

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON JUNE 7, 2022 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE COMMISSIONER MEETING ROOM OF THE WILCOX COUNTY COURTHOUSE.

Those present include:

Mel Powell	Chairman
Jowan Johnson	Commissioner
Alfonza Hall	Commissioner
Clay Reid	Commissioner
Lanier Keene	Commissioner
Michael Pomirko	County Manager
Toni Sawyer	County Attorney
Robert Rodgers	Department Head
Larry Brown	Department Head
Janice Brown	Department Head

Chairman Mel Powell called the meeting to order

Lucas Allison gave the invocation

All gave the pledge

After review, Commissioner Reid made a motion to approve the prior month's meeting minutes. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was guests with public comments:

Roy Turner and members of his family came before the Board to express his concerns about the issues they are having with Log Cabin Road/Turner Road. Mr. Turner states that the dirt road is constantly covered by water, and the road has severe drainage issues. There is a cemetery located on property, and Mr. Turner states that they cannot have public burials because of how narrow the road is. He also states there are new houses being built on the road, and the citizens are having a hard time navigating the road because of all the problems. Mr. Turner states that they do not wish to cause trouble; they are politely requesting that action be taken to fix the problems on the county-maintained road. Commissioner Keene asked the Turners if the road superintendent could widen the roads if deemed necessary, and Mr. Turner responded by saying that the county could do whatever they find necessary to fix the problems. Chairman Powell stated that he would ask Road Superintendent Adam Dowdy to go out and scout the road. County Manager Pomirko stated he has already made the Road Superintendent aware of the issue, and Road Superintendent Dowdy already has plans on how to fix the road.

Michael Padgett had requested to be on the agenda as a Guest with Public Comments. He wished to address the Board about Sunday Alcohol Sales and potentially having the Board vote to include the Sunday Alcohol Sales in the next election process. However, Mr. Padgett was not present at the meeting.

Regarding new business, the Board had several re-appointments on the agenda. The first item was Alex McBryde's reappointment to the Board of Assessors. Commissioner Keene made a motion to reappoint Alex McBryde. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

The next item was the reappoint of Sibbie Terry. Commissioner Reid made a motion to reappoint Sibbie Terry to the Family and Children Services. Commissioner Keene seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Finally, Commissioner Johnson made a motion to reappoint Charles Futch to the Region 5 Advisory Council. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

County Manager Pomirko presented the Board with USDA Grant proposals from 2022-2026. He stated that this presentation could act as a road map for future projects. He also stated that the County would be closing the current grants soon, and they could open new grants after that. County Manager Pomirko stated that he needed the Board to vote to continue with the grants for

the current year. Commissioner Reid made a motion to move forwards with the USDA Grants for 2022. Commissioner Keene seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

The Board had to decide if the county would observe the newly declared holiday, Juneteenth. If adopted, the holiday would be observed on Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. After extensive research regarding other counties, County Manager Pomirko informed the Board that there were two counties in the district that observe the holiday and four counties that do not. The holiday was adopted as a federal holiday in 2021 and a state holiday in 2022. Commissioner Keene made the Board aware that he has received several complaints from citizens that the Courthouse closes at noon or 2p.m. on days before a holiday, and Commissioner Keene asked if that would be the case if they adopted this holiday as well. County Attorney Sawyer stated that the elected constitutional officers can decide to let their employees off as they see fit, and the county cannot control when/if those offices close. In regards to the Juneteenth Holiday, Commissioner Johnson made a motion to adopt Juneteenth as a holiday. The motion died due to a lack of second.

#### Department Head Reports:

Sheriff Robert Rodgers stated that the law radio channels have improved since Dodge County raised the tower 100ft. He states that they can speak over the radio clearly; however, there are still rough patches in the county.

