Holiday. All September meetings will be held virtually, and the Board will reevaluate the local risk in regard to coronavirus transmission and make a decision month-to-month about resuming in-person meetings. He also thanked all the county's public safety workers, including law enforcement, fire, EMS, and nurses and staff at the health department, for all they are doing to combat the ongoing public health crisis. He also thanked the local doctors, nurses, and staff at local clinics and at St. Mary's Sacred Heart for their hard work and dedication to help everyone in need.

Commissioner Wester thanked the fire departments and law enforcement and everyone who helped respond to the fire in downtown



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Royston last week.

Commissioner Swails thanked everyone who came out and helped directly or indirectly with the fire in downtown Royston last week.

Commissioner Foster echoed everyone's thanks.

Commissioner Franklin echoed everyone's thanks, particularly the staff at St. Mary's Sacred Heart where he was recently hospitalized for five days.

Item 8: Adjournment

Commissioner Foster made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Swails gave the second. No discussion. All were in favor, 3-0.

Signed on the 13th day of September, 2021

Chairman Jason K. Macomson

Robert L. Franklin, District 1 Commissioner

Kyle Foster, District 2 Commissioner

Ryan Swails, District 3 Commissioner

Eddie Wester, District 4 Commissioner

Kayla Finger, County Clerk