



MINUTES OF FRANKLINVILLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S MEETING

June 8, 2026

ATTENDEES: Mayor Ben Harman, Mayor Pro Tem Billy Farias, Commissioner Priscilla Dunn, Commissioner Richard Goodwin, Commissioner Sara Nieblas, Commissioner Mac Whatley, Finance Officer/Town Clerk-Beverly O'Brien, Utility Clerk-Christie Gunter, Public Works Director-Arnold Allred

GUESTS: Susan Allred, Perry Conner, Laurie Cone, Marissa Henley, Barbara Huffman, Grace Lawrence, NC Dept. of Commerce, Susan Levines, Brower Moffitt, Harriet Moulder, Robert Osborne, Shelly Siskin, Brooke Thomas, TDA, Kristine Williams, Tyler Williams, Robert Wirth

26-113 7:00 pm: MEETING CALLED TO ORDER PUBLIC HEARING

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence/Prayer

Public Hearing Closed.

26-114 COMMERCE DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION

Grace Lawrence, The North Carolina Department of Commerce Community Economic Development Planner, gave a presentation on the process of developing a strategic action plan, and technical assistance they can offer to the Town committee for growth, and she listed resources to help the Town. She discussed developing a vision, planning, and carrying through on the values and vision developed by the process. The Dept. of Commerce has many resources to help small towns, such as Franklinville, navigate the process to attract funding and grants to achieve their goals. The next step would be a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department and the Town to begin the training process. Mayor Harman thanked Ms. Lawrence for her presentation and interest in the Town.

26-115 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mayor Harman opened the Public Comment Period to the attendees. No Public comments or questions.

26-116 OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Whatley discussed the presentation of the Budget for Fiscal Year 26-27. The Board voted to accept the Budget as presented last month, but one more vote is required. Copies of the proposed Budget Ordinance are available for the public and were presented at this meeting as well. The Finance Officer explained the changes from last year due to an increase in utility and fuel expenses, as well as the Town property tax structure remaining unchanged, and the only changes involving the Fire Department of a 2-cent

increase in the fire tax from .14 to .16 per 100.00 valuation. This is a “pass through” tax, as the Town only collects it and passes it along to the Fire Department. The annual contribution to the Economic Development Council was discussed. **Commissioner Whatley, motion to adopt the 26-27 Fiscal Year Budget Ordinance and EDC Contribution for the next year as proposed. Seconded by Commissioner Goodwin. Motion adopted, unanimously.**

26-117 ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Finance Officer O’Brien gave the finance report, see attached. She discussed the proposed budget and discussed the contributions of a local Eagle Scout, Tyler Williams, that chose Franklinville for his Eagle Scout Project. The young man built two beautiful, large benches and installed them in the cemetery. Mayor Harman presented Tyler with a certificate of appreciation from the Town. General discussion from Commissioners reference the hard work and dedication of this young man.

26-118 PLANNING and ZONING

Commissioner Whatley discussed not having any applications or formal requests for zoning changes for this month. Finance Officer O’Brien mentioned some requests for planning that did not require a formal Committee meeting but were easily approved.

Commissioner Whatley discussed the new banners for the 250th anniversary and how well they looked. He and Mayor Harman are working on the brochures and the historical signs for the local points of interest. The representative of the Heart of NC discussed how they are working with the Randolph County Development Authority for contracts to help local municipalities attract visitors and gain recognition. She commented on how well the mural and banners looked in town.

26-119 PUBLIC HEALTH and SAFETY

Mayor Pro Tem Farias discussed the 10.00 dollar increase for the Sheriff’s Department for the next year. General discussion reference the cars, workers comp insurance, and gear that the fees cover per officer. Mayor Pro Tem Farias discussed the recent increase in ATV problems in town and the officers he has alerted to the problem. General discussion reference the timing and the areas of concern. Brower Moffitt discussed the lack of helmets and safety equipment for such young riders.

26-120 LIBRARY and COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Commissioners received the reports contained in their packets for the Library and the Parents as Teachers Program. See attached. General discussion reference the County Library Board and our recommendation to the Board has not been approved. Michael Johnston has agreed to be the Town’s representative but must wait for approval from the County Commissioners.

26-121 PUBLIC UTILITIES

Director Allred discussed his meter reports and his public works report for the past month. See attached. He discussed the ATV’s tearing up the sewer line right of way in the mobile home park near Ogles Creek pumping station. General discussion reference the ATV damage all over town and possible remedies that could involve notifying the parents (if possible) of charges. Director Allred discussed the Ogles Creek pump station and the AIA contracts with LKC Engineering. Both the Water and Waste- Water grants are nearing completion. He also discussed the progress on the meter vault installation and contract with Garney Construction that the Board recently reviewed and the timeline of construction.

Motion by Commissioner Whatley to approve the Garney Vault Contract. Seconded by Commissioner Goodwin. Motion adopted unanimously. Mayor Harman will sign the contract, and the office will submit it to

the engineering firm. Director Allred discussed the prices he has received for the patching and paving of several street in town from Waugh Paving.

Allred Street -\$13,655.00

Rockie River- \$10,060.00

Wallace Street \$17,800.00

The patches are expected to hold for several years. This was confirmed by Mayor Pro Tem Farias after consulting with a paving retiree that lives nearby.

Commissioner Goodwin, motion to accept these three proposals. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Farias. Motion adopted, unanimously.

Director Allred discussed the renovations of the sidewalk beside the library and in front of the Diner. His department can remove and replace the failing concrete, but will need a jackhammer, either rented or purchased to complete the project. General discussion reference the purchase of a jackhammer for such projects through the Powell Bill Fund. This purchase would be allowed because of the need for sidewalk renovations and installations on Town streets. The Town of Liberty has loaned our department a jackhammer before, but theirs's currently down awaiting parts. Most of the rental units are either too lightweight or already worn down. Mr. Allred has priced two possibles for our existing skid steer at Kubota- \$23,000.00 or John Deere-\$13,275.00. **Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Farias to buy the jackhammer from John Deere at \$13,275.00. Seconded by Commissioner Nieblas. Motion adopted, unanimously.**

Director Allred discussed the need to replace a large tile on Allred Street. The cost would be substantial and place the roadway out of service for a short period of time. General discussion reference delaying the tile replacement for another year. Director Allred discussed the need for another computer for the Board room that could handle both the casting and the recording at the same time. He and the Finance Officer have discussed a better computer system with the IT contractor, Partners Consulting. She will follow up on a better system of either a desktop or a laptop with more capability. **Motion by Commissioner Whatley, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Farias, to upgrade the computer system for the boardroom. Motion adopted, unanimously.**

26-122 NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Pro Tem Farias discussed the progress on the mural for the Poole Building. Townspeople are excited and Chad Tucker from Channel Eight News has offered to do a feature on the mural.

26-123 MAYORS COMMENTS

Mayor Harman discussed the 250th Year Potluck Dinner planned for the 5th of July. The mayor has planned a couple of meetings to finalize plans with the Board Members and interested community members. Commissioner Goodwin discussed his optimism for the event and the mural. Mayor Harman expressed his confidence in a fun event for the Town.

Motion by Commissioner Whatley to adjourn.

Mayor Pro Tem Farias, motion Seconded

8:49 pm Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mayor Ben Harman

(seal)

Beverly O'Brien. Town Clerk