



*You Are Why We Are Here*

## **FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION - MINUTES**

**DATE:** March 26, 2024

**TIME:** 6:00 PM

**LOCATION:** Franklin County Justice Center

**Present:** 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

MJ Kneiser, Radio 92.1 WLHR-Lake Hartwell Radio - via Zoom

**Staff:** Terry Harris, County Manager

Kandy Bond, County Clerk

Kelsey Cook, Dual Admin – Planning & Zoning/County Manager

**Item 1. Call to Order**

Chairman Jacques called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

**Item 2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag: led by Commissioner Franklin

**Item 3. Approval of Agenda**

*Chairman Jacques asked for a motion to approve the agenda.*

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Busby*

*Motion Seconded: Commissioner Foster*

*Discussion: None*

*Vote: Motion carried 5-0 (Agenda approved)*

**Item 4. Public Comment**

A. None

**Item 5. New Business**

**A. Edward Pugh – 863 Clareburn Trail, Carnesville GA**

Mr. Pugh requested the county take over Clareburn Trail and maintain it.

Board of Commissioners: The county currently has a road adoption policy in place and Mr. Pugh can work with Commissioner Franklin through the process.

**B. David Barnes – 340 Lakeshore Road, Martin GA**

Would like a camera installed to catch speeders. Road speed limit is 25 mph and drivers run 50 – 60 mph plus.

- Mr. Barnes was not present for the meeting.

**C. Safety Action Plan and Resolution**

Kelsey Cook, Dual Admin-Planning & Zoning/County Manager

I've been asked to serve as the Safety Coordinator for Franklin County and the safety committee consists of myself, Kandy Bond, and Freddy Akins. The committee will be reviewing loss analysis and discussing ways to reduce risks for the county. The departments will also conduct safety meetings to discuss ways to make their work environments safer. The Safety Coordinator Resolution and the Safety Action Plan were reviewed. A Safety Action Plan was developed with the Sheriff's Office to reduce the number of claims for workers compensation as well as property and liability. Having this plan, ACCG will give a 5% discount on property and liability contributions and 7.5% discount on workers compensation. We request that you approve/sign the Resolution and the Safety Action Plan. If approved, this will save the county approximately \$40K. The Safety Action Plan is a requirement for the Safety Grant that will aid in getting safety equipment, training services, etc. *Chairman Jacques asked for a two part motion to sign the Resolution and to accept the Safety Action Plan as presented.*

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Smith*

*Motion Seconded: Commissioner Busby*

*Discussion: None*

*Vote: Motion carried 5-0 (approved)*

**D. South Franklin Elementary School – Sewer Project  
[Recommendation will be made on April 1, 2024]**

Terry Harris, County Manager

Bids were received on March 7, 2024, for the South Franklin Elementary School Sanitary Sewer Project. The project consists of installing force main and a lift station to serve the new elementary school being built on highway 145. The low bid was submitted by Dale Construction Company in the amount of \$250,377.00. The County will purchase the lift station at a cost of \$85,000.00, making the total project cost of \$335,377.00. In accordance with the IGA between the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Education dated November 9, 2023, the Board of Education is responsible for all costs associated with the construction. Three bids were received and Dale Construction Company was the low bidder.

**E. Family & Children Services Board – will recommend on April 1, 2024**

Advertised/applications deadline was March 11, 2024

- two vacancies advertised
- two applications received
- recommend: (Peggy Berryman & Angela Whidby)

**F. Joint Development Authority – will recommend on April 1, 2024**

Advertised/applications deadline was March 11, 2024

- two vacancies advertised
- one application received
- recommend: (Elizabeth “Beth” Thomas)

**G. Oliver Road (Discussion) - Terry Harris will recommend on April 1, 2024**

The city of Franklin Springs requests the BOC abandon Oliver Road and the city will maintenance the road. It's a one tenth mile dirt road outside of the city limits of Franklin Springs. The road begins at 495 on highway 145. Our recommendation is to abandon the road and allow Franklin Springs to maintain the road. There is a formal abandonment process and depending upon approval of recommendation that process will begin.

**H. Legacy Link\_Addendum No. 1 to Agreement – Chairman Jacques**

Chairman Jacques requests staff to procure the original contract for a side-by-side comparison with the addendum. The board will be prepared to take action based on general appearances, but want to compare to have a full understanding.

