



**FRANKLIN COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
February 6, 2017  
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  
MJ Kneiser, WLHR

**Staff:** County Manager Beth Thomas  
County Clerk Elaine Evans  
County Engineer John Phillips  
County Attorney Bubba Samuels

**Item 1 & 2:** **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance** – Chairman Bridges called the February 6 regular board meeting to order. He thanked everyone for coming out and participating in the Commission meetings. Chairman Bridges called on Commissioner Franklin to lead the invocation and pledge to the American flag.

**Item 3:** **Approval of Minutes:**  
January 9, 2017 Public Hearing  
January 9, 2017 Regular Board Meeting  
January 18, 2017 Planning Meeting  
January 31, 2017 Work Session

Chairman Bridges said that there are four sets of minutes to approve which were sent to the Commissioners by the Clerk for review. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Macomson made the motion to approve the minutes as written. 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; Dr. Macomson; Chairman Bridges; Commissioner Jacques; and Commissioner Wester.

**Item 4:** **Items for discussion:**



A. **Public Comment** – Chairman Bridges said the Commission Board welcomes comments from the citizens. He asked Betty Cryder to come forward to speak as she had asked to be on the agenda. Ms. Cryder did not attend the meeting. Chairman Bridges asked if anyone else would like to speak. There was no one who wished to speak in public comment.

B. **Public Hearing items** – Chairman Bridges said that today's public hearing was for a poultry farm. He said that this request was received prior to the vote for the moratorium. Chairman Bridges asked John Phillips to give information on this request. Mr. Phillips said that today's public hearing was for a poultry farm for Matthew Jantz on tax parcel 044081 and tax parcel 0460798. The Planning Board has reviewed this application and recommends approval. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept. Commissioner Jacques made the motion to accept the recommendation from the Planning Board. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Wester seconded the motion.

Commissioner Franklin asked how many houses. Mr. Jantz said two. Commissioner Jacques asked for clarification as the application has four houses but the site plan has two. Mr. Phillips said that the original application was for four houses but Mr. Jantz decided to only build two. Commissioner Jacques said that his motion is predicated on the site plan showing two poultry houses. Commissioner Wester seconded this for the two houses. There was no further 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; Commissioner Jacques; Chairman Bridges; Dr. Macomson; and Commissioner Franklin.

C. **Variance Request** – Chairman Bridges said that the variance request from Chrissie Blount was tabled previously but it will be voted on tonight. He asked for a motion to either approve the variance request or a motion to deny the variance request. County Attorney Bubba Samuels clarified the tabling from the last meeting. He said that Chairman Bridges had requested that the involved parties engage in some type of mediation. Mr. Samuels said that the involved parties have reported back that they are at an impasse.

Chairman Bridges said that although the involved parties cannot come to an agreement a motion is still needed. Commissioner Wester made the motion to deny the variance. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Jacques seconded the motion. Chairman Bridges asked for discussion. Dr. Macomson asked how the cases in the past had been handled if something was built too close to the setbacks. Commissioner Jacques said that he knew of only one case which was an outbuilding and the property owner got a signed affidavit from the adjacent property owner that they did not have an issue. He asked Mr. Phillips to further clarify this question from Dr. Macomson. Mr. Phillips said that there have been a few issues but this is the only one that has not been able to be resolved between the parties. The last issue of this type was a poultry house that was graded too close to the property line. After notification of



*the error the owner had the grader come back and resolved the problem.*

*Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands to deny the variance. 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. Mrs. Thomas said that based on the Commissioners wishes a motion is needed to authorize the County Attorney to initiate action against the property owner to move the encroachment. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion based on the recommendation from the Manager and Attorney to initiate action. Dr. Macomson made the motion. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. There was no discussion from the Commissioners. Doug Kidd said that he had a point of view clarification. Chairman Bridges said that there was a motion and a second. He 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.*

