

STATE OF ALABAMA)
)
FRANKLIN COUNTY) **FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSION**
) **REGULAR MEETING**
) **JULY 17, 2023 8:30 AM**

PRESENT: Honorable Barry Moore, presiding as Judge of Probate and Chairman, and Messrs., Chris Wallace, Jason Miller, Joseph Baldwin, and David Hester as Members.

ALSO PRESENT: Solid Waste Manager Gene Ward, Mark Latham of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, County Engineer Jason Baggett, Assistant County Engineer Caleb Sherill, Franklin County EMA Director Mary Glass, County Administrator Leah Mansell, Terry Bolton, Evan Hargett, Cathy Hulseley and Mike Bean of Passion HR, Nick Tucker and Matilda Harrison of Tombigbee Electric Cooperative, and John Pilati of the *Franklin Free Press*.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Barry Moore called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION

The meeting was opened in prayer by Member Joseph Baldwin.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Member David Hester.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Barry Moore stated that all Members are present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Moore stated that a letter had been received from the Health Department stating there are no changes to their fee schedule for the upcoming FY24.

Chairman Moore read an invitation from the Extension Office for a Farm to Fork Tour on July 20 beginning at 4:00 PM with dinner at 6:00 PM at Overton Farm.

Chairman Moore stated that there is a Pond Management Class with a dinner at the A.W. Todd Centre on July 18 from 5:30 to 7:30.

Chairman Moore stated that there is Farm Tour put on by the Extension Office and RC&D will be held July 18.

Chairman Moore stated that there will be a call with ADECA regarding broadband at 11:30 today and that this call is following the county meeting held at Russellville High School in April.

EMA Director Mary Glass stated that she is planning to have training at the Russellville Fire Department for the Orion app which is an app for storm damages.

Cathy Hulseley and Mike Beam of Passion HR addressed the Commission concerning updating its job descriptions, pay scales and personnel policy. Ms. Hulseley discussed her background in the public sector at Jefferson County for the personnel board and her work in Pike County updating their pay scale, job descriptions and handbook. She discussed the difference between public sector has more standards than the private sector and with her law degree and experience, they hoped the Commission would consider Passion HR to update its personnel policy, job descriptions and pay scales.

Commissioner Miller asked if there was a time frame of completion for the project and Ms. Hulseley stated it should take 6-8 months and she projects she would be on site about 3 days a week during that time.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It is on motion of Mr. David Hester, second by Mr. Jason Miller, unanimously ordered, adjudged and decreed by the Board to approve the overall agenda as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It is on motion of Mr. Joseph Baldwin, second by Mr. Chris Wallace, unanimously ordered, adjudged and decreed by the Board to approve the June 19, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

It is on motion of Mr. David Hester, second by Mr. Jason Miller unanimously ordered, adjudged and decreed by the Board to approve the June bills for payment.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMISSION

ACCA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

It is on motion of Mr. Chris Wallace, second by Mr. Jason Miller unanimously ordered, adjudged and decreed by the Board to approve the ACCA Legislative Committee Appointment of Mr. Joseph Baldwin.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

APPROVE QUOTE FOR LOAN ON DUMP TRUCK

It is on motion of Mr. David Hester, second by Mr. Joseph Baldwin, unanimously ordered, adjudged and decreed by the Board to approve the lowest responsible quote for loan on Dump Trucks from Valley State Bank of 4.04% at 5 years and for \$427,000.

Bid tabulation as follows:

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

It is on motion of Mr. Chris Wallace, second by Mr. Jason Miller, unanimously ordered, adjudged and decreed by the Board to approve 7 Cent Fund Budget Amendments.

Budget amendments as follows:

SHERIFF'S OFFICE/JAIL

HIRE CORRECTIONS OFFICER/DISPATCHER

It is on motion of Mr. Joseph Baldwin, second by Mr. David Hester, unanimously ordered, adjudged and decreed by the Board to approve table the hiring of a Corrections Officer/Dispatcher.

SOLID WASTE

BALCH AND BINGHAM RECOMMENDATION

It is on motion of Mr. Jason Miller, second by Mr. Chris Wallace, unanimously ordered, adjudged and decreed by the Board to approve the recommendation letter of Balch and Bingham.

Letter as follows:

UPDATE PAY SCALES, JOB DESCRIPTIONS AND PERSONNEL POLICIES

It is on motion of Mr. David Hester, second by Mr. Jason Miller, unanimously ordered, adjudged and decreed by the Board to table the updated pay scales, job descriptions, and personnel policies.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION APPOINTMENT

It is on motion of Mr. David Hester, second by Mr. Jason Miller, unanimously ordered, adjudged and decreed by the Board to nominate Brente Jeffreys to the Board of Equalization for the Commission appointment.

Nomination form as follows:

BROADBAND ARPA GRANT

Chairman Moore thanked County Administrator Leah Mansell, Technology Coordinator Jim Hill, Commissioner Baldwin, Commissioner Wallace, along with Sain and IAC personnel for the review of the broadband APRA application. He also thanked Tombigbee Electric Cooperative making their application very easy to follow and understand. Thank you for the diligent work to make sure we are meeting State and Federal guidelines. In regards to this process, we had to do our due diligence. This work will pay dividends when we are audited in the next few years because the county commission is responsible for meeting Federal and State guidelines and along with IAC, we will have support through the audit process. Broadband has been a goal for the county commission and we are getting closer to that goal. This will benefit the citizens of the County for future generations. Sonny Brasfield of the ACCA stated in the beginning of the ARPA funds to “use it as an investment for your county”. We have taken his advice to make Franklin County attractive to keep families and businesses here as well as expanding new businesses and new families moving to the area. This is an investment in Franklin County.

It is on motion of Mr. Chris Wallace, second by Mr. Joseph Baldwin, unanimously ordered, adjudged and decreed by the Board to approve a resolution that Franklin County Commission conditionally commit a portion of the County’s ARPA funds for a fiberoptic broadband project to be completed by Tombigbee Electric Cooperative (TEC), subject to discussions with TEC to refine the scope and budget specifically related to the unserved and underserved areas identified by the County in the Franklin County Broadband Application and as required by the terms and conditions of the ARPA award. It is further moved that the County Administrator Leah Mansell be directed to engage in these discussions and oversee the drafting of corresponding funding agreement for review and consideration by the Commission.

Resolution as follows:

ADJOURNMENT

It is on motion of Mr. Chris Wallace, second by Mr. David Hester, that the meeting be adjourned.

Barry Moore, Chairman

Chris Wallace, District I

Jason Miller, District II

Joseph Baldwin, District III

David Hester, District IV