

**FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING**  
**May 4, 2022- 10:00 A.M.**  
**COMMISSIONERS/COUNCIL MEETING ROOM, #203**

The Franklin County Commissioners met in regular meeting on May 4, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners/Council Meeting Room. Those present were Tom Linkel, Gerald Wendel, Tom Wilson, Faye Hay, Crystal McQueen, Commissioners' Secretaries and Karla Bauman Auditor.

**OPEN:** The meeting was called to order and the pledge of allegiance was led by Tom Linkel.

**Soil & Water Board – Employee Recommendation:** Commissioner Wendel sat in on the applicant interviews for the open position at Soil and Water office. **Motion to accept the recommendation of the Soil and Water Board to hire Christine Hollister by Tom Wilson, seconde by Gerald Wendel, all in favor, motion carried.**

**Public Transportation – 2023 Budget:** Missy Ratz came before Commissioners with the Public Transportation's 2023 budget that needed signed and sent to INDOT. She also requested that the Commissioners approve the County for a match of \$12,323.00 towards the purchase of a new mini-van in 2023. Commisisoners gave their blessing for the \$12,323.00 in match for a new mini-van and requested that she speak with John Palmer about using the ARPA funds for that purpose. **Motion to have Tom Linkel sign the 2023 Budget for Public Transportation to be filed with INDOT by Tom Wilson, seconded by Gerald Wendel, all in favor, motion carried.** Mrs. Ratz also discussed with the Commissioners what steps needed to be taken to have some repairs done to the Senior Citizen Building. The building was construced tin 1996 and has not had any repairs done since then. Commissioner Wilson said he would stop out to look at the building.

**Franklin County Foundation – Shelly Lunsford:** Shelley Lunsford with the Franklin County Foundation first wanted to thank the Commissioners for the free disposal of trash at the Transfer Station during the most recent Earth Day clean-up. She also came before commissioners to request approval to post some signage in regards to the "Walk Through Brookville History" at both the jail and courthouse. The foundation had received a \$10,000 grant for promoting Main Street history and they have selected twelve locations for this program on Main Street and the Brookville Town area. She explained that there will be signs with QR codes that will provided additional historical information about each of the locations. **Motion to allow the placing of signs at both the jail and courthouse by Walk through Brookville history by Gerald Wendel, seconded by Tom Wilson, all in favor, motion carried.**

**John Palmer:** John Palmer came before commissioners to give an update in regards to the requests he has received for ARPA funds. The total to date is \$1,600,000. He stated it is real important that we pay attention to needs and not wants. A portion of the ARPA funds has been requested to be used for repairing the Government Center's roof. The cost of that repair is approximately \$425,000. Mr. Palmer questioned whether or not the one quote would be good enough or if they project would need to be bidded out. Mr. Reeves, attorney, will be looking into the process if the damage caused by the roof was classified as an emergency. Mr. Reeves also suggested that the fire department put their request of funds in before July 1<sup>st</sup> so Council can decide if they want to use the public safety tax funds instead of ARPA funds. Mr. Palmer has a meeting scheduled with the fire chiefs within the next few weeks. Mr. Reeves researched the emergency status during the meeting and later reported that he did think due to

the danger of mold and mildew to the employees that the Commissioners could proceed with emergency funding for the repairs. Commissioner Wilson did contact 5 or 6 different companies to get quotes to fix the roof problem, however only one company was interested. **Motion to declare an emergency for roof repair and have Grant proceed with findings to that regard by Tom Linkel, seconded by Gerald Wendel, all in favor, motion carried.**

**INDOT – Quit-Claim Deed:** Grants Reeves, attorney had reviewed the deed received for the Commissioners' signature. He has also ordered a title search to be done which should be completed by May 6<sup>th</sup> in case there are any unknown easements. **Motion to have Tom Linkel execute and Grant Reeves to hold until the title search comes back by Tom Wilson, seconded by Gerald Wendel, all in favor, motion carried.**