***D. Planning & Zoning** – Chairman Bridges asked Mrs. Thomas to explain the RFP for the Planning & Zoning inspection program. Mrs. Thomas said that Mr. Phillips presented this at the January planning meeting. The Planning Board has asked that the Commission Board authorize them to initiate an RFP (request for proposal) to look at contractors for an inspection program. The vote will be to start the RFP process only, not to implement the inspection program. Mrs. Thomas recommended to the Commission Board that they move forward with this request from the Planning Board.*

*Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the recommendation from Mrs. Thomas. Commissioner Wester made the motion. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Dr. Macomson seconded the motion. Commissioner Jacques asked for clarification if the RFP will be predicated on existing State building codes. Mrs. Thomas said that the County has not enforced the State codes in the past but this program would be an independent contractor that would enforce them. Commissioner Jacques asked if this would be for residential, commercial and industry. Mrs. Thomas said that this would include all categories. She said that the RFP will give more information. Commissioner Jacques stated that he wanted to be on record stating that there should be exclusions for individuals who wished to build themselves. Mrs. Thomas said that this should be part of the RFP.*

*Commissioner Jacques said that the intent of the inspection program is for it to be self-funded. Mrs. Thomas said that this program is not a revenue maker for the County. Commissioner Jacques said that he wanted to make sure that it is a breakeven program and not add to the County. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands to begin the RFP for the inspection program. 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.*

***E. FY17 Budget adjustment** – Chairman Bridges asked*



Mrs. Thomas to give an update on the FY17 budget adjustment. Mrs. Thomas said that this budget modification request is to move money from the health fund to the general fund. The salary adjustment is for a 3% retro salary adjustment for all full time and permanent part time County employees for gross earnings for calendar year 2016. As referenced in the January Planning Meeting this will be a one-time adjustment, not a raise. The budget modification is needed before this can be processed. Mrs. Thomas said at the planning meeting a 2.5% adjustment was presented but after reviewing employees and other revenue sources it was determined for a 3% adjustment.

Mrs. Thomas said that the health fund reserve account is from when the County was self-insured. Claims exceeded the maximum amount and were able to be reimbursed by the stop-loss coverage. All claims against the reserve account have ceased. Mrs. Thomas said that the best use of this money is to get back to all the employees. Most County employees have not had a pay raise in many years as the County has only give two to three in the last eight to nine years. The salary adjustment is only for full time and permanent part time county employees based on 2016 gross earnings and they have to currently be employed.

Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the budget recommendation from Mrs. Thomas. Commissioner Jacques said that he gladly makes the motion to proceed with the budget modification. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Franklin said that he is glad to second it and wished it was more. 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 Jacques; Dr. Macomson; Commissioner Wester; Commissioner Franklin; and Chairman Bridges.

**F. EMS Staffing** – Chairman Bridges said that the County has looked at staffing for Emergency Services several times. He asked Mrs. Thomas to go over this item further. Mrs. Thomas said that this was talked about at the planning session. Three key areas have been identified in Emergency Services which are availability, workload, and employee pay. Mrs. Thomas said that the call volume for EMS is running over 4,500 per year. The average should be 1,000 calls per unit. Franklin County is running over the recommended State guideline for calls per unit. The workload is tied to the call volume. In the future recruitment and pay grades will be looked at to retain employees in the EMS department.

Mrs. Thomas said that at the current time the greatest need is to add a supervisor unit by adding three employees. With the addition of the supervisor unit if all units are out of the County, then a unit would be run by the supervisor with help from first responders or off duty EMS employees. The supervisor will also go the stations to restock. Mrs. Thomas asked the Commission Board to approve this request with keeping in mind that this will be in next year's budget also. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to move forward with the supervisor shift for EMS. Commissioner Wester made the motion to move forward. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Jacques seconded the motion based on that EMS is a core function of government and to maintain the level of service that the citizens expect. He stated that



he would like the Commissioners to look at the fee structure for ambulance pickup. Mrs. Thomas said that Medicaid and Medicare pay a certain amount. She said that the fee structure can be changed but it will only go to the private insurance. Commissioner Jacques said that he understood this but in government user fees occasionally need to be looked at to help offset the demands to the tax digest.

