



**FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION MINUTES
January 31, 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
Charles Robertson, WLHR

Staff: County Manager Beth Thomas
County Clerk Elaine Evans

Item 1: Call meeting to order – Chairman Bridges called the January work session to order. He said that a motion is needed to take the executive session off the agenda due to the attorney's inability to attend. Commissioner Jacques made the motion to amend the agenda to remove Item D Executive Session. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Dr. Macomson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. 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 2: Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance – Chairman Bridges asked Commissioner Franklin to lead the invocation and pledge of allegiance to the American flag.

Item 3: Items for discussion

A. Public Comment – Chairman Bridges asked for public comment. There was no one who wished to speak in public comment.

B. Board Appointments – Chairman Bridges suggested that for any board that has more than one applicant that the two newest members on the Commission Board work together for recommendations. He said that this would be good experience for them. Chairman Bridges then asked Mrs. Thomas to give an update on the open positions. Mrs. Thomas said that there are several boards with open positions. Several of the applicants marked that they would interested in serving



on other boards which means that every open position has more than one applicant.

Mrs. Thomas stated that a subcommittee of some type would be good to review the applicants and to give the recommendations to the Commission Board. Chairman Bridges said that the recommendations will be up to Mrs. Thomas and the subcommittee. Mrs. Thomas said that several of the positions are open and the appointments need to be made soon. She said that no applications have been received for the Planning Board as it just came open. Chairman Bridges suggested that applications be received over the next month for the Planning Board.

C. Manager's Report

Mrs. Thomas said that the audit for the County is complete with an unqualified report which means that everything is good. For the past several years the audit has not been as timely due to software and other issues so this was a good accomplishment for the County. Mrs. Thomas told the Commissioners if they have questions with the audit to please let her know and she will arrange for answers from the auditors.

ACCG is working on promoting the courthouses of Georgia. Mrs. Thomas said that Franklin County's courthouse was included in the ACCG book because of its historical nature. She said that ACCCG has created a legacy project to encourage the counties to participate in a passport program. ACCG will provide the counties with a mailbox with a stamp. This stamp will be used to stamp the passport from ACCG which is given to citizens and visitors to document their visits to the courthouses in the State. This mailbox will be monitored monthly by county staff for adequate supplies.

At the planning session the courthouse renovations was discussed. Mrs. Thomas said that the architect/engineer came last Friday to look at the courthouse again and he gave a better report than was expected. The architect/engineer said that there is not an immediate need. Mrs. Thomas asked the architect/engineer to give the County a bid proposal for his services. She said that this proposal is not for contract work just for professional services. Mrs. Thomas said that this is not a commitment to move forward now with repairs as other companies will be looked at also.

Commissioner Wester questioned if this is just for the clock tower and not for the roof. Mrs. Thomas said this is just for the tower and not for the roof. She said that when a proposal is presented the decision can be made as to what renovations will be done. Mrs. Thomas said that this architect/engineer came with a recommendation from Lee County as he is currently working on their courthouse.

Mrs. Thomas said that the provider for scrap tires has been bought out and the facility in Hartwell has closed. She said the new company has offered to allow the County to continue bringing the scrap tires but at a rate increase. Mrs. Thomas said that the landfill rates have not been increased in about 10 years. She proposed a fee structure rate increase so the users of the convenience centers are paying for the service. Even with a rate increase the convenience center will not breakeven. Mrs.



Thomas proposed a 20 cent increase for trash bags making them five for \$5 instead of five for \$4, going up on the truckloads, and increasing the scrap tire disposal fee. She said that she would like for the new rates to become effective on March 1.