**Larry Smith, County Engineer – CCMG:** Larry Smith presented the award letter for \$607,845.51 for the 2022-1 Community Crossings Matching Grant Fund Program. The State will be sending out the contract for Commissioner Linkel's signature. **Motion for Tom Linkel to sign the contract for the Community Crossing Grant by Gerald Wendel, seconded by Tom Wilson, all in favor, motion carried.** Mr. Smith also presented a contract for USI Consultants for work on Bridge 42 in the sum of \$657,000.00. **Motion for Tom Linkel to sign the contract for USI Consultant fees in the sum of \$657,000.00 by Tom Wilson, seconded by Gerald Wendel, all in favor, motion carried.** Mr. Smith further stated that the bidding for Bridge 42 will probably be this fall and could also possibly be built this year. Mr. Smith also presented the 2021 Annual Operation Report for Commissioners' signature. **Motion to sign the 2021 Annual Operation Report by Tom Wilson, seconded by Gerald Wendel, all in favor, motion carried.** Commissioners also discussed Gobles Creek and that they have worked out a solution with the landowners for a right of way. The total cost should be under \$3,000.00. **Motion to move forward and have Grant and Rob Seig move forward with the right of way acquisition for Gobles Creek by Tom Linkel, seconded by Gerald Wendel, all in favor, motion carried.**

Commissioners discussed high speed internet installation by various companies in Franklin County. It will take the property owners cooperation and the community working together. There are roughly six companies bringing high speed internet to Franklin County.

**Minutes April 19, 2022: Motion to approve the April 19, 2022 minutes by Gerald Wendel, seconded by Tom Wilson, all in favor, motion carried.**

**Treasurer's Monthly Report – April, 2022: Motion to acknowledge receipt of the Treasurer's monthly report for April, 2022, by Tom Wilson, seconded by Tom Linkel, all in favor, motion carried.**

**Payroll and Payroll Deductions: Motion to approve the payroll and payroll deductions in the sum of \$195,985.74 by Tom Linkel, seconded by Tom Wilson, all in favor, motion carried.**

**Gerald Wendel – Jail Air Conditioner:** Commissioner Wendel presented the quotes for a new air conditioner at the jail. Hirt & Elco was \$48,000.00 and DeBra-Kuempel was \$62,945. **Motion to accept the quote from Hirt & Elco for \$48,000.00 by Tom Linkel, seconded by Tom Wilson, all in favor, motion carried.**

Tom Linkel expressed that after the election results last night, how much he enjoyed serving the public and working with everyone and passing on the torch. He asked one of the other commissioners to take over the highway. Commissioner Wilson nominated Commissioners Wendel.

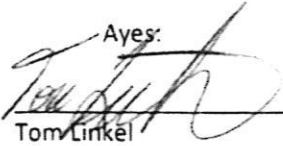
**MEETING WAS RECESSED FOR 15 MINUTES.**

**MEETING RESUMED:** Commissioners held a discussion with the Town of Oldenburg and there representatives via zoom in regards to the Water Street bridge construction and road repair. It was decided after much discussion that the Town of Oldenburg will get their own Des # for the roadwork and Franklin County will get their own Des # for the Bridge work. This means that each entity will maintain their own financial records and reporting. This is a federal project expected to cost around 1.5 million. It is expected to cost the county around \$600,000 in 2023. The county will be responsible for 20% of the bridge construction. Both entities will stay in touch with each other as the project moves forward.


**Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn by Tom Linkel, seconded by Gerald Wendel, all in favor, motion carried.

**Others in attendance:** Bridget Hayes, Rob Seig, Neysa Raible, Larry Smith, John Palmer, Peter Cates, Perry Knox, Missy Ratz, Shelly Lunsford, Robert Braun, Mildred Simmermeyer, Mark Simmermeyer and Marty Hon. By zoom: Sara Duffy, Jacob Isenburg, John Kellerman, Cindy Laker and Deb.

Minutes approved May 17, 2022.

Ayes:  
  
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Tom Linkel

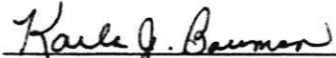
  
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Gerald Wendel

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Wilson

Nays:  
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Tom Linkel

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Gerald Wendel

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Tom Wilson

ATTESTED BY:   
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Karla J. Bauman, Auditor