

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE WILCOX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD ON FEBRUARY 4, 2014 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM OF THE WILCOX COUNTY COURTHOUSE.

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Lanier Keene	Chairman
David Brown	Vice Chairman
Huck Greene	Commissioner
Jowan Johnson	Commissioner
Tracy Tyndal	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.

Minutes from the January 7, 2014 regular monthly meeting and the January 24, 2014 meeting were approved by a motion from Commissioner David Brown. Commissioner Tracy Tyndal seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

There were no guests with public comments.

The first item of new business was to set the qualifying fees for the upcoming 2014 election. Commissioner Tracy Tyndal made a motion to set the fees at 3% of the base earnings of each office. Commissioner Jowan Johnson seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

A representative from Red Cross had requested to address the commission but they did not attend the meeting.

A 2015 transit application for funding was presented. Commissioner David Brown made a motion to file the application. Commissioner Huck Greene seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Lisa McKinley, Chairman of the Wilcox County Development Authority, was present to address Freeport tax exemption for Wilcox County. She briefly explained the benefit of having the exemption. Wilcox is one of only 15 counties who do not have the exemption in place already. The process would begin with a vote from the county commission calling for the exemption to be placed on the ballot. She further asked if approved by the voters that the exemption become effective in 2014. Businesses have to request the exemption each year as well. This would make Wilcox more attractive to businesses that might want to locate here. Ms. McKinley added that the Development Authority's goal is to make changes in Wilcox County so that our county will be a better place for businesses to locate.

Commissioner Tracy Tyndal made a motion to approve the Freeport exemption. Commissioner Jowan Johnson seconded the motion that carried unanimously with four voting commissioners. Chairman Lanier Keene abstained since he is a member on the Development Authority Board.

Chairman Lanier Keene stated the commissioners voted at the January meeting to make Cheri Nichols County Attorney but they did not address the fee schedule. Ms. Nichols stated her hourly rate is \$125 per hour; however, she will work for the county at \$100 per hour. There will not be a charge for the first three hours of service each month. She also said she would not charge for attending Commission meetings.

The first item of old business was an appointment to the MHADD Board. Former member Lucas Allison explained the responsibilities of the board member. There were no volunteers for the position.

County Attorney Cheri Nichols then presented updates on a lawsuit against the Cordele Judicial Circuit and Wilcox County as well as an update on the CDBG project. Commissioner David Brown made a motion to proceed on land acquisition on the project. Commissioner Jowan Johnson seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Commissioner comments were as follows:

Commissioner Huck Greene stated this has been a busy month. He welcomed Cheri Nichols. He stated the commission is a good group and he is proud to be on the board.

Commissioner David Brown stated there is still a vacancy on the WIB board. The member has to be a business owner. They meet in Lyons once a quarter.

Commissioner Tracy Tyndal thanked the County Manager for the information on the EMS.

County Manager's report was as follows:

County Manager Paula Jones Ball stated that she handed out information in the workshop meeting on pending items and a workshop has been set. She asked everyone to read over the information and be prepared to make some decisions in the near future.

Sheriff Mike Martin is filing out the necessary paperwork to participate in the DOAS surplus property LESO program. He can acquire property before it is offered to government entities and get it at no cost to the county. He is sending two of his employees to training on the program February 11<sup>th</sup>.

The auditors are tying up loose ends on our 2013 audit. They have more work to do before it is finalized but they feel we will add approximately \$489,000 to the fund balance. This could be more or less but they do not anticipate any large difference. We had been told by our advisors that it would take from 5-10 years to climb out of the financial hole that we were in. If we continue to carefully monitor our spending, we could be in the black in three years.

Adam Dowdy, Road Superintendent, and Lance Wood, Ocmulgee Engineers, will attend our March meeting to discuss our 2014 LMIG project on Cannonville Road. It came in over budget so we have to decide whether we want to spend the extra money or cut back on the project. They will present all options.

Our splost and lost collections have declined slightly. Overall we are still within the budgets for both.

The next Agritourism meeting will be held in Hawkinsville on February 20, 2014 at the Horseshoe Restaurant at 11:00 a.m.

The County Manager presented a spreadsheet showing spending for the last 13 years. She noted spending was cut in 2012 by 16%.

There being no further business Commissioner Huck Greene made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tracy Tyndal and carried unanimously.

\_\_\_\_\_ Lanier Keene, Chairman

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