Dr. Macomson asked what the increase would be so that the convenience center does not operate at a loss. Mrs. Thomas said that the general fund usually puts around \$40,000 a year to the landfill site to breakeven. She said that the County tries to absorb the costs as much as possible with the use of the Road department employees. Mrs. Thomas said that included in the \$40,000 is the maintenance and monitoring reports of the closed landfill. Dr. Macomson asked what is typically recovered by the fees. Mrs. Thomas said that it is not nearly enough to breakeven. She said that a bigger loss than usual was experienced this past year because the County does not have a baler for paper for recycling. Because of not having a baler the County is not able to sell the paper and is having to pay the fee for dumping it.

Mrs. Thomas said that a decision needs to be made on letterhead for the County. She provided the Commissioners with a sample that has the Franklin County logo, the ACCG logo of "You are why we are here", and the County information. Mrs. Thomas said that the new letterhead will remove names but keep the County contact information. If the new letterhead is agreed upon it can be printed in house instead of paying for it. This letterhead will not have to be changed or ordered when there are staffing changes.

At the planning session several topics were discussed that will require votes at the February meeting. Mrs. Thomas said that the first item is for a proposed inspection program by the Planning Board. The Planning Board would like to be able to move forward with the RFP. She said that information for this is in the planning minutes along with the information provided from John Phillips.

The second item is the pay adjustment for employees. Mrs. Thomas said that a budget modification is needed for this. She said that she will present the amounts for approval at the February meeting. After approval this pay adjustment for employees will be processed.

The third item is the staffing level at the EMS department. Mrs. Thomas said that the discussion at the planning session included the various aspects of EMS and how to compensate for workload, availability, and employee morale. She said a great option to help with availability is to add a supervisor shift. Mrs. Thomas asked the Commissioners to please review their notes on this for the February meeting.

The last item is the ordinance review. Mrs. Thomas said that this process is overwhelming but she has broken it into sections for review. She said that Municode has sent 305 pages of a draft update for the ordinances. Mrs. Thomas said that she will begin reviewing them but if any changes need to be made they need to be made soon. Proposed changes have been looked at for nuisance and recreation. Mrs. Thomas said that a subcommittee is needed to look at the ordinances because after approval it is the



County's code and rule book and it will replace any precursors.

Commissioner Franklin said that he has had some calls about trash on roads. Mrs. Thomas said that the sides of the roads are covered by State litter laws. Commissioner Franklin said that the trash is at houses that are on State roads. Mrs. Thomas said that if it is on their property it is not littering. She said that the only thing that the County has is the nuisance ordinance and it is ranked by being a hazard to health. Mrs. Thomas said that if the County wanted anything stronger in the ordinance then it will need to be adjusted. She said that the County does not budget for any type of cleanup so anything that is done will have to be done within the confines of the budget. Commissioner Franklin said that he has had lots of calls about abandoned mobile homes on the lake and this needs to be looked into. Chairman Bridges said that the county marshal has dealt with this type of problem before. Mrs. Thomas said that as the County receives calls they are looked into. She said that the Commission Board will need to look at how much enforcement that they want to do.

D. Executive Session – *Agenda amended at the beginning of the meeting to delete this item due to the county attorney's inability to attend.*

E. Announcements – *Chairman Bridges said that ACCG has scheduled three dates for legislative days at the State capitol. Those dates are February 23, March 1 and March 8. He said that he would like for the Commission Board to go as a group to talk with the legislators. Chairman Bridges recommended that the Commission Board go on March 1. Commissioner Wester said that he could not go on March 1 but could possibly go on March 8. Commissioner Jacques said that he could not go March 1 but he cautioned that a quorum not be present. Chairman Bridges said that there are certain times that the Board can be together. He asked everyone to check their calendars for a possible date.*

Chairman Bridges reminded everyone of the public hearing and regular board meeting for Monday, February 6 beginning at 5:30 p.m. He then adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.m.



Signed on the _____ day of _____, 2017

Chairman J. Thomas Bridges

Robert L. Franklin, District 1 Commissioner

Dr. Jason Macomson, District 2 Commissioner

Jeff Jacques, District 3 Commissioner

Eddie Wester, District 4 Commissioner

Elaine H. Evans, County Clerk