

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING MEETING July 1, 2025 @ 6:00PM HELD AT THE COMMISSIONER’S OFFICE OF THE WILCOX COUNTY COURTHOUSE.

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Jamie Handley	Chairman
Clay Reid	Vice-Chairman
Jowan Johnson	Commissioner
Kerney Hair	Commissioner
Mel Powell	Commissioner
Michael Pomirko	County Manager
Cindy Willingham	Citizen
Drew Willingham	Citizen
Mark Elrod	Citizen
Lucas Allison	Cordele Dispatch

Chairman Jamie Handley called the public hearing meeting to order 6:00 p.m.

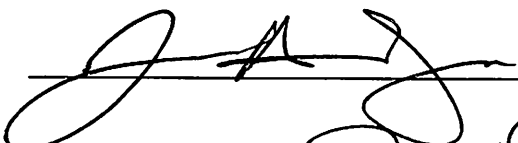

County Manager Michael Pomirko, open the meeting giving everyone an oversight into the public hearing and presenting information. Parties wishing to speak must sign in and each party will be given five minutes to speak on the topic.

Mr. Mark Elrod came before the board about the road closure of Lark Road. He was unaware the road was getting closed all because one party owns both sides of the road. Mr. Elrod did mention how the road is used a lot and he wishes for the road to stay open if possible. Mr. Elrod also voiced his input on how can one man do this but Commissioner Mel Powell stated this is why you go through a process like this. We want to hear from parties so we know everything.

Mrs. Cindy Willingham mentioned to the board how disappointed she would be if the board decided to close Lark Road. She wishes the county would not vote in that manner because the road does have traffic and she pays taxes.

Ms. Drew Willingham mentioned she would like to see the road stay open because she uses it for a number of reasons. Plus, she mentioned it is for the front area of the church when residence do not use off the highway. She asked the board to take into consideration how much it is used and a lot of use comes from farm equipment in the area. Many discussions took place over the easement of the land along with utilities in the area right off the road. Commissioners explained if closed the owner would need to leave access to the utilities so crews could get to those areas.

After all discussion closed Commissioner Jowan Johnson motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Kerney Hair seconded the motion that carried unanimously.6:24pm

	CHAIRMAN, JAMIE HANDLEY
	COUNTY MANAGER, MICHAEL POMIRKO

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE WILCOX COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD ON JULY 1st, 2025 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
ROOM IN THE WILCOX COUNTY COURTHOUSE.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Hon. Jamie Handley, Chairman; Hon. Clay Reid, Vice Chairman;
Hon. Kerney Hair, Commissioner; Hon. Jowan Johnson, Commissioner; and
Hon. Mel Powell, Commissioner

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael Pomirko, County Manager; Toni Sawyer, County Attorney; Larry Brown,
City of Abbeville Fire; Janice Brown, Wilcox County Coroner; Scotty Keen, Abbeville Fire Department;
Hon. Kirk Musselman, Abbeville City Councilman; Man Furguson, Rochelle City Councilman; Lucas
Allison, Cordele Dispatch; Cindy Willingham, Guest; Drew Willingham, Guest; and Mark Elrod, Guest.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Handley called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION: Lucas Allison gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Board of Commissioners and public stood for and recited the pledge
of allegiance.

PRIOR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES: Vice Chairman Clay Reid made a motion to approve the
prior monthly meeting minutes. The motion was second by Commissioner Mel Powell with a unanimous
vote.

GUEST WITH PUBLIC COMMENTS

NEW BUSINESS:

- (1) Chairman Handley open new business with the discussion of the prior public hearing over closing
Lark Road. After hearing from the citizens in the area along with other others input Chairman
Handley cited to the board, he was unaware of the public really wanting the road to stay open. He
was under the impression the road was no longer a use along with Commissioner Jowan Johnson.

ACTION: A motion was made by Vice Chairman Clay Reid to table the road closure of Lark Road
after so much discussion from the public hearing. The motion was second by Commissioner Jowan
Johnson with a unanimous vote.

- (2) Chairman Handley addressed the next item of business with the Resolution 2025-08 in reference
to Georgia House Bill 223. Mr. Michael Pomirko explained to the board after past conversations
from prior workshop meetings the importance of the resolution along with the bill. Basically, this
resolution 2025-08 starts the process of opening the opportunity for anybody who had timber
issues from Hurricane Helene. It is a tax relief bill that was put into place so timber tax owners or
properties could see the relief from the bill. The bill is set to start with a resolution from the
Board of Commissioners that will have the Department of Forestry involved along with the state
Department of Revenue, with our local Tax Commissioners Office & local Tax Assessor Office
involved. If anybody within the Wilcox County area had damage from timber it would require a
number of steps for that owner to be reimbursed along with evaluating the county's last three
years of timber tax revenue. Once all documentation is turned into the Tax Commissioner, the
Forestry Office for the state will be involved to make sure the issue took place. This includes a
period from quarter four of 2024 and all quarters of 2025. According to Pomirko, with the
approval of this resolution 2025-08 you would allow this process to start if anyone had this
damage in the county.

ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioners Jowan Johnson to approve Resolution 2025-08.
The motion was second by Vice Chairman Clay Reid with a unanimous vote.

- (3) Chairman Handley opened the next item of business with a service agreement with the Heart of
Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission over updating the old land use ordinance. Mr. Pomirko
explained to the board how at one time this process was done some time back with a

misunderstanding on if the land use ordinance was ever adopted. Over the years the county never enforced the land use ordinance because everyone was unaware what information was actually passed or if it passed at all. The goal today is to have the Regional Commission start the process up of redoing the land use ordinance so we could identify problems we are dealing with today. If approved according to Pomirko, we would have meetings with Anna Weaver with the Regional Commission on update the information and the areas we see fit for now. Pomirko added once the agreement is passed, we will line up a meeting for August 12, 2025 with Anna Weaver to start the process.

ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Kerney Hair to approval the service agreement with the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission on updating the land use ordinance for Wilcox County. The motion was second by Commissioner Jowan Johnson with a unanimous vote.

- (4) Chairman Handley opened the last discussion under new business with the change order from Reeves Construction. County Manager Michael Pomirko gave insight into change order three from Reeves Construction on Lebanon Road improves. According to Pomirko after having a site visit it was understood we now have a good road in place from taking our time and doing everything the best we can. Within the change order you will see three areas we would like to improve so we know will stay in the best shape going forward. Area one, included the clearing out of the ditches on both sides of the road back to GA Highway 129. Area two, was to come back and replace some more older pipe on the road that would lead to future water damage near the road. Finally, area three was grading the shoulders along with planting grass because the soil texture in the area is mostly clay which will prevent wash out. All together Pomirko stated it is best to move the water away from the road and let the ditches do the job so the asphalt can stay in the best shape it can. Pomirko informed the board the total cost for change order three from Reeves Construction would run \$51,645.00 Chairman Handley mention the improvement of the road and how it is so much better and he agreed that we need to make sure everything is working properly because the road did not last long when they repaved it years back.

ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Jowan Johnson to accept and move forward with change order three from Reeves Construction for Lebanon Road. The motion was second by Commissioner Mel Powell with a unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

NO OLD BUSINESS

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Janice Brown, gave an update from the prior budget workshop meeting for how long it would take if the county made a purchase for a power lift. Mrs. Janice also went into details over areas such as installation and other shipping times that will be required with the lift to go within the Wilcox County Coroner Van.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT: The County Manager informed the board about several projects going on. He let the board know recently he had additional talks with the regional GDOT office engineer over the GA Highway 215 and Owensboro Road intersection. Hopefully within the month we will have some recommendation back from GDOT over how we can improve the intersection and prevent future crashes at this site. Once he knows more from GDOT he will share the information with the board but he did inform the board we may be asked to improve the striping as well on Owensboro Road intersection. He also informed the board that this week, Adam Dowdy, Road Superintendent will be installing another sign at the GA Highway 233 that ask 18 wheelers to not use the route which has been a problem in the past. With the weight of trucks and how it is used as a cut through hopefully we can get a handle on this situation. Finally, Pomirko added he should have the FY2026 Budget ready for review by the first of August and we will have a workshop meeting over it.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT: The County Attorney apologized for being late to the meeting and wanted to know if any board members had anything.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS: Chairman Handley mentioned a past meeting where we talked about the state route from Falcon Circle and how the citizen asked about signage. He took the time to ride out

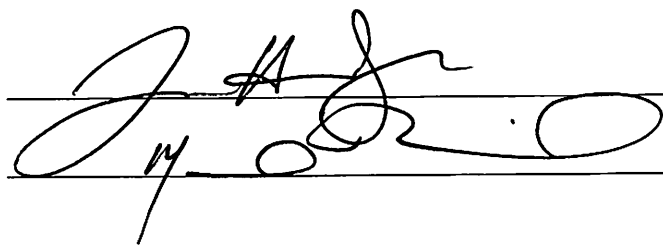
there and did realize we need to get with GDOT over some signage identifying Falcon Circle from the state route. Mr. Pomirko said he will work on that.

EXECUTIVE SESSION OPEN: A motion was made by Vice Chairman Clay Reid to go into executive session for litigation. The motion was second by Commissioner Kerney Hair with a unanimous vote 7:01p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION CLOSE: A motion was made by Vice Chairman Clay Reid to come out of executive session for litigation reasons. The motion was second by Commissioner Kerney Hair with a unanimous vote 7:25p.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mel Powell to join the opioid settlement with Sandoz Inc. The motion was second by Commissioner Kerney Hair with a unanimous vote.

ADJOURN: Commissioner Mel Powell made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Kerney Hair seconded the motion. All voted in favor. 7:26p.m.

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The top signature is for Jamie Handley, and the bottom signature is for Michael Pomirko. Both signatures are written over horizontal lines.

Jamie Handley, Chairman

Michael Pomirko, County Manager