



You Are Why We Are Here

**FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION MINUTES
June 25, 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
Mark Berryman, WLHR

Staff: County Manager Beth Thomas
County Clerk Elaine Evans

Item 1: **Call meeting to order** – Chairman Bridges called the June work session to order and welcomed everyone.

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

Item 3: **Items for discussion**

A. Public Comment
None.

B. FY20 budget

Mrs. Thomas presented the Commissioners with the FY20 budget resolution. She said information is included on the breakdown of revenues and expenses by major service lines. The legal level of control for Franklin County is in line with the State of Georgia which is at the department level. Mrs. Thomas said a few changes have been made to the draft budget that was advertised but these changes have been summarized and given to the Commissioners. It was recommended by Mrs. Thomas for the Board of Commissioners to move forward with approval of the FY20 budget as presented.

Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to move forward with the FY20 budget. Dr. Macomson made the motion to approve the FY20 budget. 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, Commissioner Wester, Dr. Macomson, Commissioner Swails and Chairman Bridges.



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C. Board appointments update

Mrs. Thomas stated the Commissioners have been presented with three applications for the Joint Development Authority. A request has been made for the IBA to provide information on the appointment dates and terms. Mrs. Thomas said the IBA has another possible applicant and this information will be given to the Commissioners as soon as it is received. She asked for this item to be placed on the July regular meeting agenda.

D. Sewer plant discussion

Chairman Bridges said the County is now in the process of getting into the sewage business and it is a good thing. Currently the County is only pulling the City of Carnesville into the plant. As soon as connections are increased the County sewage will begin. Chairman Bridges asked Robert Brown to come forward and speak to the Commissioners concerning septic tanks and where to dump them.

Robert Brown came forward and stated it has come to this; he is unable to do business because the cost is too great to take out of the County and be able to stay in business. He said if there was a place to dump in the County it would help him to do business as well as help the citizens with the price. Part of Mr. Brown's concern is the burden placed on senior citizens who may not draw as much in a month as the cost is to have a septic tank pumped. If the County could take the septic tank pumping's Mr. Brown would be able to stay in business and keep the cost down for the citizens.

Louis Korff the Environmental Health Manager for Franklin County spoke next. As part of his duties Mr. Korff is over the onsite sewage system management program. The first competent is the septic tank which will always need to be pumped occasionally. Mr. Korff said it is harder and harder to find places to dump as a lot of municipalities are restricting the products taken in to their own communities. Since the County is getting into the sewage business it would be a great thing for the local pumpers to be able to dump at a reasonable cost. Although sewage is available in part of Franklin County there will always be some who will have to be on septic tanks.

Mr. Korff said the pumpers will be a miniscule amount of the business for the sewer plant. The product that Mr. Brown will be dumping is a pre-treated product and is not grease. Mr. Korff stated people using a septic system are more careful about what they put down the toilets and drains.

Glenn Davis said the problem being discussed is wide-spread throughout the County. The cost for pumping a septic tank is significant and is hard on elderly and lower income citizens. Mr. Davis said in the absence of people being able to afford the septic pump it is a possibility that stuff will flow freely on the ground. He highly recommended the Commission Board make this possible for the pumpers to avoid a major problem.

Chairman Bridges said he had spoken with County Engineer John Phillips and Mrs. Thomas about this after Mr. Brown approached him. He asked Mrs. Thomas to give a report on the progress. Mrs. Thomas said after hearing that other municipalities were not allowing septic tank pumpers to dump it was looked into. Policies are beginning to be



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reviewed which show restrictions of where the product comes from.

Currently Franklin County is discharging, running and testing the sewer system under the City of Carnesville's permit. Mrs. Thomas said Hwy 59 is not connected so the sewer for Franklin County is limited as the customer base is not there yet. As more customers are added the Franklin County permit will then come into play. A solution is being worked on although it may not be immediate. Chairman Bridges said it makes sense to open this up to pumpers in the County because millions of dollars were spent to get the sewer project going.

