

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 5, 2021 AT 6:30 IN THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OFFICE OF THE WILCOX COUNTY COURTHOUSE.**

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

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

Chairman Lanier Keene called the meeting to order.

Chairman Keene gave the invocation.

All gave the pledge.

Commissioner Clay Reid made a motion to approve the prior month's meetings. Commissioner Mel Powell seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Pitts Fire Chief, Greg Ledford, addressed the Commissioner Board to request financial assistance for Seville's fire hydrant testing in order to get the county's ISO rating down. The City of Pitts feels unable to fund both Pitts' and Seville's testing. There are 13 hydrants in Seville. The total for all of Seville's testing is roughly \$1560. This cost would cover paint and testing.

Commissioner Mel Powell made a motion to assist Pitts with Seville's testing. Commissioner Jowan Johnson seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

After reviewing the annual appointments, there was no change to be made. Commissioner Jowan Johnson made a motion to approve all previous annual appointments. Commissioner Clay Reid seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Tax Commissioner Carolyn Elsberry requested permission, via agreements with the County Commissioners, to correct clerical errors, disburse taxes, and waive penalties / interests. Commissioner Clay Reid made a motion to approve agreements. Commissioner Mel Powell seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

County Manager presents issues regarding the Heart of Georgia Regional Commissioner CDBG Grant. In order to receive the grant, a survey of 700 random addresses must be conducted, with at least 51% of the surveyed households being low to median income. County Manager informed Commissioners that

Wilcox County received information and eligibility later than surrounding counties. County Manager asked Commissioners to vote to proceed with the grant to see if the surveys are plausible. Commissioner Clay Reid made a motion to continue moving forward with the grant. Commissioner Jowan Johnson seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

**Commissioner Comments:**

Chairman Lanier Keene was approached by a citizen requesting the county push back trees and brush that was infringing on the graveyard of a local church. Second, Chairman Keene was informed of an increase of littering in the county. Chairman Keene discussed possible fines and citations for those caught littering. Finally, a citizen approached Chairman Keene about the new pair of Sheriff Deputies driving county vehicles to Byron. Commissioner Clay Reid assured the pair of deputies would be renting property from him, and the pair would be moving to Wilcox in the following weeks.

County Manager Paula Ball informed the Commissioners that Judge Chasteen wants permission to use one of the gyms for jury selection. There would not be need for a lease; the Judge would proclaim it an emergency use. There was discussion on using the Joy Theater Auditorium.

County Manager Ball gave each Commissioner a copy of the Job Hiring Advertisement and rough job description for the Accounts Payable Clerk position.

There was a lien on the Peavy property, which is prohibiting the sale of the property. County Attorney stated that the County would need the City of Abbeville to document a cancellation of the lien in order to keep the county from being held liable for the \$5,000 lien.

The County Manager reported the Hatley railroads would be closed for maintenance.

Regarding the Seville hydrant testing, the County Attorney stated that Seville was chartered in 1955, and because the charter was not revoked, an intergovernmental agreement was needed between the County and Seville. However, since there is no administration or council of Seville, the County could pay the hydrant testing vendor directly.

The County Attorney also stated that removing the trees and brush that infringes on the graveyard could be an issue. If the trees and brush is on public property, there would be no issue. However, if the trees and brush grows on public property, the county cannot legally or move the greenery.

With no further business, Commissioner Mel Powell made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Jowan Johnson seconded the motion that carried unanimously.



Lanier Keene, Chairman