



**Franklin-Simpson Industrial Authority  
Board of Directors Meeting  
February 11, 2026**

**Date and Attendance:** The Franklin Simpson Industrial Authority Board of Directors held its regular meeting at Noon on Wednesday, February 11, 2026 in the conference room of the Franklin Simpson Industrial Authority located at 109 South Main Street, Franklin, Kentucky. Those in attendance were Chairman Gary Broady, Steve Compton, Wendell Stewart, Darla Knight, Marty Chandler, Wayne Goodrum, Judge Mason Barnes, Mayor Larry Dixon, Schools Superintendent Tim Schlosser, Jim DeCesare Executive Director of the Franklin Simpson Industrial Authority. The invocation was given by Larry Dixon.

**Public Comment-** One visitor in attendance. No comments made.

**Minutes Approval-** The minutes of the January 14, 2026 meeting were presented for review. On a motion by Wayne Goodrum and seconded by Wendell Stewart the minutes were approved as presented.

**Treasurer's Report-** The January treasurer's report was presented for review. On a motion by Steve Compton and seconded by Darla Knight the report was approved.

**Labor Report-** The November and December unemployment rates for Simpson County were 4.4 percent in November and 3.5 percent in December. The participation rate for November and December was 57.9 and 50.0 percent respectively percent. Simpson County's civilian labor force for November and December was 9,117 and 9,043 respectively.

**Chairman Gary Broady Remarks**

**Jim DeCesare Contract Extension-** After Jim DeCesare and Judy Burr left the conference room, the Board discussed the extension of Jim DeCesare's contact until June 30, 2026 and also increasing his salary to \$9,000 per month. On a motion by Wayne Goodrum and seconded by Wendell Stewart the Board approved the extension and pay increase.

**Executive Director Jim DeCesare Remarks**

**Projects Update-** Mr. DeCesare gave updates on current projects:

**Sumitomo Expansion-** On February 23 project proposals are due. After that bids for the project will be let. Work continues on the new lease for the project.



**Anchor Storage**- This company is looking at the Camping World Building.

**Budo**- This company is looking at purchasing the Camping World Building. This company would be a manufacturer with an approximately \$40 million dollar investment and employ approximately 70 people. The company has requested a letter of support from the Industrial Authority.

**Cowboy**- Expected to submit documents for incentives to the KEDFA Board by the end of the month.

**Laptop**- Has gone silent.

**Liberty**- This company had incentives approved in January. The company has new lines moving in.

**Soul**- The company plans on moving 18 new lines in by the end of the year with an additional 30-40 new jobs planned as well. Plans are to submit documents for incentives to the KEDFA Board by the end of April.

**Targa**- An auto rail car refurbishing project. Plans to locate in the Wilkey North Industrial Park. This company is planning to submit documents for incentives to the KEDFA Board later this month.

**Kroger**- This company closed on the 200-acre property in southern Simpson County. Their facility is expected to be operational in 2-3 years. The facility will be approximately 900,000 square feet.

### **Other Business**

**Ryan Forshee Request**- Ryan Forshee has made a request of the Industrial Authority to purchase the Gehret Gage Building along the 2-3 acres of land behind the building. Discussions are ongoing.

**SKYCTC On-Track Scholarship**- The Industrial Authority has received a request to increase the amount of money contributed to this scholarship program annually to \$15,000 to help maintain the solvency of the program. On a motion by Steve Compton and seconded by Darla Knight the Board voted to approved the increase from \$10,000 to \$15,000.



**ACE Hardware-** Mr. DeCesare informed the Board the ACE Hardware will be closing in the near future. Houchens Industries will be fulfilling their contract payment on the facility.

**Land in the Henderson Industrial Park-** Eight acres along Garvin Lane and Highway 100 owned by Ashwani Sarvaria will be developed within the next months into a mixed-use development and with Dunkin Donuts breaking ground within the next two months.

**Stan Battat-** Mr. DeCesare told the Board that Mr. Battat is selling one his buildings in the Wilkey Industrial Park with 15-acres. Mr. Battat also has an additional twenty-acres available.

**Kent Kelley-** Mr. DeCesare told the Board that Mr. Kelley has a potential company that might be relocating to the InvestPrep site in the Henderson Industrial Park.

**Trader Joe's Traffic Light-** Mr. DeCesare told the Board that the turning light on Highway 100 near the distribution center has been installed. The remaining \$500,000 remaining on the land sale has been received.

**Roxy Lease-** Mr. DeCesare told the Board that he is in continuing discussions with Brownie Bennett and the Art's Council to take over the management of the lower level of the Roxy Building.

**Financial Forms-** Mr. DeCesare reminded Board members to get their financial forms turned in.

**Eddings Road Project-** Mr. DeCesare told the Board that the Eddings Road project is on hold until funding can be secured.

**Goodrum Property-** Mr. DeCesare told the Board that the Industrial Authority will need to complete Geotech, Environmental, Wetlands delineation studies and complete grading on the property before marketing the property. Mr. DeCesare thanked both the city and county for their support.

**Buddy Leach Remarks-** No report

**Judge Mason Barnes Remarks**

**County Update-** Judge Barnes told the Board that the county is continuing to work on getting funds for the quarry road to alleviate the truck traffic on Gold City Road. Judge Barnes attended a Judge Executive Conference recently where discussions were held on problem areas for counties such as jail budgets, road funding and data center locations in Kentucky



### **Mayor Larry Dixon Remarks**

**City Update-** Mayor Dixon announced that Kenton Powell resigned at the City Commission meeting recently. Police Chief Roger Soloman retired recently as well. Mayor Dixon stated that the city is continuing work on city water and sewer lines.

**Chamber Director Steve Thurmond Remarks-** No report

### **Schools Superintendent Tim Schlosser Remarks**

**Schools Update-** Mr. Schlosser told the Board that school is going great and glad to be back in session after two weeks being out due to snow and ice.

There being no further business to come before the regular meeting, the Board adjourned at approximately 1:22 p.m.

Gary Broady, Chairman