

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MARCH 1ST 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
Toni Sawyer	County Attorney
Michael Pomirko	Incoming County Manager
Indya Tisdol	Incoming County Clerk

Chairman Mel Powell called meeting to order.

Commissioner Jowan Johnson gave the invocation.

Melvin Hobbs, resident of Statham Shoals addressed his concerns about the road not being paved. Hobbs stated that the residents had been promised for the past 5 years that the road would be paved and it has yet to be done. In addition, Hobbs mentioned that the excuse was always it is either too wet too dry, too cold, or too hot. Hobbs asked where was the money and to show them the money. Hobbs also asked why it wasn't done prior to last year, the other 4 years when East Coast Asphalt wasn't the contractor to pave the road. He stated that he knows there are other dirt roads, but they haven't been promised a paved road.

County Manager Paula J. Ball presented proof of contract to the residents that showed that East Coast Asphalt never showed up to do the work. Hobbs asked why prioritized roads were not done before other roads were paved. County Manager, Paula J. Ball explained to the citizens of Statham Shoals that the county does not have funding for the Statham Shoals project. The funds are held by Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) until an invoice is received. The project will be paid out of the T-SPLOST account. Band 3 projects (Statham Shoals and Walker road) are to be completed by 2023. County Manager Paula Ball stated that she would be meeting the county attorney and engineer on March 2nd, 2021 to discuss business on moving forward.

Melvin Hobbs stated that it needed to be discusses that all roads will be paved. Chairman Mel Powell stated that the residents of Statham Shoals will be informed after he and the rest of the commissioners are updated.

Richard Everett, also a resident of Statham Shoals road wants to have his driveway paved. Mr. Everett wants to know if the county will be responsible for damage if his driveway is damaged after the county has the road paved. Road Superintendent, Adam Dowdy, mentioned that Mr. Everett lives on a hill and that the state doesn't cover public property and that he would be responsible for his own driveway. Mr. Everett stated that his question still was not answered. Commissioner Clay Reid stated that the questioned was answered; it just wasn't the answer Mr. Everett wanted.

Marion Newell, another Statham Shoals road resident, stated that Commissioner Lanier Keene told him that the road would be paved. Mr. Newell asked if the county paves any of the roads and Commissioner Lanier Keene told Mr. Newell that the county doesn't have the equipment to do so and that the road

would be paved, but it wasn't up to the county when the road is paved because the state prioritize road projects. Mr. Newell stated that there is more traffic on that dirt road than any other place. Commissioner Lanier Keene explained that the road project is up to the state to decide when it is completed.

Melvin Hobbs suggested that rocks need to be put down until the roads could be paved. Commissioner Lanier Keene responded to Mr. Hobbs statement informing him that the county could not afford to put rocks down. Marion Newell stated that new commissioners are needed and Chairman Mel Powell responded that the commissioners are not the problem. Mike Padgett mentioned to the commissioners that maybe putting down rocks would help for easier access up and down the road. Mr. Padgett told the commissioners he plans to build a bait shack to help bring revenue to the county.


Grover Rodgers stated that people have said that if a business is there that they are not willing to drive down that road, but he is willing to do anything to help. Mr. Everett spoke again and asked for a speed limit sign to be put up because people speed on that road all the time. Commissioner Lanier Keene stated that something could be done about that and asked Road Superintendent, Adam Dowdy, to make a speed limit sign for Statham Shoals road.

Robert Rodgers, Sheriff, stated that he was losing one jailer and in search for another one with no further comments.

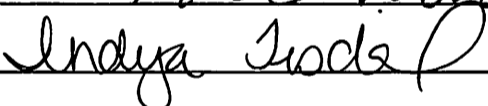
Commissioner Clay Reid motioned to reappoint Alex McBride for the Tax Assessors board. Commissioner Lanier Keene seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Commissioner Clay Reid motioned to purchase new ambulance for EMS. Commissioner Jowan Johnson seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Commissioner Clay Reid motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Lanier Keene seconded the motion.



Mel Powell, Chairman



County Clerk, Indya Tisdol