

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE WILCOX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD ON JANUARY 3RD, 2023 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM IN THE WILCOX COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Those present for the meeting were as followed:

Mel Powell	Chairman
Alfonza Hall	Commissioner
Clay Reid	Commissioner
Jamie Handley	Commissioner
Michael Pomirko	County Manager
Larry Brown	EMA Director
Janice Brown	Coroner
Charles Futch	EMS Director
Mitch Aultman	Assistant EMS Director

Chairman Mel Powell called the meeting to order.

Lucas Allison gave the invocation.

All gave the pledge.

First on the agenda was the approval of the prior month's minutes. After review, Commissioner Reid made a motion to approve the prior month's minutes. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Department Head Reports:

Coroner Brown stated that she knows that she and County Manager Pomirko had agreed to change her grant from a new coroner van to a power stretcher due to lack of availability of a suitable van, but she questions whether they should just continue to look for a new van. She is worried about losing the grant money if the grant cannot be switched over.

County Manager Pomirko stated that he was in contact with the correct people, and the grant can be switched to the power stretcher. There is some paperwork that both parties would need to complete after the Board approves the switch, but he informed Coroner Brown that he was actively completing the steps to move forward with the process.

Coroner Brown also stated that her current van needed repairs. She stated that the lettering and painting was severely faded and needed to be re-done.

Next on the agenda was the Annual Appointments:

The current appointments are:

Chairman -	Mel Powell
Vice Chairman	Jowan Johnson
County Attorney	Toni Sawyer
County Manager	Michael Pomirko
Auditors	Eckler CPA
Legal Organ	Cordele Dispatch
Financial Institutions	All Wilcox County Banks & Local Government Investment Pool

After review, Commissioner Reid made a motion to reappoint all current appointments. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Rachel Templeman with the Department of Public Health presented the Board with House Bill 1443 voted in during 2022. This bill took effect beginning on January 1, 2023. Ms. Templeman explained the bill to the Commissioners. Previously, all mobile food trucks needed a permit in every county they operated in. Since a permit required two inspections a year, this meant the mobile food trucks could be inspected twice a year for every county they operated in. Previously, the fee would be \$200.00 yearly. The new bill now only requires that the mobile food truck receive a permit in its home base (the county out of which the mobile food truck originates from) and an authorization to operate with each county they choose to operate within. This bill allowed the Department of Public Health to implement two new fees to replace the \$200.00 yearly fee. Fee #1 would be a one-time \$75.00 authorization to operate in the county, as the Department of Public Health would still review the applications and all relevant documents. Fee #2 is an inspection fee. Although there is no regular inspection, if there were to be a complaint about the business that would require an inspector, a fee of \$75.00 would be issued to the business. This monetary amount was decided on by the average hourly rate of an inspector. Ms. Templeman explained that these fees were brand new, and had just been established, so if they find these fees aren't satisfactory, they could change the fees in the future.

County Attorney Sawyer asked if she could ask a question for clarity. Would there be a specific number of days required to need an authorization to operate? If a mobile food truck came into the county for a day, would they pay the fee?

Ms. Templeman informed the Board that there is an exemption for temporary non-profit as long as the event does not exceed 120 hours. However, any other mobile food truck would need the authorization to operate even if only for a day. The Wild Hog Festival was brought up as an example. Since the Fire Dept. oversees and funds the Wild Hog Festival and the Wild Hog Festival has a tax exemption ID number, the vendors for the Wild Hog Festival would not need the authorization to operate. Ms. Templeman also informed the Board that if the permit is pulled in their base county, the authorization to operate at any other county would be pulled automatically.

She informed the Board that although the Public Health Board had voted to approve the fees, the Board of Commissioners would also need to vote to approve the fees in order to for the Department of Public Health to enforce the fees in Wilcox County.

Commissioner Reid made a motion to approve the fees presented by the Department of Public Health based on House Bill 1443.

Commissioner Handley seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

The last item of old business was the appointment to the Board of Elections. As of now, there were three candidates for the position: Shermin Styles, Travis Felton, or Mrs. Johnson. County Manager Pomirko stated that he was not able to reach Mrs. Johnson again to speak about serving on the Board. County Manager Pomirko also stated he spoke with Travis Felton about serving on any board in the future, but County Manager Pomirko stated that he would rather give the opportunity to Mr. Styles first, as he was offered the position before Mr. Felton.

Commissioner Reid made a motion to appoint Shermin Styles to the Wilcox County Board of Elections to serve the remainder of the term, which will end Dec. 31, 2023. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

County Manager Report:

County Manager Pomirko informed the Board that he had set up a meeting and demo with a representative of First Net Communications by AT&T. The current meeting time is set for January 18th at 5:30p.m. County Manager Pomirko stated that he would like to invite all department heads that would be using the system, as well as representatives from each city to view the presentation. He would like the county to give the system a chance to see if it may be a good fit.

The Board entered into executive session to discuss pending litigation and property. Commissioner Reid made a motion to enter into executive session. Commissioner Handley seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Commissioner Handley made a motion to exit executive session. Commissioner Reid seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Commissioner Reid made a motion to send a letter to USDA informing the agency that it had until Friday at 5:00p.m. to give the County a decision about the proposed lease agreement for FSA and NRCS to move into the Wiregrass building and also to move forward with moving the Board of Elections into the Wiregrass building by May to prepare for upcoming elections. Commissioner Handley seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Finally, citizen Joe Benjamin came before the Board to request permission to use the parking lot located across Hwy 280 for a local group to have fundraisers/cook out events. Mr. Benjamin informed the Board he would need to use the parking lot in the upcoming weeks for fundraising, and he would also need to use the lot for cookout events later in the month and into next month.

Commissioner Handley stated that if it was only cookouts and fundraisers on the weekend, and if the events did not interfere with courthouse matters, he sees no issue in using the lot.

Commissioner Handley made a motion to allow the utilization of the parking lot across Hwy 280 given that Mr. Benjamin contacts County Manager Pomirko to set dates/clean-up processes.

Commissioner Reid seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Commissioners Comments:

Chairman Powell welcomed Commissioner Handley to his first official Commissioners Meeting. Although Commissioner Handley has been attending the meetings for several months, this is his first meeting since being sworn in as a Commissioner.

There were no further Commissioner Comments.

With there being no further business, Commissioner Handley made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Reid seconded the motion that carried unanimously.



Chairman, Mel Powell



County Manager, Pomirko