

**FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING
OCTOBER 9, 2018 – 10:00 A.M.
COMMISSIONERS/COUNCIL MEETING ROOM, #203**

The Franklin County Commissioners met in regular meeting on October 9, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners/Council Meeting Room. Those present were Tom Wilson, Tom Linkel, Eric Roberts, Carol Westerman, Commissioner's Secretary and Karla Bauman, Franklin County Auditor.

The meeting was called to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Tom Wilson.

Joe Copeland, FC Engineer – ADA Plan: Joe Copeland presented the Franklin County Government ADA Transition Plan for the Commissioners approval. This is not the final version as the County is waiting on Robin Warner to complete a review of the County's facilities for compliance. **Motion to approve the Franklin County Government ADA Transition Plan and post on the County's website by Eric Roberts, seconded by Tom Linkel, all in favor, motion carried.**

Public Transportation – 2019 Operating Grant: **Motion to have the President sign the Public Transportation 2019 Operating Grant by Tom Linkel, seconded by Eric Roberts, all in favor, motion carried.**

Dave White – Brook Hill Golf Course: Dave White came before the Commissioners to talk about the upcoming auction of the Brook Hill Golf Course on December 8, 2018. A copy of his presentation is attached hereto.

Letter of Support – Town of Brookville Progress Street: Short discussion on signing a letter of support for the Town of Brookville for reconstructing Progress Street between 4th and 5th Streets and stabilizing the adjacent hillside. **Commissioners signed the letter.**

Approve Minutes October 2, 2018: **Motion to approve the October 2, 2018 minutes by Tom Linkel, seconded by Eric Roberts, all in favor, motion carried.**

Approve Claims: **Motion to approve all claims by Tom Linkel, seconded by Eric Roberts, all in favor, motion carried.**

Approve Payroll & Payroll Deductions: **Motion to approve payroll and payroll deductions by Eric Roberts, seconded by Tom Linkel, all in favor, motion carried.**

Clerk Monthly Report – September, 2018: **Motion to acknowledge receipt of the Clerk's September, 2018 monthly report by Tom Wilson, seconded by Tom Linkel, all in favor, motion carried.**

Release of Bond – REX: Commissioners need to sign the release for the REX Bond.
Commissioners signed the release.

Sharon Halcomb, Assessor & Connie Bischoff, Recorder: Sharon Halcomb stated to the Commissioners that she believed they were the proper body for determining the hours worked by departments and not County Council. Tom Linkel stated that the handbook does need to be changed and that Commissioners do not have control over the individual departments.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Tom Linkel, seconded by Eric Roberts, all in favor, motion carried.

Others Present: Mildred I. Simmermeyer, Betty C. Lecher, Joe Copeland, Sara Duffy, Dianna Koester, Wayne Monroe, Jeff Larrison, Curtis Ward, Danelle Jentges, Sharon Halcomb, Connie Bischoff and Marty Hon. Names that were not printed or legible were not included.

Minutes approved October 23, 2018.

AYES:

NAYS:



Tom Wilson

Tom Wilson

Absent

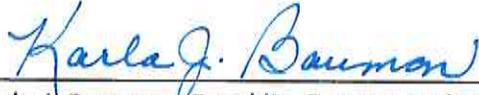
Tom Linkel

Tom Linkel



Eric Roberts

Eric Roberts

Attested By: 

Karla J. Bauman, Franklin County Auditor

*Concurrence
MCA
10.9.18*

Potential Economic Impact of the loss of Brook Hill Golf Club Brookville, Indiana

The current owners of Brook Hill Golf Club have hired Whites Auction Service to sell the 145 acres of land on which Brook Hill Golf Club is located. They gave us an aerial map denoting their suggestion as to the manner in which the land could be divided. We have set an auction date of December 8, 2018. As apart of the auction agreement, Whites Auction Service has requested and was granted a 3- week period to devise a long- term plan to keep the property as a working golf club. After speaking to several homeowners, business owners, city and county officials it has become very clear that losing the course would have a severe impact on the future of the town and county.

The following are only some of the reasons listed by the people that we have spoken to as to the importance of the property being maintained as a golf course.

1- A) There are 255 homes (not counting homes in the town of Brookville) nearby the golf course. (From Rhein Road to Roberts Road – on SR # 1 and from SR # 1 to the bottom of Reservoir Road). The estimated value of these 255 homes is approximately \$ 165,000.00 each or a total of \$ 42,075,000.00.

1 – B) There are 46 homes adjoining the golf course (values range from \$ 175,000.00 to \$425,000.00). Estimated value of these 46 homes is approximately \$ 250,000.00 each or a total of \$ 11,500,000.00.

1 –C) There are approximately 50 vacant lots near the property with an estimated value of \$ 1,750,000.00.

1 - Summary) Total estimated value of these properties is \$ 55,325,000.00. The homes adjoining and nearby the golf course could see a 20% decrease in value. Also, the value of the vacant lots could reasonably be affected by as much as 40%. It is entirely possible that the property valuation could be negatively affected by nearly \$ 11,500,000.00.

2) We have attended several community meetings and the most common topic is

- a) How can we attract new business?
- b) How can we attract new industry?
- c) How can we increase tourism?
- d) How can we improve our area to attract more people – both people who reside here and people who like to visit (either day or weekend trips)
- e) How can we attract a hotel?

A golf course is not the entire solution, but it is a piece of the puzzle. Every potential homebuyer asks – “Is this a good school district? Where is the school located? Where are the Churches? Restaurants? Golf Course?” The golf course is only a piece of the total picture.

3) The Franklin County School Corporation uses the course for golf meets and practices. The school provides basketball courts, soccer and football fields, tennis courts and all other facilities for their students and their families, but relies on outside ownership and cooperation for facilities for their golf team. If this course is gone, they will be forced to relocate and schedule tee times and meets that may be inconvenient or possibly impossible.

4) Nearly all businesses require customers (Restaurants, Fuel Stations, and Retail Business etc.). The county officials, town officials and government boards are doing everything possible to make Brookville and the surrounding area as attractive to as many people as possible. I am very happy to see the renovations that are currently taking place. We have a new addition to the library, a new swimming pool project, the theater has been updated, The Valley House project is now underway, the Whitewater Trail and several others. All of these projects have needed some type of government involvement to become reality. At a time when so many new projects are underway, it seems to be the wrong time to abandon the old established landmarks in the county.

The government has always been involved in projects that individuals cannot do alone, such as: Highways, Police, Libraries, Municipal Sewage & Water. The goal is to make things better.

Many municipalities have recognized the importance of local golf courses - Greensburg,

Rushville, North Vernon, Houston Woods and many more.

Everyone we have spoken to has agreed – when this course is gone it will not be replaced.

Many positive projects are underway in Southern Indiana. I have been assured that the River Port is a certainty and the ripple effects will help all of the adjoining counties.

I'm sure this problem can be solved, but it must be solved by local people -including residents and branches of the local government (and hopefully with some help of the state and federal government).

This project requires creative problem solvers and I ask anyone and everyone to think of a way to avoid the consequences of this December 8th Auction. Please be a part of the solution and don't expect the other person to save the day.

For Additional Information or comments, please call

Dave White 765-265-3883