

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE WILCOX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD ON DECEMBER 13, 2016 AT 5:00 P.M. IN THE COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE WILCOX COUNTY COURTHOUSE.

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Jowan Johnson	Chairman
Lanier Keene	Vice Chairman
Huck Greene	Commissioner
Paula Jones Ball	County Manager/Clerk
Toni Sawyer	County Attorney

Chairman Jowan Johnson called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by Commissioner Huck Greene.

Everyone gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

The prior month's minutes from November 1, 2016 were approved as presented by a motion from Commissioner Lanier Keene. Commissioner Huck Greene seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

There were no guests with public comments.

There were no department head reports.

Chairman Jowan Johnson recognized our newly elected Commissioners Alfonza Hall and Clay Reid.

The first item of new business was the TPO proposals for 2018. After proper advertising, RMS submitted the only proposal. Commissioner Lanier Keene made a motion to accept the proposal from RMS. Commissioner Huck Greene seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

The next item of business was the appointment of a business person to the Heart of Georgia Regional Commission Board. Lanier Keene expressed his concern about not knowing what services the Commission provides. Commissioner Huck Greene made a motion to postpone the appointment until the January 2017 meeting. Commissioner Lanier Keene seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

At a previous workshop meeting, Commissioner David Brown had volunteered to contact Susan Peavy and see if she would be willing to sell her property behind the Wilcox County Jail for a jail expansion. County Manager Paula Jones Ball stated Ms. Peavy had contacted her with a proposal. Originally she

had told Commissioner Brown that she would take \$26,000 for the property but she would lower that proposal to \$25,000. Mrs. Ball stated she had informed Ms. Peavy the County had their land surveyed and we felt sure we had enough land for the expansion. If the Commission was still interested in the property we would give her a counter offer. There was no further discussion.

County Manager Paula Jones Ball stated we have discussed the 2018 SPLOST proposed projects many times and that she had prepared a final list of projects. However, she was going to defer to County Attorney Toni Sawyer for a timeline. Since we have some extra time, the County Manager suggested we wait on this until the two new Commissioners were on board because this splost would run during their term of office. County Attorney Toni Sawyer explained what is required by certain deadlines. The County Manager added most projects have been discussed and budgeted properly. The big issue is what we are going to about a new jail and how we are going to pay for it.

The next item of business was a request from Nicole Blackwell. Her daughter, Cora Lynn Blackwell, has won the Georgia Forestry Hospitality Queen title. The Georgia Forestry will pay for signage and work with GDOT to honor Ms. Blackwell at the entrance to the County on both State Routes. All they need is permission from the County to do so. Commissioner Huck Greene made a motion to allow the signage. Commissioner Lanier Keene seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Wilcox County Road Superintendent Adam Dowdy presented problems on Barrentine Road. He stated there is about a 1 ½ mile area on the road that is going to need to be repaired in the spring of 2017. He has marked the road and asked the Commissioners to look at the area. He will come up with a couple of options for the repair as well as cost estimates.

He added they should have the sign machine ready by February and can then start work on the missing road signs.

Clay Reid, Rochelle City Councilman, presented a request for assistance with two drainage problems in the City of Rochelle. The first, Pine Grove Church Road, is backing up water on Highway 280 and the second on Gin Street is backing up water to the Community Center and flooding 3 homes. The City of Rochelle will buy the pipe if the County Road Department will do the work. Commissioner Lanier Keene made a motion to approve the work. Commissioner Huck Greene seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

County Attorney Toni Sawyer was present to provide updates on County projects, the first being the Will Duncan Trust Fund. She has been in contact with the District Public Health Office but is waiting on further information. We have a little extra time due to the fact the Duncan was not probated for several months after his death.

Secondly, the request from Mr. Ed Helms that we deed the acre dedicated to the Cedar Creek Fire Department back to him. Attorney Sawyer there are two issues here. First, the County owns the acre and they cannot legally deed the property to an individual. Secondly the County allows the Volunteer

Fire Department to operate at the location. Ms. Sawyer offered to write Mr. Helms a letter explaining the situation and why we cannot deed the acre to him.

There being no further business, Commissioner Huck Greene made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Lanier Keene seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

\_\_\_\_\_ Jowan Johnson, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_ Paula Jones Ball, County Manager/Clerk