MINUTES OF FRANKLINVILLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
October 12, 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: Laurie Cone, Amanda Maness, Tommy Maness, Harriet Moulder, Mary Joan Pugh;
Piedmont Trails Director, Charity Johnson,
Robert Osborne, Amber Scarlett, Brooke Thomas; TDA, Melody Varner, Carmen Wood

26-157 7:00pm BOARD MEETING Called to ORDER
Pledge of Allegiance
Moment of Silence/Prayer

26-158 CONSENT AGENDA
Mayor Harman discussed the consent agenda and asked for any questions.
Motion to adopt the consent agenda by Commissioner Whatley. Seconded by Commissioner Dunn. Motion adopted, unanimously.

26-159 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
Mayor Harman opened the Public Comment Period to the attendees. The Tourism Development Authority Representative, Melody Varner gave a presentation and announcement of the Town of Franklinville becoming a Designated Trail Town. She had a slide presentation of the requirements for the award. Franklinville is the only town with the designation in Randolph County. The information for the Town Trail will be listed on the Outdoor NC website.
Mary Joan Pugh, Randolph County Trail Coordinator, discussed the Thursday afternoon ribbon cutting for the new trailhead at Andrew Hunter Road and the new crosswalk installed by the NC DOT. The projects started with an initial grant of 29 million for 12 state trails. We are currently at over three miles of trail and will be over five miles when completed to Cedar Falls. She thanked the Commissioners for working with her so well and they, in turn, told her how appreciative the town is for all her hard work to bring the trail system closer to completion.
Mr. Tony Maness discussed the possible installation of a "Wind Phone" in the park. The phone is a phone booth or mounted phone that is not connected to a line. The idea is to allow residents to be in beautiful surroundings and "talk" with people from their past and commune with them with a symbolic phone.
Mr. Maness described the beginnings of the movement internationally and nationally and the quiet park setting he envisioned for Franklinville. Mayor Harman asked questions about placement and maintenance and

Mr. Maness agreed to install and maintain the unit. General discussion reference location and Mr. Maness stated he would place it only where the Board agreed. **Commissioner Whatley, motion to allow Mr. Maness to place and maintain a "wind phone" in the park. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Farias. Motion adopted, unanimously.**

26-160 OLD BUSINESS

Town Clerk O'Brien discussed the NCDEQ program the state has presented to the Town in reference to the property near and including the Otus Thomas Ball fields. The Town has received the second notice about joining the program for inspection and possible remediation, if needed, of the property since it was a landfill in the 1950's. The Board has discussed the benefits and disadvantages of joining the program at length.
The benefits are some lessening of responsibility and liability, and the downside is a possible restriction on land use of the affected properties. The property is already developed for recreational use, and the small parcel remaining is unlikely to be used for high density residential development anyway. **Commissioner Whatley, motion to allow the Town to enter the NCDEQ program. Seconded by Commissioner Goodwin**. **Commissioner Nieblas abstained because she was not in attendance during prior discussions. Motion adopted, four ayes.**
Town Clerk O'Brien discussed the resolution prepared by Code Enforcement for the property at 308 Weatherly Drive failing to be in compliance after repeated citations and a hearing. See attached. **Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Farias to file the ordinance with the register of deeds and the tax department. Seconded by Commissioner Dunn. Motion adopted, unanimously.**
Mayor Harman discussed the Lexipro grant writing proposal. General discussion reference costs of $7800.00 per year with a two-year contract. The decision from the Board is to wait until after the first of the year to decide if the finances are good enough for that.
Mayor Pro Tem Farias discussed the Town Ordinance he has been developing for the Greenway and parks. The Board has reviewed and revised the ordinance and is prepared to vote. See attached ordinance. The ordinance will require another Board vote at the next meeting before it being enacted by the Town. **Mayor Pro Tem Farias, motion to adopt the ordinance, and present for another vote. Seconded by Commissioner Whatley. Motion adopted, 1st vote adopted, unanimously.**

26-161 ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Finance Officer O'Brien gave the finance report, see attached. She discussed the progress with the Auditor's work and the recent revenue and expense report provided. See included.

26-162 PLANNING and ZONING

Commissioner Whatley discussed the Friends of the Library Ghost (history) tour and planning for the event for October 30th and 31st.

26-163 PUBLIC HEALTH and SAFETY

Mayor Pro Tem Farias discussed the placement of mile markers for emergency response to the Greenway. Mary Joan Pugh discussed the markers placement and the markers she had already developed for the Faith Rock Trail. She will approach the Asheboro sign shop about developing markers for the new trail. Mayor Pro Tem Farias and Mary Joan Pugh will talk to Jared Byrd, the Public Safety Director, about the trail signs.

26-164 LIBRARY and COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Commissioners received the reports contained in their packets for the Parents as Teachers Program. See attached. Library Director, Charity Johnson, discussed the library attendance and programs for the past month. She discussed a program offering by Samantha Martin.

26-165 PUBLIC UTILITIES

Director Arnold Allred discussed the mowing schedule of his department and the cemetery coming to an end. department has completed. He also discussed the almost completion of the AIA (Asset Inventory and Assessment) Study. LKC Engineering has been working on a Final Water and Sewer Rate Study Report for the Town and will present it soon. Director Allred presented a proposal from McGill for transporting the sludge from the Sewer Treatment plant. General discussion reference costs and possible savings of the program. McGill recycles the sludge into a composted product. The cost is significantly higher than the Town pays now, but it would also over time draw down the sludge from the waste treatment plant and save money on having it pumped. **Motion by Commissioner Whatley, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Farias, to do a trial use of McGill's services. Motion adopted, unanimously.**

Director Allred discussed his meter sheet of checks for leaks, repairs, etc. this month. He also discussed the installation of a mini split system at the sewer plant for heating and cooling. The system was ordered from Amazon and his department installed it. The only thing needed is a charging from a local HVAC company. He is arranging for that service. Director Allred will be on vacation next month from November 1st through November 8th.

26-166 NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Pro Tem Farias discussed the Friends of the Library History (Ghost) tour and their planned route through Riverside Cemetery. General discussion reference the propriety of doing a hayride through the cemetery where resident's loved ones are buried**. Mayor Pro Tem Farias motion not to allow the hayride through the cemetery or the West End of the park, out of respect and for safety. Seconded by Commissioner Nieblas, Motion adopted unanimously.** General discussion led by the Mayor, of moving the scarecrow contest to the Trunk or Treat events. Decision to install the scarecrows at the ballfield for Trunk or Treat and move the time for the 250th Festival to 3:00pm on November 7th due to daylight savings time ending.

26-167 MAYORS COMMENTS

Mayor Harman discussed the Preservation NC meetings to be held in High Point and Commissioner Whatley will do a presentation on Monday at the event. He reminded everyone of the NC Dept of Commerce Strategic Planning Meeting on October 19th at the Franklinville Baptist Church fellowship hall at 5:30.00 pm.

Motion by Commissioner Whatley to adjourn.
Motion Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Farias to adjourn.
8:35 pm Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

_____Mayor Ben Harman

(seal)

_____Beverly O'Brien. Town Clerk