

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE WILCOX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD ON JANUARY 8, 2019 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE WILCOX COUNTY COURTHOUSE.

Those present 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

Chairman Lanier Keene called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Jowan Johnson gave the invocation.

Everyone gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes from the December 4, 2018 regular monthly meeting and the December 20, 2018 workshop meeting were approved as presented with a motion from Commissioner Alfonza Hall. Commissioner Jowan Johnson seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

There were no guests with public comments.

Department Head reports were as follows:

Andrew Sawyer, Wilcox County Extension Agent, presented a report of activities for the past three months. He added the vacant Secretary position at their office has been posted by UGA and would run until January 14, 2019.

Sheriff Robert Rodgers presented a check for \$5,200 for collections from June to December 2018. He added there has been a lot of publicity on the recent manhunt but thankfully the fugitive turned himself in without incident.

Sheriff Rodgers said he and an employee would be going to Atlanta in the morning to pick up a 2016 Ford Interceptor Sedan that is fully equipped with mileage of 69,121. This vehicle was free to Wilcox County through the Governor's Highway Safety Program.

Sheriff Rodgers stated his bad news was the plumbing at the jail is leaking hot and cold water. All the pipes are beneath a cement slab. The plumber we have been using suggests that new lines are run above the ceilings. This is going to be very costly, probably between \$25,000 to \$30,000. The Sheriff was requested to obtain three bids for the project if at all possible.

Sheriff Rodgers added that he was about to dispose of some vehicles that have been seized through a sealed bid process. He stated he would like to get rid of a black Dodge Charger and a white Dodge Charger that are at the Road Department. They have become a "money pit". County Manager Paula Ball stated we need the VIN numbers so the Commissioners can declare them surplus first.

Larry Brown, EMA/Fire Coordinator, stated Skip Starling has been down twice to assist the City of Rochelle in preparation for their ISO audit which will be held soon. He met with the City of Pitts last night and worked with the City of Abbeville on their hydrants today. Hopefully the equipment approved last month will be here soon.

Larry Brown also began an update on the possibility of obtaining radios with FEMA funds through a grant process. Paula Ball, County Manager, added that Larry Brown, Sheriff Robert Rodgers and she had attended another meeting on Monday. There are five counties that are going together for a regional project to upgrade to 800 MHz radios for all emergency agencies. We will also get a new tower at the Ag Center through the grant. We will continue to stay on top of this because it would be a great opportunity for Wilcox County.

2019 Annual appointments were presented. Currently they are as follows:

Chairman	Lanier Keene
Vice Chairman	Alfonza Hall
County Attorney	Toni Sawyer
County Manager/Clerk	Paula J. Ball
Auditors	Meeks CPA
Legal Organ	Cordele Dispatch
Financial Institutions	All Wilcox County Banks & Local Government Investment Pool

Commissioner Alfonza Hall made a motion to leave the appointments the same as 2018. Commissioner Jowan Johnson seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

The first item of new business was an ordinance presented by GDOT establishing speed limits on State Routes in Wilcox County. Paula Ball stated we adopted an ordinance at our December 2018 meeting. However, she was contacted by GDOT a couple days later saying they had lowered the speed limit at the new school from 55 to 45. Commissioner Clay Reid made a motion rescind the action taken at the December meeting in order to make this change tonight. Commissioner Jowan Johnson seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Commissioner Jowan Johnson made a motion to adopt the new GDOT ordinance. Commissioner Alfonza Hall seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was a request from Global Healthcare requesting a tax abatement. It was noted County Attorney Toni Sawyer has informed the Commission in the past they cannot forgive taxes. Commissioner Clay Reid made a motion to deny the request. Commissioner Mel Powell seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

An update to the Wilcox County Service Delivery Plan has been presented by the Heart of Georgia Regional Commission. County Manager Paula Ball stated the City of Abbeville is applying for a CDBG Housing Improvement grant. Due to changes in grant requirements, the Service Delivery Plan has to be updated to allow this activity. She added this will allow any of the four cities or the county to apply for housing grants. Since the City of Abbeville is the applicant this will not affect the County in any way. Commissioner Jowan Johnson made a motion to approve the change. Commissioner Alfonza Hall seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

The final item of new business was the acceptance of bids on Falcon Circle. Bids were opened on Friday and were as follows:

Reeves Construction	\$721,245.25
The Scruggs Company	\$634,820.20
Doyle Hancock & Sons	\$655,926.52
Everett Dykes Construction	No bid
KW Underground, LLC	No bid

The low bid is \$34,000 over budget but Stillwater Engineers have been instructed to work with them to get within our budget of \$600,000.00. Commissioner Jowan Johnson made a motion to accept the low bid from the Scruggs Company contingent upon contactor clearance by DCA. Commissioner Clay Reid seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

County Commissioner Comments were as follows:

Commissioner Mel Powell was welcomed to the board. Everyone expressed their congratulations and they look forward to working with him.

Commissioner Mel Powell stated he had a lot of calls about roads. He has rode with Superintendent Adam Dowdy and looked at some of these situations.

Commissioner Jowan Johnson added that 2019 had begun with a lot of road complaints. The rains are keeping our roads in a mess.

Commissioner Alfonza Hall stated he had been looking at the intersection of American Legion and Sibbie Roads. This is a dangerous intersection and some warning device needs to be installed. County Manager Paula Ball stated she had emailed GDOT and read a response from them. She added the County would have to assume the financial responsibility for this improvement and that Road Superintendent Adam Dowdy suggested we obtain costs for flashing dangerous intersection signs for the crossing. Ms. Ball added she and Adam Dowdy would work on this and have cost estimates at the February meeting.

Commissioner Clay Reid stated he had been approached by a young business man who was very interested in reorganizing the Chamber of Commerce. This should be high priority this year.

Commissioner Lanier Keene stated he had road calls also. One gentleman lives in a pasture at the end of a lane and he has been on social media blasting the County. The lane has not been maintained in years and is not wide enough for a motorgrader to even scrap the road. Chairman Keene stated he had asked the County Manager to look at the road, too. Her suggestion was to tell the landowner if he can get the property owners on both sides of the road to move their fence, the Commission could then vote to maintain the road. Manager Paula Ball added the landowners on both sides of the road have expressed they do not want the road maintained.


The County Manager's report was as follows:

Manager Paula Ball stated she had covered most of her comments during the meeting. She presented information on ACCG training on February 27th & 28th in Atlanta.


The final item was the need to update membership on the Wilcox County Development Authority. The membership is made up of the Mayors from the Cities of Pineview, Pitts, Rochelle and Abbeville or their appointment and the Chairman of the Commission or his appointment. There are two at large positions that are appointed by the Commissioners. The gentleman Commissioner Reid mentioned earlier could serve on the Development Authority as well as the Chamber of Commerce. After discussion, it was decided the County Manager would write the four cities requesting their updated appointments to the board and the County appointments would be placed on the February agenda.

There being no further business, Commissioner Jowan Johnson made a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Clay Reid seconded the motion that carried unanimously.



Lanier Keene, Chairman



Paula J. Ball, County Manager/Clerk