EMA Director Larry Brown states that the radio channels are much better for fire and EMS. He states that he had to contact Motorola about correcting the codes, but other than a few minor discrepancies the radios worked much better. EMA Director Brown also informed the Board that Skip has finished the flyovers of the ponds of the county, and he needs GIS mapping of a five mile radius for future stations with an estimated cost of \$1200.00. With these improvements, the ISO rating of the county and citizens could potentially increase, helping the county substantially. Commissioner Reid made a motion to approve the GIS Mapping. Commissioner Keene seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Sheriff Rodgers asked to speak again. He states that although he has already addressed the issue, he would like to inform the Board again that the vehicles in his fleet are seriously declining. He states that there are 7 patrol vehicles that are constantly in the shop. There are several vehicles that require extensive repairs such as transmission work and replacing the back end. County Manager Pomirko asked the Sheriff what the average mileage is for the patrol vehicles. Sheriff Robert states that there are vehicles with +200,000 miles, and many with +100,000 but cannot estimate an average. He stated that his 2020 F-150 patrol vehicle has 20,000 miles while the other F-150s are around 60,000 miles. He stated that Dodge Ram, a vehicle dealership, had Dodge chargers for sale but was unsure of the closing date. County Manager Pomirko asked what the policy was for deputies driving home. Sheriff Rodgers stated that there is a 40 mile out-of-county policy, but there are only 3-4 deputies that drive out of county. He reports there are two deputies from Dodge County, and the other deputy either lives in Houston or Peach county. Chairman Powell and Commissioner Reid state that Peach County sounds too far for county vehicles to travel daily. The Sheriff responded that there must be some benefit to working in Wilcox County.

EMA Director Brown states that he and County Manager Pomirko have had lots of confusion regarding radios and E911. County Manager Pomirko and EMA Director Brown agreed that Brown should be the point of contact. Complaints and concerns should be given to Brown in writing, and Brown would direct the complaint to the proper authority to avoid confusion and cut down on the amount of calls that E911 receives.

#### County Manager's Report:

County Manager Pomirko gave the Board an update on Statham Shoals road work. He presented the Commissioners with an email from Ronnie stating they were ready to take the next steps toward progress.

He also gave an update for Walker Road. He stated that Road Superintendent Adam Dowdy was working on the road, and he stated that it was the last T-SPLOST project.

County Manager Pomirko spoke with the Board about bid tabulations regarding building an EMS Station. He states the bid was extremely high, and he spoke with Architect Glenn Gregory about options. Option 1 included making a few minor changes to breakdown the costs, and the

Option 2 included changing the plans to a wood structure. County Manager Pomirko stated that he would like to have a workshop meeting with the Commissioners to discuss their options after he receives the bid for Option 2. He also informed the Board that he spoke with Representative Noel Williams about potentially utilizing inmate labor on the project. Commissioner Keene stated he thinks the price could be lowered by decreasing the ceiling height in the living quarters of the building along making the minor changes discussed earlier. Commissioner Keene also stated that inmate labor would help with the costs as well.

Pomirko also stated that he is continuing to work on the personnel policy manual. He also stated that he and Lisa Shepherd had been working on organizing and filing county ordinances that were passed over the years, and he stated there has been tremendous progress made.

Finally, County Manager Pomirko stated he has meet with representatives from USDA, and would like to discuss the Wiregrass building at the workshop along with the bids for the EMS building. He states that there may need to a be little more space, but moving NRCS, FSA, and elections into the Wiregrass building sounds promising.

Commissioners Comments:


Commissioner Keene reiterated that Log Cabin/Turner Road is extremely narrow and in bad shape. He states that we should get Road Superintendent Dowdy to act as soon as possible. Commissioner Keene also informed the Board that the Board of Education has allocated the pile of dirt at the school to the road department, and Road Superintendent Dowdy should have the dirt moved within 3 weeks.

Commissioner Johnson stated that although he knows the Board had already discussed the matter, he would like to know whether all the Commissioners knew what Juneteenth represented and why the Commissioners did not want to observe the holiday. Commissioner Reid stated that he thinks that all holidays should be listed and voted on before the upcoming year, so that the citizens will be made aware of all dates the Courthouse will be closed. Commissioner Keene states that the new holiday came up quickly, but stated he has no issue with celebrating the holiday.

County Attorney Sawyer informed the Board that the Board of Elections has adopted the Resolution to have a special election regarding the recent opening of the Tax Commissioner seat. She stated that the election would happen on November 8, and qualifying would be August 1<sup>st</sup> through August 5<sup>th</sup>. Sawyer also informed the Board that notices would need to be posted at least four weeks prior to the election via the Cordele Dispatch, website updating, and postings around the Courthouse.

With no further business, Commissioner Reid made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Keene seconding the motion that carried unanimously.

  
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Chairman, Mel Powell

  
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County Manager, Michael Pomirko