

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE WILCOX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD ON NOVEMBER 5, 2013 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE WILCOX COUNTY COURTHOUSE.

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Lanier Keen, Chairman  
David Brown, Vice Chairman  
Huck Greene, Commissioner  
Paula Jones Ball, County Manager/Clerk

Chairman Lanier Keene called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Huck Greene gave the invocation.

Everyone gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

The prior month's minutes were approved as presented with a motion from Commissioner David Brown. Commissioner Huck Greene seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

There was no one with public comments.

The first item on the agenda was an update from Evelyn Gordon on the progress she has made on the personal property update. We were informed by her that there are 175 businesses in the county with inventory of \$7,500 or more. Letters have been sent to all of them with staggered mailings of 20 letters at a time. The response has been excellent. She stated she has made sure all businesses were treated alike and everything we are asking for is well within the law.

A tax abatement has been requested by Curt & Cheri Nichols on a rental property they are renovating in downtown Rochelle. They are requesting this for five years. Commissioner David Brown stated he felt we would be opening a can of worms. Chairman Lanier Keene added he did not think we need to start doing this type of thing right now.

Commissioner David Brown made a motion to table the matter until a full commission board is present for the vote. Commissioner Huck Greene seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

We have worked on our comprehensive plan update for many months now and it is complete. We need to adopt the plan. All four cities have already signed resolutions adopting the plan. Commissioner David Brown made a motion to adopt the comprehensive plan. Commissioner Huck Greene seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

For the first time, Wilcox County has been awarded a Health and Wellness Grant which helps educate county employees on their health. A resolution has been prepared adopting a Health and Wellness Policy. Commissioner Huck Greene made a motion to adopt the resolution. Commissioner David Brown seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

There were no items of old business.

The County Manager's report was as follows:

Letters were sent to both parties who had shown an interest in purchasing the old Health Department building. Bids were due by October 15<sup>th</sup>. Neither party submitted a bid so demolition of the building will begin this winter.

Our insurance premium check was wired to our account on October 15<sup>th</sup>. The revenue this year was \$201,093.46. This amount was \$7,611.42 more than last year and \$11,093.46 more than the budget amount.

The auditors have begun work on our 2013 audit. They are trying to complete it by yearend. However, they cannot finish the audit until 60 days after our fiscal year ends.

We will adopt a proposed budget at our December meeting for 2013. This is new revenue and it was overlooked when we adopted all other budgets.

The Courthouse project is complete with \$381,072 having been paid to B. A. Johnson Construction Company with a \$15,000 retainage still being held. J. Glenn Gregory, Architect, has received a total of \$35,880 which brings the cost of the project to \$431,952. There was \$500,000 dedicated to this project so we came in under budget. The remainder of the funds can go toward the improvement of the South Porch on the Courthouse.

A lot of counties have changed the deadline for property taxes from December 20<sup>th</sup> to December 1<sup>st</sup>. This is something we can consider. It will have to go through legislation, if there is interest, we can put it on our December agenda. Tax Commissioner Bobby Gibbs would be glad to present the pros and cons of this change.

Our 2013 LMIG project is complete and our 2013 SAP project is almost complete.

The gutters have been installed on the Ag Center. Hopefully, this will alleviate the water problem that has always been present at the building.

Commissioner Huck Greene stated he felt we should continue to follow our architect's advice on the Courthouse improvements. It has been mentioned that a local person could repair the Courthouse porch but he would like to see it brought up to standards. Chairman Lanier Keene stated we will have to use a licensed and bonded contractor for the project.

The Legislative Luncheon will be on December 5<sup>th</sup> at the Ag Center.

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

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Lanier Keene, Chairman

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Paula Jones Ball, County Manager/Clerk