

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE WILCOX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD ON APRIL 4TH, 2023 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
Jamie Handley	Commissioner
Clay Reid	Commissioner
Alfonzo Hall	Commissioner
Michael Pomirko	County Manager/Clerk
Charles Futch	EMS/EMA Director
Richard Rhodes	Cedar Creek Fire Chief/Fire Consulate
Janice Brown	Coroner
Larry Brown	Abbeville Fire Chief

Chairman Mel Powell called the meeting to order 6:30p.m.

Vice Chairman Jowan Johnson gave the invocation.

All gave the Pledge.

Commissioner Clay Reid motioned to approval minutes of the prior month. Commissioner Alfonzo Hall seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Guest with Public Comments

Mr. Mike Sutton Chairman of the Board of Elections for Wilcox County asked the commissioners when he thought the election office would be moved in. County Manager Michael Pomirko reply on April 13, 2023 date which could be earlier if the election supervisor was back from leave. Someone from the office will need to inform the County Manager on where everything is going. The second question from Mike Sutton came from the layout of the facility and how the County Manager along with the County Attorney recommended that the election office have individual offices per employee with secure room for all election equipment. The secure storage room will have two different key locks along with an interior security camera on the storage room door along with a camera inside the storage room. After much discussion County Attorney Toi Sawyer mentioned the importance of having privacy when a person is voting and how we should not put employees desk in the election area 365 days out of the year. County Manager Michael Pomirko also mentioned the importance of having the machines in an area that is secure and put away for safe keeping. Election Supervisor Hannah Price mentioned she did not want to take the machines down after each election but keep them up year round. County Attorney Toni Sawyer disagreed with Mrs. Price because that is leaving the equipment out and someone could touch or mess with the equipment when nobody is around. Mrs. Price also talked about if she had a room across the hall from the office proposal it would require her to move her computer for each election which would require an IT guy to come in. County Manager Michael Pomirko mentioned a laptop that could be moved from room to room so it can run off WIFI in the building. Commissioner Jamie Handley asked why do you need that big of a room all the time? Do you not want to move the equipment to the room next door that is only five foot away? Price did mention she would need three people in there during an election. County Manager Michael Pomirko mentioned the use of the room being for elections when needed or board meeting when needed but other county activities or events could take place if you use an office area we are proposing. Also, this would secure everything along with having cores on the correct doors that would prevent anyone from entering the incorrect room. Chairman Mel Powell replies saying he could not understand how a computer moving is the only reason you need that room that large 365 days out of the year. After much discussion Commissioner Clay Reid made a motion to move the election room into rooms 102, 103, 101, & 119 and take away room 118 & 116. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jowan Johnson with a third vote from Commissioner Alfonzo Hall. Commissioner Jamie Handley did not vote on the motion along with Chairman Mel Powell. The total vote in favor of the motion was 3 YES & 2 NO

Department Head Report

Fire Consultant Richard Rhodes informed the Board of Commissioners on the progress when it comes to locating ponds in the county. We have found a total of 65 with 50 being passed by a drought study. We need to find more so we can have a successful water shuttle that could extend the 5 road miles to 6 or 7 miles for more protection. This would require the cities and the county fire to work together on making this happen. Volunteers are heading in the right direction with this past month we added another 5 people to the roster. All together everything is going well said Richard Rhodes and we will continue making progress on the fire section each month.

Janice Brown had no update or anything to share. Commissioner Jamie Handley asked if her van was fixed from the past complaints she made about the van. In her reply she said yes and it was delivered to me last Friday but I have not driven it since.

