



You Are Why We Are Here

**FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 4, 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 February regular board meeting and welcomed everyone.

Item 2: Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Swails led the invocation and pledge of allegiance to the American flag.

Item 3: Approval of Minutes

January 7, 2019 public hearing
January 7, 2019 regular board meeting
January 29, 2019 planning work session

Chairman Bridges said the minutes were sent for review by the Clerk. He asked for a motion to approve the public hearing, regular board meeting and planning work session minutes for January. Commissioner Franklin made the motion to approve the minutes from January. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Wester 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 Swails and Commissioner Wester.

Item 4: Items for discussion

A. **Public Comment** – None.



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B. Extension Office

Chairman Bridges welcomed County Extension Agent Raymond Fitzpatrick. Mr. Fitzpatrick thanked the Commission Board for the opportunity to come before them. He then stated production meetings for agricultural and cattle meetings in conjunction with the Cattlemen's Association are being presented. Programs are also being worked on for the Young Farmers group. The goal for the Extension Office is to better the lives of the citizens of Franklin County. Mr. Fitzpatrick issued an invitation to the Commission Board to attend Livestock Judging on March 23 and Poultry Judging on April 22.

Mr. Fitzpatrick stated the Board of Education has partnered with the Extension Office in funding for a 4-H agent and this is much appreciated. He said Franklin County is extremely fortunate to have Raleigh Dawson as the new 4-H agent and she is focusing on math, science and writing skills, re-enforcing what is being taught in the regular classrooms. Mr. Fitzpatrick then introduced Ms. Dawson and asked her to come forward and speak.

Ms. Dawson said she is a recent Clemson graduate with a Masters degree in Agricultural Education and is also a certified teacher. She said while at Clemson she worked a lot with 4-H. As of November 1, 2018; when Ms. Dawson became employed with the Extension Office, she has been busy working with the schools including home schools. District projects have also been a priority and portfolios which are due in January for the past year's work. The mission of 4-H in Georgia is to assist youth with knowledge to acquire life skills and forming attitudes to enable them to become productive and contributing members of society.

The goal Ms. Dawson has for Franklin County 4-H is to take the State standards and work with students for usable life skills. Ms. Dawson said practices are on-going for livestock judging teams. Poultry judging practice will begin within the next two weeks. Summer camp promotions are ongoing as well. Ms. Dawson went over the upcoming events and gave the Commissioners a copy of the Franklin County 4-H newsletter. Chairman Bridges asked Ms. Dawson how often she goes into the schools. Ms. Dawson said she is in the schools monthly for meetings but generally more often.

C. Board Appointments

Chairman Bridges asked Commissioner Wester to go over the recommendations for the Recreation Board appointments. Commissioner Wester said there are two openings on the Recreation Board and two applications were received. He said these are two well qualified candidates who have the best interest of the kids and are willing to help with the business of the Recreation department.

Commissioner Wester made the recommendation to appoint Barry Peets to the Recreation Board. 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.



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Macomson, Chairman Bridges, Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Swails and Commissioner Franklin.

*Commissioner Wester made the recommendation to appoint Myca Richardson to the Recreation Board. 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** to zero (0) **NO** votes. The **YES** votes were Commissioner Franklin, Dr. Macomson, Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Swails and Chairman Bridges. Mrs. Thomas said these appointments are to fill the unexpired terms of the resigning members. Chairman Bridges expressed thanks for the willingness to serve from Mr. Peets and Mr. Richardson.*

D. SPLOST IV purchases

Chairman Bridges said the SPLOST IV purchases were discussed at the planning work session. He asked Mrs. Thomas to go over them.

*Mrs. Thomas recommended the purchase of an **EMS/E911 Director vehicle** which will cost less than \$30,000. She recommended excess SPLOST IV funds be used for this purchase. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to purchase the EMS/E911 vehicle from excess SPLOST IV funds. Commissioner Franklin made the motion to purchase the vehicle. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Swails seconded the motion. Commissioner Wester questioned what will done with the current truck. Mrs. Thomas said it is cutting off while being driven but if it is salvageable it will be sold at the Young Farmers Auction. 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, Commissioner Wester, Dr. Macomson, Commissioner Swails and Chairman Bridges.*

*Mrs. Thomas recommended the approval of excess SPLOST IV funds to purchase **two mowers** for the **Road** department. These mowers are for replacement and the used ones will be placed in the Young Farmers Auction. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to purchase two Road mowers from excess SPLOST IV funds. Commissioner Wester made the motion to move forward with the purchase of two Road mowers. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. 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 Swails and Commissioner Wester. Commissioner Franklin clarified this will be in time for the Young Farmers Auction in March. Mrs. Thomas said yes, the quotes are ready for purchase.*

Mrs. Thomas recommended the purchase of a vehicle for meal deliveries and director use for the Senior Center to come from either Recreation funds or SPLOST IV excess funds. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to purchase the vehicle from Recreation SPLOST funds. Dr. Macomson made the motion to move forward with the purchase of the meal delivery vehicle for the Senior Center. Chairman Bridges asked for a



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second. Commissioner Swails seconded the motion. Dr. Macomson asked the price of the vehicle. Mrs. Thomas said \$20,900. Dr. Macomson asked if this purchase will impact the Recreation budget. Mrs. Thomas said it will not impact the operating budget as it is in the control of the Recreation Board. Commissioner Wester asked how much the Recreation department has in the SPLOST IV account. Mrs. Thomas said about \$301,000. Dr. Macomson questioned if the Recreation department has plans for projects to be done this year that will be paid for by SPLOST. Mrs. Thomas asked Commissioner Wester to answer as he is the liaison for the Recreation Board. Commissioner Wester said there are some projects they plan to move forward with this year. They are also looking into grant funding to help pay for them.

