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**FRANKLIN COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
January 7, 2019  
6:00 P.M.**

**BOC:** Commission Chairman Thomas Bridges  
District 1 Commissioner Robert Franklin  
District 2 Commissioner Dr. Jason Macomson  
District 3 Commissioner Ryan Swails  
District 4 Commissioner Eddie Wester

**Media:** Shane Scoggins, Franklin County Citizen Leader

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

**Item 1: Call meeting to order** – Chairman Bridges opened the January regular board meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

**Item 2: Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance** – Chairman Bridges led the invocation and pledge of allegiance to the American flag.

**Item 3: Approval of Minutes**

December 3, 2018 public hearing  
December 3, 2018 regular board meeting

Chairman Bridges said the minutes were sent to the Commissioners for review by the Clerk who does a good job. He asked for a motion to approve the December 2018 minutes. Commissioner Franklin made the motion to approve both of the December minutes. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Dr. Macomson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The minutes were approved by five (5) **YES** votes to zero (0) **NO** votes. The **YES** votes were Commissioner Franklin, Dr. Macomson, Chairman Bridges, Commissioner Swails and Commissioner Wester.

Chairman Bridges stated the minutes can be found on the County's website. He said a lot of good information about County events can also be found there.

**Item 4: Items for discussion**



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- A. **Public Comment** – None.
- B. **Public Hearing items**

**Conditional use permit** for Aubrey Lunsford on Shackleford Road - Chairman Bridges asked Mrs. Thomas to give an overview of the recommendation from the Planning Commission for Mr. Lunsford. Mrs. Thomas said Aubrey Lunsford came before the Planning Commission with the request to build a poultry farm consisting of four houses. The required public hearings were held for Mr. Lunsford's request. The recommendation from the Planning Commission with concurrence from Mrs. Thomas is approval with conditions; maintain a 75 feet evergreen vegetative buffer on the northern property line, maintain a 75 feet vegetative buffer along the western property line and a minimal single line of vegetative buffer on the eastern border along the roadway of Shackleford Road.

Mrs. Thomas said the recommendations from the Planning Commission were relayed to Mr. Lunsford and he is agreeable to them. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to approve the conditional use permit for Aubrey Lunsford for Shackleford Road with the conditions from the Planning Commission. Commissioner Wester made the motion to approve based on the recommendations from the Planning Commission and Mrs. Thomas. 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 Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Franklin, Dr. Macomson, Commissioner Swails and Chairman Bridges.

**Conditional use permit** for Paul and Yen Pham on Casey Road – Chairman Bridges asked Mrs. Thomas to give an update on the recommendation from the Planning Commission for Mr. and Ms. Pham. Mrs. Thomas said there are existing poultry houses and the Pham's are proposing to tear down four houses and build back five. The conditional use request also contains a variance as the proposal has the poultry houses coming 41 feet over the required setback. The Pham's provided a notarized letter from the neighbor stating approval for granting the variance. Mrs. Thomas said the recommendation from the Planning Commission and staff is for approval with the condition to add or maintain a vegetative buffer along the western property line to provide a buffer for an existing mobile home and reduce the side yard poultry setback by 41 feet. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the recommendation from the Planning Commission and Mrs. Thomas. Commissioner Franklin made the motion to accept with the recommendation from the Planning Commission. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Wester seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The **YES** votes were Commissioner Franklin, Dr. Macomson, Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Swails and Chairman Bridges.

**Conditional use permit and variance request** for New Beginnings – Chairman Bridges asked Mrs. Thomas to give information on the request from New



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*Beginnings. Mrs. Thomas said New Beginnings came before the Planning Commission with their request for a conditional use permit and variance for educational/transitional housing. New Beginnings operates a legal non-conforming use because they were in operation before zoning was in effect for Franklin County. Mrs. Thomas said when reviewing this application, the septic tank information was missing. This information is needed because of the volume of the dormitories and the importance of how the waste will be handled. The recommendation from the Planning Commission was to table until additional information concerning the septic is received. Mrs. Thomas said her recommendation is for the Board of Commissioners to send back to the Planning Commission for their recommendation after the additional information is received from New Beginnings.*

*Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the recommendation from Mrs. Thomas to table and send back to the Planning Commission. Dr. Macomson made the motion to accept the recommendation from Mrs. Thomas to send back to the Planning Commission. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Swails seconded the motion. Commissioner Franklin questioned how long it will take to get the additional information on the septic system. Mrs. Thomas said the weather has played a part in the delay but someone was at their location today. New Beginnings will give Mrs. Thomas updates as they receive them. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The motion passed by five (5) **YES** votes to zero (0) **NO** votes to table and send back to the Planning Commission. The **YES** votes were Commissioner Franklin, Dr. Macomson, Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Swails and Chairman Bridges.*

### **C. Staff Appointments**

*Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to appoint Bubba Samuels as the county attorney for 2019. Commissioner Franklin made the motion to keep Mr. Samuels. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Dr. Macomson seconded the motion. Commissioner Wester thanked Mr. Samuels for his past and future good work. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. **Mr. Samuels** was appointed the county attorney for 2019 by five (5) **YES** votes to zero (0) **NO** votes. The **YES** votes were Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Swails, Chairman Bridges, Dr. Macomson and Commissioner Franklin.*