Commissioner Franklin stated he has talked with other counties about pumping. He said he was concerned about the chemicals going into the new system from the Petro car wash. Mrs. Thomas said the Petro waste is treated before entering the system. Commissioner Franklin said at some time or another a septic tank will need to be pumped and he is in favor of helping.

Commissioner Swails questioned Mr. Korff on how often a septic system needs to be pumped. Mr. Korff said the recommendation is for inspection every five years with pumping at 10 years.

Dr. Macomson asked about the potential savings to citizens. Mr. Korff said this would depend on what the County charges to dump. The baseline for pumping is around \$500 where in the past it was \$250.

Commissioner Wester asked Mr. Brown how far he has to travel to dump. Mr. Brown said the company he was using is no longer taking so he is not doing anything now. There is a facility in Athens but the cost to dump is 30 cents per gallon and there is no way for this to work for his business or customers. Commissioner Wester said the business owners and citizens are being handcuffed if the County does not make this work for the septic system pumpers. The County needs to be good stewards and watch out for the senior citizens as well as for the youth.

Chairman Bridges said he and the Commission Board will work with the County's management team toward making this work. Commissioner Franklin questioned if there is a time frame. Mrs. Thomas clarified for flipping the switch on Hwy 59. Commissioner Franklin affirmed yes. Mrs. Thomas said there was a status meeting last week and a few items are still being worked on by the contractors. Open house should take place at the beginning of August as soon as everything is finalized. Mrs. Thomas said everything will have to be monitored to meet EPD requirements, especially where grease is concerned. Commissioner Franklin stated this has to be monitored regardless. Mr. Korff clarified there are two kinds of pumpers; septic pumpers and FOG (fats, oils and grease) pumpers and Mr. Brown is a septic pumper and not a FOG pumper. The two types of pumpers have different permits and requirements. Mrs. Thomas said the County may have to put this in the policy as to what kind of pumpers will be able to dump.

E. FY19 budget modifications

Mrs. Thomas said budget modifications are needed for several departments.



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*Modifications have already been approved for the Tax Commissioner for a new employee and the Sheriff's Office for vehicle reimbursement for insurance. Another modification for insurance reimbursement of around \$64,000 for flood damage at the Recreation Department and vehicles for the Sheriff's Department is included in this request. Grants for EMS for medical supplies, one for LUCAS devices, LMIG and highway safety grants for the Sheriff need to be trued up. Mrs. Thomas said gas prices increased in this budget and the departments need to be adjusted. Chairman Bridges asked for a recommendation to accept the request from Mrs. Thomas for the modifications. Commissioner Wester made the motion to accept the recommendation for modification to the FY19 budget. 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 Chairman Bridges, Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Franklin, Commissioner Swails and Dr. Macomson.*

F. Manager's Report

Mrs. Thomas said she spoke with Tax Commissioner Bobby Martin this morning and there still is not a preliminary tax digest. She said from the tax assessments it is anticipated the digest will go up. The delay of the tax digest is probably due to the tax appeals. Mrs. Thomas said it is anticipated through inflation there will have to be several public hearings for the millage rate and the County will need to work with the Board of Education for dates.

Mrs. Thomas said August 6 is the scheduled open house date for the sewer plant. A tour will be taken of the plant with lunch served afterward. Mrs. Thomas has met with EPD regarding soil and erosion and permits. The Department of Agriculture would like to work with Franklin County regarding companion animals and equine and the Chamber of Commerce is helping with this.

G. Announcements

Commissioner Wester thanked the Fire Departments, EMS and Sheriff's Department for the work they did this past Friday night with the storm. Sheriff Steve Thomas agreed with Commissioner Wester and especially thanked the Fire Departments for removing a lot of trees out of the roads. Commissioner Franklin expressed appreciation to all the employees of the County. Chairman Bridges said the Fire Departments did an awesome job of getting the trees out of the roads.

*Chairman Bridges asked for a motion and second to adjourn. Commissioner Swails made the motion to adjourn. 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 Chairman Bridges, Commissioner Franklin, Commissioner Wester, Dr. Macomson and Commissioner Swails. The meeting adjourned at 6:33 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

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