

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CALL MEETING HELD ON MARCH 15TH AT 5P.M. IN THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OFFICE OF THE WILCOX COUNTY COURTHOUSE.

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Mel Powell	Chairman
Lanier Keene	Commissioner
Clay Reid	Commissioner
Paula Ball	County Manager
Michael Pomirko	Incoming County Manager
Indya Tisdol	Incoming County Clerk
Toni Sawyer	County Attorney
Mike Welch	Sheriff Dept.
Maxine Peebles	Board of Elections

Chairman Mel Powell called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Jowan Johnson gave the invocation.

Michael Padgett submitted an application for a Beer License for a bait shop he wants to start at Statham Shoals. Mr. Padgett stated that he had spoken with the state and the representative suggested that he considers selling beer and wine, just in case couples are there and women prefer something smoother than beer to drink with their meal. To serve wine, the cost of the license would only be \$50 more stated Mr. Padgett.

Commissioner Clay Reid stated that he had personal problems with the beer license being issued because he is an alcoholic and the establishment would be in a residential area.

Michael Padgett stated that the residents are aware of the plans of him starting the bait shop business in addition to him serving food and beer.

Commissioner Jowan Johnson stated he didn't have any problems with it. Commissioner Lanier Keene stated his preacher wouldn't agree, but he is aware that people are going to do whatever they want anyways. Chairman Mel Powell stated he would like to see what the residents had to say before moving forward.

County Attorney, Toni Sawyer, stated that typically the ordinance is what determines the approval or denial of an application for a beer license. The ordinance is what constitutes if beer and wine can be sold by an establishment. In addition to that, the County Attorney also stated that the commissioners cannot reject a license for personal reasons. The county ordinance has to be followed.

Commissioner Lanier Keene motioned to approve the USDA Grants 2022 budget amendment.

Commissioner Jowan Johnson seconded that motion that carried unanimously.

County Attorney, Toni Sawyer, explained to the commissioners and board of elections member Maxine Peebles that there are statutory limits to follow in regards to moving the elections office. A notice must run in the paper for at least two consecutive weeks. The office cannot be moved 60 days prior to any election. County Attorney also stated that the upcoming elections should be taken into consideration which are in May, June, and November. Also, with upcoming elections you have to consider registration and absentee ballots being done stated the County Attorney. Typically the move would be during an off year and that moving the office is during a statewide and presidential election is when you don't want to move. County Attorney also elaborated that the current timeline to move the office has some constraints because early voting starts the 5th month prior to general election on November 8th, 2022. In addition to the time constraints, approval must be confirmed by the secretary of state to move elections equipment. County Attorney mentioned that it could be done, but she wants everyone to be aware of

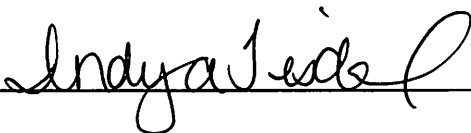
the short window of time they have to work with getting the move approved and equipment moved upon approval.

Maxine Peebles stated that the middle school is ADA approved and that the equipment would be secured in its own storage room. She stated that she doesn't feel that the Wiregrass building the county just purchased isn't suitable. Mrs. Peebles said that the middle school has an ideal room for the voting machines. The commissioners asked her if there would be a fee for the building if elections were to move into the building. County Attorney, Toni Sawyer, informed the board of commissioners that an intergovernmental agreement would need to be created before moving forward if they chose to move the elections office into the middle school because the Board of Education owns the middle school. Commissioner Clay Reid stated that we should make the wiregrass building suitable for elections since the county owns it. Maxine Peebles stated that they have been trying to get something approved over a year and that something needs to be done quickly. Commissioner Jowan Johnson stated that he would like to see something done because of the conditions of the current elections office. He stated that the bathrooms aren't in good condition for public use. County Attorney stated that whatever building the election office is moved into has to be ADA accessible.

Commissioner Jowan Johnson motioned to table the decision on moving forward with a new location so that they all have time to look at both buildings and compare the two. Commissioner Lanier Keene seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Commissioner Jowan Johnson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Clay Reid seconded the motion.


_____ Mel Powell, Chairman


_____ Indya Tisdol, County Clerk