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## **FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

### **REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**May 4, 2020**

**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  
MJ Kneiser, WLHR

**Staff:** County Manager Beth Thomas  
Interim County Clerk Gina Kesler  
County Attorney Bubba Samuels

**Item 1: Call meeting to order** – Chairman Bridges called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. 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: Approval of Minutes**

**April 13, 2020 Public Hearing**  
**April 13, 2020 Regular Meeting**

Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes for April. Commissioner Swails made the motion to approve the April minutes as written. 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 **YES** votes to zero (0) **NO** votes. The **YES** votes were Chairman Bridges, Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Macomson, Commissioner Franklin and Commissioner Swails.

### **Item 4: Items for Discussion**

#### **A. Public Hearing items**

- 1) Conditional Use Permit/Poultry House Site Plan Revision – JENNY Farm**



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Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to accept the Planning and Zoning recommendation to approve the conditional use permit and site revision plan. Commissioner Wester made the motion to accept the recommendation. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner 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 Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Swails, Chairman Bridges, Commissioner Macomson and Commissioner Franklin.

### **2) Text Amendment**

Commissioner Macomson wanted to clarify that the necessary hearings had taken place before the Board could take final action on the text amendment revision. County Manager, Beth Thomas stated that the two public hearing that are necessary before the Board could vote had taken place.

Chairman Bridges asked for a motion on the zoning text amendment. Commissioner Macomson made a motion that the zoning text be passed as originally proposed to the Planning Commission. This would include the prohibited use of incineration of poultry and farming wastes because this is for commercial industrial and not affecting what individual farmers do. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Swails seconded the motion. Commissioner Wester said the Board needs to make a point to involve the poultry producers in the county to come up with a plan that will help them get rid of the poultry litter they have and to prevent any type of incineration business from coming into Franklin County. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The motion passed four **YES** votes to one (1) **NO** vote. The **YES** votes were Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Macomson, Commissioner Franklin and Commissioner Swails. The **NO** vote was Chairman Bridges.

### **3) Update on the Lunsford Rezoning application**

Planning Director, Scott DeLozier, stated that County Attorney, Bubba Samuels sent him the conditions for the application and added the condition for the vegetative buffer. This was sent to Mr. Lunsford by email and spoke with Mr. Lunsford confirming that he had received the email. Mr. DeLozier stated he did not hear back from Mr. Lunsford on any of the conditions.

Commissioner Macomson asked what the conditions were. Mr. DeLozier stated the conditions were for a vegetative buffer around the perimeter of the property, the access not come off of Neal Little Road but would either come off of State Route 51 or State Route 106, and that if any changes were to happen to the property then it would come back from a Commercial Industrial zoning to an Agriculture Intensive zoning.



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## **B. Public Works Items**

### **1) GEFA Loan Extension for Water System**

County Manager, Beth Thomas stated that GEFA had recommended the second modification to the loan to give the county ample time to complete the projects. This modification will push the date back to April of 2022. Mrs. Thomas asked for the Board to approve the resolution extending the date and authorizing the Chairman to execute it.

Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to approve the resolution extending the date and authorizing the Chairman to execute it. Commissioner Wester made the motion to approve the resolution. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Macomson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The motion passed by five **YES** votes to zero (0) **NO** votes. The **YES** votes were Chairman Bridges, Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Macomson, Commissioner Franklin and Commissioner Swails.

### **2) Water System Improvement Project – Well Agreement and Development**

Mrs. Thomas stated that Franklin County does not own their own water source. The county purchases raw water from a series of private wells and treated water from the City of Toccoa. Since 2019 the county has vetted out six (6) different wells across the county. She presented the board with a draft water purchase agreement for another well which is very close to the county's mixing tank and would be about a \$20,000 investment. She stated the county would be using GEFA loan funds. Mrs. Thomas asked for the Board to approve the development of a well and authorize the agreement and further authorize the chairman to execute the water purchase agreement pending legal review.

Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to approve the development of a well and authorize the agreement and further authorize the chairman to execute the water purchase agreement pending legal review. Commissioner Swails made the motion to approve the well. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Macomson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The motion passed by five **YES** votes to zero (0) **NO** votes. The **YES** votes were Chairman Bridges, Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Macomson, Commissioner Franklin and Commissioner Swails.

### **3) Water System Improvement Project – Generator Bid/Quote**

Mrs. Thomas informed the Board that the mixing tank on Turkey Creek is in need of a generator. This generator will help keep power at the mixing tank in the event of something happening. This was sent out for bids. The recommendation is to award J & T Service Center, Inc. at the contract amount of \$53,400.00 for a new 300 kW generator for the Turkey Creek mixing tank.



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Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to approve the recommendation to award J & T Service Center, Inc. at the contract amount of \$53,400.00 for a new 300 kW generator for the Turkey Creek mixing tank. Commissioner Franklin made the motion to accept the recommendation. 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 **YES** votes to zero (0) **NO** votes. The **YES** votes were Chairman Bridges, Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Macomson, Commissioner Franklin and Commissioner Swails.

**C. Mental Health Resolution – May 2020 Mental Health Month**

Mrs. Thomas stated that Commissioner Wester had recently brought up the need for our first responders and those in public health. Mental Health is important across all sectors. May is designated as Mental Health Month. The Mental Health toolkit will be used on the Franklin County social media page as well as the website. This is an important step to acknowledging the important of Mental Health. She recommended for the Board to adopt the Mental Health Resolution.

Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to adopt the Mental Health Resolution. Commissioner Wester made the motion to adopt the resolution. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Macomson seconded the motion. Commissioner Wester thanked Mrs. Thomas for researching and finding this opportunity and making it available to the county to produce to our citizens. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The motion passed by five **YES** votes to zero (0) **NO** votes. The **YES** votes were Chairman Bridges, Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Macomson, Commissioner Franklin and Commissioner Swails.

**D. Manager's Report**

- 1) The county offices began opening back up today, with a 2-person limit in the lobby of the county office. Mrs. Thomas stated that many updates are happening throughout all of the county offices to make it safer for our staff and citizens.
- 2) The Health Department will begin testing for COVID-19 this week on Tuesdays and Fridays. This is a joint effort with Hart County.
- 3) The ACCG Internship has been impacted by the health crisis. The Internship opening will be posted on the county website so that we can move forward with hiring someone. The internship is for 200 hours and their primary goal will be to create an electronic database of all of the county's resolutions and ordinances. Secondary to that work will be to work on the recodification process of the county's Code of Ordinances.
- 4) Mrs. Thomas has sent out a proposed budget calendar to the Board to be able to pass a budget by June 30.



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Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Wester made the motion to adjourn. 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 **YES** votes to zero (0) **NO** votes. The **YES** votes were Chairman Bridges, Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Macomson, Commissioner Franklin and Commissioner Swails.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Signed on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020

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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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Gina L. Kesler, Interim County Clerk