New Business

County Manager Michael Pomirko informed the Board of Commissioners the report from MPHI over the mold assessment of the jail related to the Grand Jury Presentment made a few weeks ago. The report came back show no black mold in the jail but did find Mildew/Fungus in the report that comes from a lack of cleaning. County Manager Michael Pomirko informed the commissioners we could clean the facility with 3% hydrogen peroxide or we can go with the quote from MPHI over them cleaning the facility. The quote included cleaning everything within the jail at a cost of \$3,420.00 but they did not want anyone inside the jail for 72 hours. County Manager Michael Pomirko said he would coordinate with Sheriff Rodgers over moving the inmates and having the facility cleaned. The report also details it would be great to put another coat of paint on the interior jail facility after the clean. Once that is done each quarter it is recommended that 3% hydrogen peroxide be used to clean the facility such as walls, ceiling, floor, bed frames, and other areas like the shower in the facility. A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson to accept the quote from MPHI and have County Manager and Sheriff Robert Rodgers coordinate a time to have this done on the jail. The motion was second by Commissioner Clay Reid with all commissioners in favor of the motion.

Old Business

County Manager Michael Pomirko spoke on the quote from FirstNet over the new communication platform all first responders would use in the county. The map showed a 98% coverage which is better coverage than we have now of probably 75% of the county. The total quote was for \$12,675.17 which included all equipment and 41 phones for the county. The following departments will receive the amount in phones for two way communication.

Road Department 10 devices,

Sheriff Office 11 devices,

EMS 10 devices,

County Fire 10 devices

All together this includes all equipment needed for a stronger system in Wilcox County which is very important according to County Manager Michael Pomirko. Also County Manager Michael Pomirko informed the commissioner some equipment would be in by the next week or two but the LMR box of operation has a delay and we should receive it within 90 days. A motion was made by Commissioner Jowan Johnson to accept the bid with a second from Commissioner Jamie Handley. The motion was voted in favor by all.

County Manager Report

County Manager Michael Pomirko informed the Board of Commissioners over a few areas. The Wiregrass Building is complete at this time with all construction other than a few data area to clean up. SPLOST is almost ready with all cities turning in their report along with the county departments. The only city we are waiting on is Rochelle. Once we receive Rochelle report we can start the meetings to set the SPLOST for November of 2023. Walker Road is close to completion and we are starting to send in the bill to TIA for reimbursement. The final area is the completion of the Thor Guard System that is setup at the school along with recreation department. The important device will serve the kids of the community with great benefits and we will start the completion process of all documents to GEMA and FEMA.

Additional training will come with this technology which will help with storms or other bad weather moving into the area during a sporting event. This device will cover lightning, tornados warning, shooting in the area of the device for the safety of all children, parents, and spectators at events.

Commissioners Comments

No comment

A motion was made by Commissioner Jowan Johnson to adjourn second by Clay Reid with a unanimously consent at 7:32p.m.


_____ Mel Powell, Chairman


_____ Michael Pomirko, County Manager/Clerk

Councilwoman Donahoo expressed to the board how this Jail facility should have already been built and it is not the City of Pitts fault because of that. City of Pitts Wilton King mentioned that the county came back at one time and took \$100,000.00 back from the city of Pitts and we need that money back. Both County Manager Michael Pomirko and Commissioner Jamie Handley told Mr. King that the county cannot take back any money if everything is properly signed (resolutions, IGA, & projects are completed as the referendum calls for.) Councilwoman Donahoo asked that the percentages be left the same so everything was similar to last time and everyone is coming out on top. County Manager Michael Pomirko mentioned that the SPLOST amount under the Jail Complex for the county was to only pay the loan during that time which means the county will have additional payments once this is over with or the 2024 SPLOST is done. Each percent counts when you are talking about building a facility to this magnitude.

The City of Pitts, Rochelle, and Abbeville all explained that the county would save money by not housing out inmates but saving the money for the jail facility. Commissioner Jamie Handley explained the actual operating cost would increase housing more inmates than paying other county to hold inmates in Wilcox County. County Manager Michael Pomirko gave a realistic number to the cities over housing out inmates to other counties and the \$300,000.00 numbers coming from the cities was more like \$125,000.00 per year the county was paying. After much discussion the cities all agreed that leaving the amount of the 2018 SPLOST percentage breakdown was something that would be agreed on.


