

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE WILCOX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD ON JULY 5, 2022 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM IN THE WILCOX COUNTY COURTHOUSE.

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Mel Powell	Chairman
Jowan Johnson	Vice Chairman
Alfonza Hall	Commissioner
Clay Reid	Commissioner
Lanier Keene	Commissioner
Michael Pomirko	County Manager
Larry Brown	EMA Director
Janice Brown	Coroner
Shawn Rhodes	Probate/Magistrate Judge
Janet Mauldin	Clerk of Superior Court
Robert Rodgers	Sheriff
Brittany McFall	Tax Commissioner

Chairman Mel Powell called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Lanier Keene gave the invocation.

All gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

Sheriff Robert Rodgers reported that he had reviewed the Sheriff and Jail budgets after having a conversation with County Manager Pomirko about being over budget. Sheriff Rodgers stated that there were discrepancies in his budgets, with one being that all inmate boarding was charged to the Sheriff rather than the Jail budget. He stated that this error had caused a \$60,000 incorrect increase to his expenditures in the Sheriff budget. He also questioned whether his budgets are being reimbursed for the grants he has received. He stated that his budget does not reflect grant funding, and he stated that if his budget does not get reimbursed, then the grants are not worth the time investment. Sheriff Rodgers presented the Board with documents showing the discrepancies in both the Sheriff and Jail budgets. He also stated that there were two Rhine Drug bills belonging to EMS that were charged to the Jail budget. Sheriff Rodgers stated there were 635 tickets, and 441 were already paid in full. Commissioner Keene asked if there was a breakdown of the percent the county receives per ticket. Judge Rhodes stated he would need to get with the software to check. County Manager Pomirko stated that he will get all of the Sheriff/Jail grants together, get receipts, and make Budget Amendments for each grant. These Budget Amendments would reflect the grant funding in the budget once completed.

The first item of new business was the discussion of the bridge closure on Cannonville road. Georgia Department of Transportation will be replacing a bridge on Cannonville Road. Construction would begin on August 5th and last for 6-9 months. The Board was presented with a map of the bridge and suggested detours.

County Manager Pomirko presented all Ordinances that were located with attached meeting minutes when the ordinances were voted on. He also noted that the index listed all ordinances by chapters and also identified ordinances that were not passed. He presented two ordinances that were never passed: Land Use Management Ordinance and Excessive Noise Ordinance.

Judge Rhodes presented a proposed Disorderly Conduct Ordinance for the county. This proposed ordinance followed models from surrounding counties that also have a Disorderly Conduct Ordinance. Judge Rhodes stated that this could act as a "catch-all" and "has wide lead-way." He presented the Board with a document of offenses that would be punishable under the ordinance, and he asked that

the Commissioners review the offenses and make changes where they see fit. Some of the proposed offenses could be merged or removed as well. If/when this ordinance passes, offenses would be citable. Judge Rhodes stated several pro's to the Disorderly Conduct Ordinance such as faster, more informal prosecutions, possibly removing the need for the District Attorney involvement, and ultimately bring more revenue to the county with fines. He also stated that this would involve more work for his office and staff, but he stated that other counties do this and would be a possibility for Wilcox as well. This ordinance would also serve the citizens being that the offenses would not go on public record, would be more timely, and better for the community. Commissioner Jowan Johnson asked if the hearings could be made virtual to better serve Judge Rhodes, but Judge Rhodes stated that it could be a possibility but could fall under a "grey area." Judge Rhodes stated that we need ordinances in the county but he asks that the Board think about the unintended consequences if ordinance is not specific enough. Sheriff Rodgers asks if this ordinance would include marijuana under an ounce. Judge Rhodes replied yes, and the ordinance would benefit the Sheriff department as well. Commissioner Keene stated we would need to make exceptions for agriculture from extremely loud noises as crop-dusters, tractors, and other equipment would need lead-way.

County Manager Pomirko asked the Board for permission to move forward with the bid process for the EMS building construction. He stated he created an RFP for local bids with July 26th being the last day for bids. Commissioner Reid made a motion to move forward with the bid process. Commissioner Keene seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

County Manager Report:

County Manager Pomirko stated that the Board must decide which vendor to go with regarding radios and more discussion would be needed at the next meeting. Pomirko spoke about the updated personnel policy, and he stated that County Attorney Toni Sawyer was making adjustments before the Board could adopt the policy. He also stated that the Board would need to start SPLOST 2024 discussions with all cities to decide the projects for the next 5 years. This list would be voted on in 2023.

County Manager Pomirko also stated that the Wiregrass building progress has slowed down due to financial hardship, but it is coming along little by little. Commissioner Keene discussed his concerns about USDA not going forward with the lease. Chairman Powell asked Pomirko about the deadline for the project, and Pomirko stated that the deadline was flexible. County Manager Pomirko also stated he was going to ask for bids to add on an additional 500 square feet to the building to meet USDA requirements regarding space.

Commissioners Comments:

Commissioner Keene presented the Board with photos from Turner Road and stated that they do have a serious problem with the condition of the road. He recommends that Road Superintendent Dowdy start on the road as soon he can.

Commissioner Jowan Johnson stated that citizens have contacted him regarding a retired employee that was still on payroll doing jobs. Commissioner Johnson asked if this was being done under the table.

County Manager Pomirko stated that the office has outside help with balancing books, etc. and to help the office be more comfortable in their respective positions. This was only to help the office be more stable and efficient. Commissioner Reid also stated that he was contacted on the matter as well but sees the reasons that the office may need the help.

Commissioner Johnson asked if the county was paying the retired employee on payroll. County Manager Pomirko stated no.

With no further business, Commissioner Hall motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Reid seconded the motion that carried unanimously.



Mel Powell, Chairman

Andya Jidel

Michael Pomirko, County Manager