*Dr. Macomson asked if specific projects were listed when SPLOST was approved. Mrs. Thomas said it was only listed as recreation with no specific projects. Recreation can be defined as passive parks, land purchases for future parks and specific projects but not operations. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands to purchase the Senior Center meal delivery and director vehicle. The motion passed by five (5) **YES** votes to zero (0) **NO** votes. The **YES** votes were Chairman Bridges, Commissioner Franklin, Commissioner Wester, Dr. Macomson and Commissioner Swails.*

E. Hazard Mitigation resolution

*Mrs. Thomas said the Hazard Mitigation Plan for Franklin County was worked on last year with the cities and fire departments. FEMA and GEMA have both approved the plan. The resolution now needs approval from the Commission Board. Mrs. Thomas recommended the Commissioners approve the Hazard Mitigation resolution for Franklin County. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to approve the Hazard Mitigation Plan for Franklin County. Commissioner Wester made the motion to approve. 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, Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Swails and Chairman Bridges.*

F. SPLOST V debt authorization

Mrs. Thomas said SPLOST V was discussed in depth at the planning work session. At the beginning of SPLOST V, a portion was borrowed. Mrs. Thomas stated she would like to borrow the remainder of the SPLOST V authorized amount. She gave her recommendation to the Commission Board to authorize the SPLOST V debt, Stifel to prepare a bond proposal, authorize the county manager to work with the cities for IGA's. After all of this is done, the final document will be voted on by the Commissioners.

Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to move forward with the recommendation from Mrs. Thomas. Commissioner Franklin made the motion. Chairman Bridges seconded the motion. Dr. Macomson seconded the motion. Commissioner Wester questioned if departments need to start on projects will the money be available. Mrs. Thomas said she has worked on a timeline for immediate projects. Commissioner Wester



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asked how the fire departments will be affected. Mrs. Thomas said her plan is to give to the fire departments immediately but will ask them to allow the money to be invested. 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 Swails, Chairman Bridges, Dr. Macomson and Commissioner Franklin.

G. **2019 Planning projects**

Mrs. Thomas said the State of Georgia has authorized counties to individually vote on a funding mechanism (referred to as T-SPLOST) for **road and bridges improvements**. She gave her recommendation to assign a Roads and Bridges Improvements Subcommittee to review, recommend and be responsible for educating the public. This subcommittee would also be responsible for working with the cities, drafting the resolution with the county attorney, the proper way to present to the Commissioners and the town hall educational meetings for the public. The subcommittee would not state for or against but would only educate the citizens.

The staff members on the subcommittee should be the County Engineer and the Road Superintendent. Chairman Bridges said he would volunteer from the Commission Board. Someone from the cities would also be needed. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to move forward with the Roads and Bridges Improvement Subcommittee. Commissioner Franklin made the motion. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Wester seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion to move forward with the Road and Bridges Improvement Subcommittee 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.

Mrs. Thomas said after more review a re-codification is needed for Franklin County. She gave her recommendation to move forward with a **re-codification** from **Municode** instead of a re-publication because of overlapping and incorrect information in the Franklin County ordinances. A peer review is needed of the ordinances. Mrs. Thomas asked all the Commissioners to be involved with the review.

Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to move forward with the recommendation from Mrs. Thomas. Dr. Macomson made the motion to move forward with the re-codification with Municode. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Swails seconded the motion. Dr. Macomson said it will be an awesome asset for the County citizens as well as the Commissioners. Commissioner Wester said it will be a lot better for the codes to be correct with no conflicting information. 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, Commissioner Franklin, Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Swails and Dr. Macomson.

Mrs. Thomas said the **HR personnel policy** was updated in December 2015. Since that time some of the laws have changed and a review is needed. Mrs. Thomas said she would like approval to work with a subcommittee and GMRC to present an updated



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*HR personnel policy to the Commission Board by the end of this year. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to begin the HR personnel policy update. Commissioner Wester made the motion to move forward. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Swails 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 Swails, Chairman Bridges, Dr. Macomson and Commissioner Franklin.*

*Mrs. Thomas said the **Inspections Program** was discussed extensively at the planning work session. The decision was made to hold a town hall meeting before any action was taken. Mrs. Thomas asked for approval to begin the town hall education process. Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to begin the town hall education process. Dr. Macomson made the motion. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Wester seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The motion passed by four (4) **YES** votes to one (1) **NO** votes. The **YES** votes were Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Swails, Chairman Bridges and Dr. Macomson. The **NO** vote was Commissioner Franklin.*

H. Announcements

Mrs. Thomas said the Employee Health Fair was held last week with good participation. As part of the health fair there was a friendly competition between employee teams for basketball and cornhole. Team B was the winner with a probable rematch for next year

Commissioner Wester said the IBA did not have a regular meeting in January due to no business to discuss. The IBA had a called meeting after that to move forward with a land purchase. More details will be forthcoming at a later time.

Chairman Bridges said GMRC will hold newly elected officials training on Wednesday, March 13 at the Dawsonville City Hall. This is a way to learn the benefit of GMRC. He will also be attending the ACCG Legislation meeting in Atlanta.

Commissioner Franklin thanked the Road department employees for their work on the dirt roads in placement of grave and help with the potholes. Chairman Bridges expressed thanks also.

Chairman Bridges adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.



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Signed on the _____ day of _____, 2019

Chairman J. Thomas Bridges

Robert L. Franklin, District 1 Commissioner

Dr. Jason Macomson, District 2 Commissioner

Ryan Swails, District 3 Commissioner

Eddie Wester, District 4 Commissioner

Elaine H. Evans, County Clerk