Abbeville	7%
Rochelle	7%
Pineview	4%
Pitts	4%
Wilcox	78%

After little discussion Vice Chairman Jowan Johnson made a motion to keep a \$2,800,000.00 value on the 2024 SPLOST with the breakdown as followed Abbeville 7%, Rochelle 7%, Pineview 4%, Pitts 4%, & Wilcox County 78%. The motion was second by Commissioner Clay Reid with a unanimous consent.

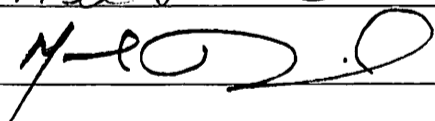
Breakdown 2024 SPLOST

Abbeville	7%	\$196,000.00
Pineview	4%	\$112,000.00
Pitts	4%	\$112,000.00
Rochelle	7%	\$196,000.00
Wilcox Co	78%	\$2,184,000.00

Commissioner Handley made a motion to adjourn the meeting followed by a second from Commissioner Reid. The board voted unanimously and the meeting concluded at 7:06p.m.



Mel Powell, Chairman



Michael Pomirko, County Manager/Clerk

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE WILCOX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD ON MAY 25TH, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE W.N. NEWT HUDSON AGRICULTURE CENTER.

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Mel Powell	Chairman
Jowan Johnson	Vice Commissioner
Jamie Handley	Commissioner
Clay Reid	Commissioner
Alfonzo Hall	Commissioner
Michael Pomirko	County Manager/Clerk
Lisa Willis	Pitts Mayor
Lisa Donahoo	Pitts Councilwoman
Wilton King	Pitts Clerk
Wayne McGunity	Rochelle Mayor
Michael Estes	Former Mayor Abbeville
Torie McWhorter	Abbeville Clerk
Brandon Holt	Pineview Mayor
Taylor Faircloth	Pineview Clerk

Chairman Mel Powell called the meeting to order 6:01p.m.

Vice Chair Jowan Johnson gave the invocation.

First item of business included the discussion for the 2024 SPLOST that would need an intergovernmental agreement from all cities and the county so we collect over a six year period and max out the use of SPLOST for all cities and the county according to Chairman Mel Powell. Chairman Powell asked the group that he would let County Manager Michael Pomirko lead the charge of explaining the breakdown heading into the discussion for the 2024 SPLOST. County Manager Michael Pomirko explained to cities and the county the breakdown from 2018 which had a total value of \$2,500,000.00 with 78% county, 7% Abbeville & Rochelle, and 4% Pineview & Pitts. At the start of the 2023 year the 2018 SPLOST collections surpassed the expected amount which leads into the discussion for the 2024 SPLOST. According to County Manager Michael Pomirko the county would ask for a total value of \$2,800,000.00 which will be greater by \$300,000.00 from the 2018 SPLOST. For that the county would ask for 80%, Abbeville & Rochelle 6.5%, and Pineview and Pitts 3.5%. At the end with this breakdown each city would accumulate more than the 2018 SPLOST because the value of money is higher (\$2,800,000.00) at the total.

	2018 SPLOST	2024 SPLOST
Abbeville	\$169,400.00	\$182,000.00
Pineview	\$96,800.00	\$98,000.00
Pitts	\$96,800.00	\$98,000.00
Rochelle	\$169,400.00	\$182,000.00
Wilcox Co	\$1,967,600.00	\$2,240,000.00

Mayor Lisa Willis asked could she talk on the matter which she did not agree with the figures because the City of Pitts needed more money for upkeep on the many areas they highlighted. Councilwoman Donahoo also took part in saying the county continues each time to take more and more away from the cities.

County Manager Michael Pomirko expressed the importance that a new Jail facility was needed within the SPLOST before we found ourselves in trouble or was forced to build a facility without any funds available. Mr. Pomirko also explained the importance of how this jail facility will really spread out county funds that are vital to the continued services under the many different departments the county operates from. Those areas include future fire, law enforcement cars/trucks, recreation, road material and pipe, road equipment, ambulances and remounts, along with improving the courthouse so we control huge maintenance issues.