**Item 6. Terry Harris – County Manager Report**

**A. Franklin-Hart Airport Authority**

-two positions expire on June 1, 2024  
[will advertise to replace: Woodson McFarlin & Jonathan “Bo” Rowland]

**B. Family and Children Services Board**

-one position expires on June 30, 2024  
[will advertise to replace: Marie Loftis]

**C. Franklin County Library Board**

-two positions expire on June 30, 2024  
[will advertise to replace: Rita Shoemaker & Peggy Berryman]

**D. Joint Development Board**

-one vacancy remaining  
[will re-advertise to fill this vacancy]

**E. AV Upgrade for the Justice Center**

The installation has been delayed due to not receiving equipment. Kandy spoke with the company today and they are scheduled to begin the installation on Wednesday, April 3, 2024.

**F. Radio System**

Long discussions over an extended period of time have taken place regarding the replacement of the radio system. The current radio system is very inferior and on the brink of operational failure. We talked to several avenues about replacement of the radio system. Ci Communications International will be our recommendation. The handout was reviewed and discussed; the system will cost \$7,633,881.42 for all the infrastructure, terminals, and radios. We have ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) money

that has to be designated by the end of this year which is approximately \$3.5 million dollars. My recommendation is to take this money and apply it to this radio system. In a Resolution, the volunteer fire departments receive a large portion of the insurance premium tax from the county. The volunteer fire service has graciously committed those funds of approximately \$500 thousand dollars to this project as well. We are looking at about \$1 million dollars excess funds in the SPLOST V fund that ended last year. All of these funds combined provides approximately \$5 million dollars to pay toward the radio system and leaves a remaining balance of \$2,633,881 million to finance. If the board approves the radio system, then we will search for the best option to finance the remaining amount. SPLOST funds are coming in at a good bit higher than anticipated. We can use excess SPLOST VI funds to pay the remaining amount. Therefore, we don't anticipate to have to use general funds. There is a payment schedule in the handout for your reference. The city mayors said they will go with what the county decides upon. CI has agreed to update (at no cost) what we are currently using to try and make it work until we get the new system in place. The build out will be about 18 months and anticipate the final system acceptance to be 3/2/2026. The life expectancy of the new system should be 15-20 years.  
A recommendation will be made on April 1, 2024.

**Item 7. District 1 Report – Commissioner Franklin**

*-None*

**District 2 Report – Commissioner Foster**

*-None*

**District 3 Report – Commissioner Busby**

*-Thanked everyone who came out for the comprehensive plan meeting.*

**District 4 Report – Commissioner Smith**

*-None*

**Item 8. Announcements**

*-None*

**Item 9. Executive Session - Personnel**

*Chairman Jacques asked the board for a motion to leave regular session and enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel.*

*Motion to go into Executive Session: Commissioner Foster*

*Motion Seconded: Commissioner Franklin*

*Discussion: None*

*Vote: motion carried 5-0 (approved to go into executive session at 6:40 PM)*

*Chairman Jacques asked the board for a motion to come out of executive session back into regular session and to grant authorization to sign the executive session affidavit in which personnel was discussed.*

*Motion to come out of executive session back into regular session: Commissioner Foster*

*Motion Seconded: Commissioner Busby*

*Discussion: None*

*Vote: motion carried 5-0 (approved to go back into regular session at 6:58 PM)*

**Item 10. Adjourn**

*Chairman Jacques asked the board for a motion to adjourn.*

*Motion to Adjourn – Commissioner Busby*

*Motion Seconded – Commissioner Foster*

*Discussion: None*

*Vote: motion carried 5-0 (approved to adjourn)*


**Upcoming Meetings**

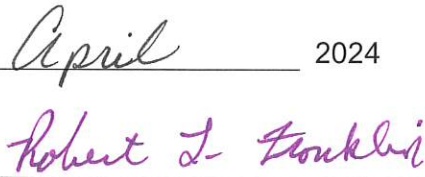
April 1, 2024 – BOC Public Hearing @ 5:30 PM

April 1, 2024 – BOC Regular Meeting @ 6:00 PM

April 30, 2024 – BOC Work Session @ 6:00 PM

Signed on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 2024


  
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Jeff Jacques, Chairman

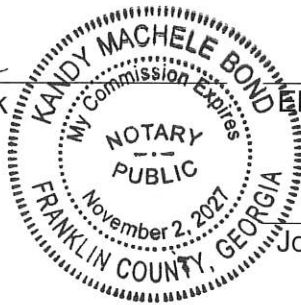
  
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Robert L. Franklin, District 1 Commissioner

  
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Terry Harris, County Manger

  
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Kyle Foster, District 2 Commissioner

  
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Kandy Bond, County Clerk

  
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Elizabeth Busby, District 3 Commissioner



  
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Josh Smith, District 4 Commissioner

