

MINUTES OF REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE WILCOX COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD ON JULY 7, 2020 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE OF THE WILCOX COUNTY COURTHOUSE.

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Lanier Keene	Chairman
Alfonza Hall	Vice Chairman
Mel Powell	Commissioner
Clay Reid	Commissioner
Paula J. Ball	County Manager/Clerk

Chairman Lanier Keene called the meeting to order.

Chairman Lanier Keene gave the invocation

All gave the pledge.

The first order of business was the approval of the June meeting minutes. Commissioner Mel Powell made the motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Clay Reid seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Chief Appraiser Heather Harden presented the GMASS maintenance proposal contract for the next 3 years starting October 2020. Chief Appraiser Harden was seeking approval of the contract that includes field work, technical services, digest submission, etc. Chairman Lanier Keene raised questions about the reevaluation. Chief Appraiser Harden would not give an estimate due to uncertainty of next year's numbers. Chief Appraiser Harden informed the Commissioner Board that Wilcox County added 2 million in real growth to digest. Chairman Keene raised concerns about COVID-19 affecting the assessment notices. Chief Appraiser Harden expressed her concerns about the financial aspects of the contract; she presented that this contract was the more financially responsible option. Chief Appraiser Harden presented that she would need at least two other full-time employees that would cost over \$80,000. Commissioner Mel Powell questioned if GMASS took into account that Wilcox County was a rural area. Chief Appraiser Harden reassured GMASS uses sale information from Wilcox County only. The Board of Commissioners decided to hold a Special Call meeting with presentation of tax digest and growth on July 21 at 5:00 p.m.

EMA Director Larry Brown stated that the fire service was moving slowly but making progress. Director Brown spoke on the COVID-19 numbers that are still rising in Wilcox. Director Brown stated that he spoke with Skip Sterling on the progress of the fire services rating. Skip informed Director Brown that the progress was slowed by COVID-19, but there was good participation in the monthly training.

The next order of business was the Region 5 EMS Council appointment whereas Charles Futch would be appointed. Commissioner Jowan Johnson made a motion to appoint Charles Futch to the council. Commissioner Clay Reid seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Senior Center HVAC Replacement Quotes were presented to the Board. It was stated that there were leaks, but a new roof would not be needed. After discussing the quotes, it was decided that Truman's Heating & Air was the best option. Commissioner Clay Reid made the motion to accept Truman's Heating & Air quote. Commissioner Mel Powell seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

A Social Media Policy was presented for study and possible adoption. The Board of Commissioners were asked to read over the policy. The decision to adopt the Social Media Policy would be made at the August Monthly Meeting.

Tax Commissioner Carolyn Elsberry proposed a sample resolution that would authorize the sale of small parcels with fair market value less than outstanding taxes. Tax Commissioner Elsberry stated that she was attempting to sale three properties with outstanding taxes. Tax Commissioner Elsberry stated that if the resolution would pass, she could sale the properties. These properties include lots on Sook Circle, King Avenue, and Sibbie. Tax Commissioner Elsberry presented the taxes owed and the property value; she also presented a copy of Irwin County's resolution for study. The county attorney, Toni Sawyer, stated that the resolution was not legal. Government Tax Solution disagreed with the county attorney. Chairman Lanier Keene requested that County Manager Paula Ball discuss the resolution with ACCG to determine if it is legal. Chairman Keene also stated if ACCG approved, for County Manager to write up resolution. It was stated that a decision would be made at the Special Call Meeting on July 21st at 5:00 p.m.

Surplus property from the Road Department was presented. After discussion, it was decided that all surplus property would be placed on Gov. Deals for sale. Commissioner Jowan Johnson made a motion to approve. Commissioner Mel Powel seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

On the Old Business list, the Public Defender Budget proposal for 2020-2021 was discussed. Surrounding counties had already approved the budget. After discussion, it was decided to adopt budget. Commissioner Clay Reid made a motion to approve. Commissioner Alfonza Hall seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

The proposed Travel Policy and the increase of mileage rate were discussed. Commissioner Mel Powell made a motion to adopt the policy as the official Wilcox County Travel Policy. Commissioner Clay Reid seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Commissioner Comments:

Chairman Lanier Keene brought up a request by Linny Brown to place a speed bump on Mockingbird road. Brown would agree to pay for the speed bump if the County Commissioners would approve.

Brown raised concerns about unnecessary semi-trucks speeding down Mockingbird as well as unnecessary farming equipment. Brown refused to come to the meeting himself. It was stated that the county could only put up speed signs on the dirt road. The commissioners questioned if a sign could stop the unnecessary semi-truck traffic. In order for the sign to work, the county would need to pass a resolution to adopt a fine for breaking the sign order. The request was tabled.

County Manager Report:

County Manager Paula Ball presented the Sales Ratio Study 2019. She stated there were questions on how the Road Department reporting worked. County Manager Ball presented the June gas report as well as the May Maintenance report for study.

County Manager Ball also stated that the USDA grants were under review and were expected to pass soon.

County Manager Ball encouraged Extension Agent John Bennett to apply for grants for a county vehicle.

The FSA Department did not work the floor covering until August, then the project would be completely through.

NRCS will finish up this week; however, the employees have not shown up for work or attempted to move back in. August should hopefully conclude the project.

With no further business, Commissioner Clay Reid made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Mel Powell seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Lanier Keene, Chairman

Paula J. Ball, County Manager/Clerk