

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 1ST, 2022 AT 6:30 IN THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OFFICE OF THE WILCOX COUNTY COURTHOUSE.

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Mel Powell	Chairman
Jowan Johnson	Vice Chairman
Lanier Keene	Commissioner
Alfonza Hall	Commissioner
Clay Reid	Commissioner
Paula J. Ball	County Manager/Clerk
Michael Pomirko	Incoming County Manager
Indya Tisdol	Incoming County Clerk
Toni Sawyer	County Attorney

Chairman Mel Powell called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Keene gave the invocation.

Commissioner Jowan Johnson motioned to approved minutes from the prior month.

Commissioner Clay Reid seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Jerek Walton addressed wanting to be on the 911 wrecker service rotation. Chairman Mel Powell turned the question over to Sheriff Rodgers. Sheriff Rodgers stated that it was a privilege to be on the 'on call' list and not a right. Sheriff Rodgers stated that he had sufficient record service using Stephens Brothers.

Commissioner Jowan Johnson stated that he received complaints about Sheriff Rodgers and that it was mentioned that the person would never consider being on call as long as Sheriff Rodgers was in office. Sheriff Rodgers stated that he would not wait on personal tow trucks to move vehicles after Jerek Walton mentioned that on two separate occasions he was not allowed by the Sheriff Deputies to move any personal vehicles. Jerek Walton stated that he wasn't doing anything against the law if he was called to perform a job. Sheriff Rodgers stated that Jerek Walton could file a complaint and that he would look into it.

Sheriff Rodgers said he would create an application for Walton to fill out and see if he meets the criteria to be on call for wrecker services, if needed.

Jimmy Cannon stated that a dumpster he possessed had a hole in it and that Ricky Willingham, owner of Southern Refuse would not come collect it. Mr. Cannon stated once he stopped paying, the dumpster was then collected. Commissioner Lanier Keene told Jimmy Cannon they would address the issue.

Sheriff Rodgers stated that an evidence room is needed because the current one is in a hot water heater closet. To collect and store evidence, Sheriff Rodgers stated that current evidence is stored in a room where he wants to close off access points to the room and that reconstruction would need to be done. Investigator Kristy Welch, the evidence room custodian, expressed her concern for evidence safety and access. Evidence is currently being stored improperly because there is nowhere else to put it stated Kristy Welch. Kristy Welch explained how evidence should be properly stored for access and easy finding for court.

Commissioner Clay Reid asked if a storage container was considered and Lt. Welch responded that one is already in their possession, but it isn't safe. In addition to the evidence room concerns, Sheriff Rodgers mentioned that the 911 radio wasn't working well. He stated that he had to repeat himself at least three times before anyone responded. Lastly, the Sheriff did inform the

commissioners that they had phased out all the Crown Victoria models except 4, totaling 11 vehicles which were taken to the junk yard in Vienna at no charge to the Sheriff department. \$3,424 was collected for the scrapped cars and deposited into the equipment account.

Dodge County will meet on Thursday to decide which server they will use between Kenwood or Motorola stated County Manager, Paula Ball. County Manager Paula Ball mentioned that a workshop meeting could be set up to request Kenwood and Motorola representatives to come out and discuss in further detail how the systems would work and if they were compatible with one another.

Richard Rhodes from Cedar Creek Fire Department, stated he currently has 12 people on the roster with some reinstated. Rhodes also applied for grants for radios, extraction, and just received a grant through forestry. In order to keep the ISO rating up, Rhodes stated that a fireroom is needed for training.

The Wiregrass Technical School passed legislation and the county will purchase the building for \$10.

Janice Brown, Coroner, mentioned that a church wants to build their own cemetery and she wasn't sure of the ordinance in place that explains what is required if they move forward to do so. Commissioners stated that County Attorney, Toni Sawyer, would have to be contacted.

Chairman Powell addressed that we move forward with the elevator being built with the blue print from Glenn Gregory. Commissioner Clay Reid made the motion to move forward. Commissioner Alfonza Hall seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Gov. Kemp declared flags are to be half-staff on February 6<sup>th</sup> in honor of PFC Zach Riffle.

Commissioner Clay Reid motioned that we move forward with the elevator project. Commissioner Hall seconded that motion that carried unanimously.

EMS Director Charles Futch stated they wanted to sell scrapped parts on the ambulances that are out of service. All parts that can be used have been removed. Commissioner Clay Reid motioned to sell the parts. Commissioner Hall seconded the motioned that carried unanimously.

EMS has two vehicles for surplus, but Sheriff Rodgers wants to take one of the serviceable EMS vehicles and utilize for evidence. Commissioner Clay Reid made a motion to allow Sheriff Rodgers take one for evidence. Vice Chairman Jowan Johnson seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Jowan Johnson motioned to leave Board of Elections members as is. Commissioner Clay Reid seconded the motion. Commission Lanier Keene did not agree.

Michael Pomirko informed the commissioners that the floor at the Board of Election had been repaired by the City of Abbeville.

Next week, a workshop meeting will be scheduled for radio providers.

Commissioner Lanier Keene made comments in reference to the January when he was voted out as Chairman and replaced by Mel Powell. Commissioner Lanier Keene stated that he felt that Commissioner Mel Powell, at the time, Commissioner Clay Reid, and Commissioner Jowan Johnson had plotted to vote him out as Chairman. Commissioner Clay Reid stated that Commissioner Lanier Keene said that he wasn't going to run again and that is why he didn't vote for him. Chairman Mell Powell stated that was not the case and told Commissioner Lanier Keene that he was wrong. Commissioner Jowan Johnson asked Commissioner Lanier Keene who he was referring to as 'y'all'. Commissioner Lanier Keene then name Chairman Mel Powell, Commissioner Clay Reid, and Commissioner Jowan Johnson and stated that the three had gathered and planned something. Commissioner Jowan Johnson stated that he made a comment

that Commissioner Lanier Keene knew information before the rest of the board. Commissioner Jowan Johnson then dismissed himself from the meeting.

Commissioner Clay Reid motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Alfonza Hall seconded the motion.

Mel Powell Mel Powell, Chairman

Paula J. Ball Paula J. Ball, County Manager