Dr. Macomson asked how the private collections are handled. Mrs. Thomas said that the County uses a billing agency and pays them a percentage. This billing agency has worked great for the County. Commissioner Jacques said that they have a very high rate of collections. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands to approve the motion to add the supervisor unit. 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.

**G. Convenience Center rate schedule** – Chairman Bridges asked Mrs. Thomas to present the convenience center rate schedule. Mrs. Thomas said that the fee schedule for the convenience center has not been increased in a long time. She would like for the fee schedule to become effective March 1 to offset some of the increased operational costs. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the recommendation from Mrs. Thomas. Commissioner Jacques made the motion. 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 Dr. Macomson; Commissioner Franklin; Commissioner Wester; Commissioner Jacques; and Chairman Bridges.

**H. Board Appointments** – Chairman Bridges said that the board appointments have been discussed and applications have been taken. He thanked Commissioner Wester and Dr. Macomson for reviewing the applications. Chairman Bridges asked Mrs. Thomas to go over the board appointment recommendations. Mrs. Thomas said that she would go over the positions and recommendations one by one. She said Commissioner Wester and Dr. Macomson met over the weekend and reviewed the applications and the new form helped with this process as they were able to move through the applications.

There is one open position on the Library Board. One application was received for this position. Mrs. Thomas stated that the Library Board has recommended that Roy Benefield be appointed to this position. She said that her recommendation is to accept the recommendation from the Library Board. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to appoint Roy Benefield to the Library Board. Commissioner Wester 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 Commissioner Franklin; Dr. Macomson; Commissioner Wester; Commissioner Jacques; and Chairman Bridges.

One position is open on the Tax Assessor Board. One application was received



*that was marked specifically for this position. Mrs. Thomas said that the subcommittee has recommended Eddie Wayne Grizzle to fill the open position. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the recommendation from Mrs. Thomas. Dr. Macomson 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 four (4) **YES** votes to zero (0) **NO** votes. The YES votes were Chairman Bridges; Commissioner Wester; Commissioner Jacques; and Dr. Macomson. Commissioner Franklin abstained from the vote.*

*The Recreation Board has three open positions. Two current members reapplied with three new applications received. Mrs. Thomas said that the subcommittee reviewed all applications and has made their recommendations. She said that the recommendation is to reappoint Bernard Roebuck and Mariette Farrow along with a new appointment of Michelle Whitworth. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the recommendation. Commissioner Jacques made the motion to accept all three. 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; Dr. Macomson; Commissioner Jacques; Commissioner Wester; and Commissioner Franklin.*

*Mrs. Thomas said that there is an open position on the Planning Board and applications are currently being accepted. All applications will be kept on file for one year and will be considered for other open board positions. The Franklin County representatives for the Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D are Woody McFarlin and Angela Whidby. Mr. McFarlin has asked that a replacement be found for him. Mrs. Thomas said that the recommendation from the subcommittee is for Frank Riley from the Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D to come and speak about their value to Franklin County and to make recommendations.*

*Chairman Bridges asked for a motion and a second to adjourn. Dr. Macomson made the motion. Commissioner Jacques seconded the motion. The motion passed by five (5) **YES** votes to zero (0) **NO** votes. The YES votes were Commissioner Jacques; Dr. Macomson; Commissioner Wester; Commissioner Franklin; and Chairman Bridges. The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.*



Signed on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017

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*Chairman J. Thomas Bridges*

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*Robert L. Franklin, District 1 Commissioner*

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*Dr. Jason Macomson, District 2 Commissioner*

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*Jeff Jacques, District 3 Commissioner*

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*Eddie Wester, District 4 Commissioner*

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*Elaine H. Evans, County Clerk*