

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE WILCOX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD ON JANUARY 2, 2018 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE WILCOX COUNTY COURTHOUSE.

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

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| Lanier Keene | Chairman |
| Clay Reid | Vice Chairman |
| Huck Greene | Commissioner |
| Alfonza Hall | Commissioner |
| Jowan Johnson | Commissioner |
| Paula Jones Ball | County Manager/Clerk |

Chairman Lanier Keene called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Jowan Johnson gave the invocation.

Everyone gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

The prior month's minutes from the December 5, 2017 regular monthly meeting were approved as presented with a motion from Commissioner Clay Reid. Commissioner Alfonza Hall seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

There were no guests with public comments.

Department head reports were as follows:

Larry Brown, EMA Director, stated all was good.

Janice Brown, Coroner, stated all was good.

The Wilcox County Board of Elections and Registrations members, Don Roberts and Gene Tomberlin, were present to discuss the Rochelle north and south voting precincts. They explained both precincts had been combined and voting had taken place at the Newt Hudson Ag Center. Some citizens of the City of Rochelle did not like it. A citizens group wants voting within the city limits of Rochelle. Upon the request of the citizen group, the board had looked at the Community Center which does not meet requirements because there is very little parking and gravel will not make it handicap compliant.

Gene Tomberlin stated one complaint with the Ag Center was that it did not have windows.

Don Roberts stated the Masonic Lodge in Rochelle was the other location they had looked at. It was the better of the two locations. The Ag Center is still the best place because it is in the center of the two districts. It is just not in the city limits.

Gene Tomberlin stated the voting precinct should be a government owned building.

Don Roberts stated they looked at the First Baptist Church.

County Attorney Toni Sawyer informed that, by law, the Board of Elections and Registrations has the ultimate decision on voting precincts. Whatever the location, it has to be handicap accessible, ample parking and adequate space. She added the BOER is responsible for the elections equipment. It is not a good idea to use a building with open access. A problem in a neighboring county had occurred when a door had not been locked. She had to represent them at the State Board of Elections to straighten the matter out. This same county has used many public buildings and the agreements have been broken.

Gene Tomberlin said it makes good sense to keep it in a government building.

M.L. Lewis, Democratic Board, suggested they should work with the community.

Chairman Lanier Keene says the Masonic Lodge is insured and handicap assessable.

Don Roberts added they combined Abbeville north and south to save money. It will cost more money if we move it again. He added right now, the BOER is missing a Republican and Democratic board member.

M.L. Lewis stated he would the Democratic appointee sworn in by the first BOER meeting in January. Don Roberts informed that would be Thursday at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Jowan Johnson suggested using the SOK gym in Rochelle for a polling place.

Annual appointments were as follows:

Commissioner Alfonza Hall made a motion to appoint Lanier Keene as Chairman. Commissioner Jowan Johnson seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Commissioner Clay Reid made a motion to appoint Alfonza Hall as Vice Chairman. Commissioner Jowan Johnson seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Commissioner Huck Greene made a motion to appoint Toni Sawyer as County Attorney. Commissioner Clay Reid seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Commissioner Jowan Johnson made a motion to appoint Paula J. Ball as County Manager/Clerk. Commissioner Alfonza Hall seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Commissioner Jowan Johnson made a motion to appoint Meeks CPA as County Auditors. Commissioner Alfonza Hall seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Commissioner Clay Reid made a motion to appoint the Cordele Dispatch as the Legal Organ. Commissioner Huck Greene seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Commissioner Alfonza Hall made a motion to appoint all Wilcox County Banks as Financial Institutions for County use. Commissioner Jowan Johnson seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

The only item of new business was a Language Access Plan which is a DCA requirement for the County CDBG 2017 grant. County Attorney Toni Sawyer stated this was aimed toward the Spanish speaking citizens to insure they have access to an interpreter if needed. Commissioner Clay Reid made a motion to adopt the plan. Commissioner Alfonza Hall seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

There were no items of old business.

Commissioners' comments were as follows:

Commissioner Jowan Johnson questioned where we stand on the new EMS Building. County Manager Paula Jones Ball stated no decision has been made.

Commissioner Lanier Keene asked the County Attorney where we are on the Will Duncan Fund. Attorney Sawyer stated she would check.

County Attorney Toni Sawyer stated she was never contacted about a Chamber of Commerce meeting. As of now, no meeting has been scheduled.

The County Manager's report was as follows:

County Manager Paula Ball stated she has been in contact with Burles Johnson who is preparing a couple of quotes on Courthouse issues. Due to the inclement weather, he did not have them ready to attend the meeting tonight but he should have them within a couple of weeks.

There being no business, Commissioner Jowan Johnson made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Alfonza Hall seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Lanier Keene, Chairman

Paula J. Ball, County Manager/Clerk