*Chairman Bridges said the county clerk takes the minutes and helps the Commissioners with problems. He asked for a motion to continue with Mrs. Evans as the clerk. Dr. Macomson made the motion to reappoint Mrs. Evans. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Wester seconded the motion. Chairman Bridges expressed his thanks. **Mrs. Evans** was reappointed by five (5) **YES** votes to zero (0) **NO** votes. The **YES** votes were Dr. Macomson, Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Franklin, Commissioner Swails and Chairman Bridges.*

### **D. Board Appointments**

*Chairman Bridges said the board appointments are for the Planning Commission.*



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*This Board analyzes and does a lot of work planning for the future of Franklin County. Chairman Bridges asked Mrs. Thomas to give the information for these positions. Mrs. Thomas said there are two openings on the Planning Commission and two applications were received after advertisement for several months. One position came open due to the member moving out of the County and the other position came open due to Mr. Swails becoming a member of the Board of Commissioners. The positions will fill the remainder of the terms in effect now.*

*Mrs. Thomas recommended **Ms. Susan Russell** to fill the remainder of the term previously held by Mr. Swails which will go through January 1, 2022. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to appoint Susan Russell to fill the term vacated by Ryan Swails. Commissioner Swails made the motion to appoint Susan Russell to the Planning Commission. 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 Commissioner Franklin, Dr. Macomson, Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Swails and Chairman Bridges.*

*Mrs. Thomas recommended **Ms. Erika Hewatt** to fill the remainder of the term previously held by Mr. Daniel Culp which will go through January 1, 2021. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the recommendation for Ms. Hewatt. Dr. Macomson made the motion for Erika Hewatt to fill the remainder of the term vacated by Daniel Culp. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Wester seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed by five (5) **YES** votes to zero (0) **NO** votes. The **YES** votes were Chairman Bridges, Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Swails, Commissioner Franklin and Dr. Macomson.*

#### **E. Elevated Tank bids**

*Chairman Bridges asked Mrs. Thomas to give an update on the elevated tank bids. Mrs. Thomas said normally this type of item would be presented at a work session and then asked to be voted on at the regular session. There was no work session in December due to Christmas so the vote needs to be taken at tonight's meeting. Mrs. Thomas said a bid opening was held on December 13, 2018 for an elevated tank project. The estimated cost for this project was \$880,000. Two bids were received with the low bid being \$786,000 from Caudwell Tanks at a significant savings from what was budgeted. Mrs. Thomas said she concurred with the written recommendation from the County Engineer Mr. Phillips to go with Caudwell Tanks for this project in the amount of \$786,000. This project will put an elevated tank on Black Snake Road to allow the water system to handle the pressure on the ridge when water is being used by the power plant.*

*Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the recommendation from Mrs. Thomas to go with the bid of \$786,000 from Caldwell Tanks for the elevated tank project. Commissioner Wester made the motion to accept the bid from Caldwell Tanks in the amount of \$786,000. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Dr. Macomson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The*



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*motion passed by five (5) **YES** votes to zero (0) **NO** votes. The **YES** votes were Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Swails, Chairman Bridges, Dr. Macomson and Commissioner Franklin.*

#### **F. MOU with Madison County**

*Chairman Bridges asked Mrs. Thomas to give an overview of the MOU with Madison County. Mrs. Thomas said Franklin County was the lead applicant in an Appalachian Regional Commission grant. The amount received of 2.2 million dollars was one of the largest grants ever given by them. A large portion of the 2.2 million dollars is shared with Madison County. Mrs. Thomas said the MOU presented to the Commissioners was also presented to Madison County with the grant administrator to be GEFA. The agreement states the proper protocol for drawdowns of the grant funds. Included in this agreement is Madison County and Franklin County will be responsible for their own paperwork and submissions to GEFA. GEFA is responsible for handling the paperwork and distribution of the funds. Madison County is also to give copies of their paperwork to Franklin County to stay complaint with the ARC grant. Mrs. Thomas gave her recommendation to approve the MOU with Madison County. Until this agreement is signed Franklin County cannot drawdown any of the grant funds.*

*Chairman Bridges asked for motion to accept the recommendation from Mrs. Thomas concerning the MOU with Madison County. Dr. Macomson made the motion to approve the MOU with Madison County. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Wester 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 Swails and Commissioner Wester.*

#### **G. Announcements**

*Mrs. Thomas said the Planning Session will be held on the regular work session night of January 29. The starting time needs to be determined for advertisement purposes. Chairman Bridges said this will be an extended meeting. He asked the Commissioners to determine a time. Mrs. Thomas said the meeting invitation will be given to the Constitutional Officers as well as others. After discussion it was settled that the starting time will be between 1:00 p.m. with the probable location the Carnesville Community Center. The Commissioners are to confirm with Mrs. Thomas so the meeting invitations and advertisements can be prepared.*

*Chairman Bridges welcomed and expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Ryan Swails for becoming a part of the Board of Commissioners.*

*Commissioner Franklin said he would like for the general public to know that the County will take care of the dirt roads when they are not mud. The County does not have control over the weather but the roads will be worked as soon as they dry out.*

*Commissioner Franklin said there is a lot of good talk about the Senior Center. He*



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*gave an invitation to anyone old enough to attend. Mrs. Thomas said if you are not old enough to attend, the Senior Center could use some volunteers for the Meals on Wheels program. She said the Girl Scouts helped with the routes during Christmas. There is a desperate need for volunteers for the Meals on Wheels.*

*Chairman Bridges adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m.*

*Signed on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019*

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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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*Ryan Swails, District 3 Commissioner*

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*Eddie Wester, District 4 Commissioner*

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*Elaine H. Evans, County Clerk*