

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE WILCOX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD ON AUGUST 5th, 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; and Drew Willingham, Guest.

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

INVOCATION: Commissioner Jowan Johnson 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

Mr. Fred McGriff was on the agenda for guest with public comments. Mr. McGriff did not attend the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- (1) Chairman Handley opened new business with the discussion of the FLOST Referendum and proceed forward with the County Attorney Toni Sawyer. County Manager, Michael Pomirko informed the board they would see in the later part of the meeting about a meeting with the cities over FLOST and how we come to an understanding over what percentage is with each city. The boards intention was to give County Attorney Toni Sawyer time on creating the referendum on FLOST and give an update to the County Attorney after the August 19, 2025 workshop meeting with the cities.

ACTION: A motion was made by Vice Chairman Clay Reid to start the process if getting the FLOST referendum ready and to have the information ready for what will come from the August 19, 2025 meeting with the cities. The motion was second by Commissioner Mel Powell with a unanimous vote.

- (2) Chairman Handley addressed the next item of business with the purchase of the Coroner's Power Lift (Mobimedical Manufacturing) for \$17,520.00. County Manager, Michael Pomirko added that over the course of a few months we've had numerous conversations on this matter and we were waiting to see when the best time would be. We would use general fund for the purchase of the power lift and make a budget amendment in September.

ACTION: A motion was made by Vice Chairman Clay Reid to approve the purchase of the Coroner's Power Lift from Mobimedical Manufacturing for \$17,520.00 using general funds for the purchase. The motion was second by Commissioner Kerney Hair with a unanimous vote.

- (3) Chairman Handley opened the next item of business with the 2026 county holiday schedule. Mr. Pomirko informed the Board of Commissioners no changes were made the 2026 Calendar other that dates depending on how they were on the calendar. He also informed the board we vote on this calendar each year in August which is prior to the budget being adopted in October.
- ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Jowan Johnson to approve the 2026 county holiday calendar as followed. The motion was second by Commissioner Kerney Hair with a unanimous vote.

- (4) Next item of new business was a request from County Manager, Michael Pomirko over a email he received today at 2:56pm. The new business included FY2027 Transit Grant Application Resolution. Mr. Pomirko asked the board if he could add this into the record so we can get a head start into the application process.

ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Mel Powell to add the FY2027 Transit Grant Application Resolution into new business. The motion was second by Commissioner Kerney Hair with a unanimous vote.

- (5) After recent discussion Chairman Jamie Hadley ask the board if they have any questions over the resolution for the FY2027 Transit Grant Application.

ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Mel Powell to adopt the FY2027 Transit Grant Application Resolution. The motion was second by Commissioner Kerney Hair with a unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

- (1) Chairman Handley opened the first item of old business in reference to prior ordinances (Timber Harvesting & Logging Timber Ordinance). From prior meetings and discussing the two ordinances, the Board of Commissioners felt it was in the best interest for them to be updated which reflects current values which could happen from road damage or other damages. County Attorney, Toni Sawyer gave some insight into the two ordinances and how the county updated one ordinance in 2013 to meet with current laws being adopted. Other ordinances and rules were put into place so the county had some type of protection over the county roads if we saw damage or other damages that could happen as well. Sawyer recommended to the board that they look at maximizing the penalties in the ordinances along with making strict guidelines that will protect the county. Once she is done, she can email a copy to each board member for review.

ACTION: No action was taken.

- (2) Chairman Handley open the discussion for the second item of old business with the final appoints for the Wilcox County Development Authority. Mr. Pomirko informed the board at the most recent meeting of the Wilcox County Development Authority the board made the recommendation for two members (Clint Branch – 4-year term & Jerek Walton – 2-year term). Mr. Pomirko added this would make up the final positions needed on the board which give this board seven members.

ACTION: A motion was made by Vice Chairman Clay Reid to appoint Clint Branch – 4-year term and Jerek Walton – 2-year term to the Wilcox County Development Authority Board. The motion was second by Commissioner Jowan Johnson with a unanimous vote.

- (3) Chairman Handley open the floor for the third item of old business over the request for proposals with the Fire Station located at Brablewood Road and GH Highway 215. Mr. Pomirko informed the board himself along with Richard Rhodes had lots of discussion over the quotes and working with the vendor on the site. Dr. McIntyre donated the land for the project and also gave us the help on getting the site ready for the station. Mr. Pomirko informed the board they made a few modifications to the bid with the winning bidder with correcting the door width along with adding an exhaust fan on the facility. Mr. Pomirko made a recommendation we accept the bid of Intrepid Building Systems out of Chula Georgia at a price of \$84,796.00. This price included turn key with a concrete, metal building, electrical, and front area concrete for the bays. The other bidders on the project were as followed: Tyson Steel Building \$92,300.00, Graham Studstill \$139,500.00, & McWright LLC \$225,000.00.

ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Jowan Johnson to enter into a contract with Intrepid Building Systems and for the construction of \$84,796.00 for the next Fire Station on the south-central part of the county. The motion was second by Commissioner Mel Powell with a unanimous vote on the Fire Station.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Sheriff Jeff Wessel, wanted to inform the board about a recent problem with the Wilcox County Jail related to inmates locking themselves in the jail. They had to call on Turner County Sheriff Office to gain access and do a sweep of the facility with finding plenty of weapons. Mr. Wessel also mentioned about recent discussions he was hearing about the jail and inmates. He was very concerned about the matter and was bringing it to the board.

Janice Brown, no update other than she appreciates the board making the okay on the purchase of the needed power lift.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT: The County Manager informed the board about several projects going on. He reminded the board about an upcoming meeting with the regional commission on the land use ordinance on August 12, 2025 @ 1:30pm. Mr. Pomirko added he had a meeting with Georgia Department of Transportation over Barentine Road and how they want to plan how each party will work together on the project. This also includes what will be needed on each party side as we look at getting this project going. Recently Mr. Pomirko received a phone call from Senator Ossoff over our FY2026 Congressional Direct Spending request has made it past the agriculture committee and now moves onto the Senate and House floor. According to Pomirko, this is a huge help if everything comes together because this would produce 55% funding for two more fire stations in the county. Mr. Pomirko would like to schedule a meeting with the cities over the FLOST discussion for Tuesday, August 19, 2025 at 5:00pm. On Tuesday, August 26, 2025 he would like to discuss with the board a final overview of the FY2026 County Budget we would adopt in October. This would include a meeting over the Jail research we get from Sheriff Wessel over the new Jail. Mr. Pomirko added we would need to call for the FLOST by October 6, 2025 and finally we will need one more workshop meeting to discuss the Fire Intergovernmental Agreement.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT: The County Attorney needed to speak with the board in executive session over a few matters.

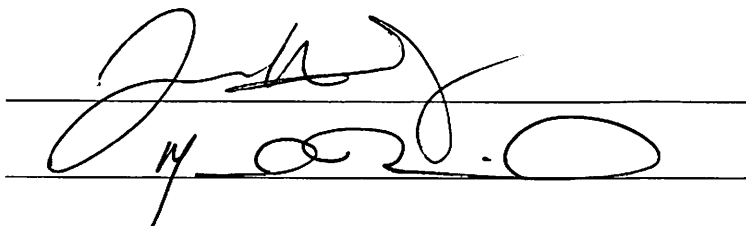
COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS: No Comments

EXECUTIVE SESSION OPEN: A motion was made by Vice Chairman Clay Reid to go into executive session for litigation, personnel, & consult with attorney. The motion was second by Commissioner Jowan with a unanimous vote 7:20p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION CLOSE: A motion was made by Commissioner Jowan Johnson to come out of executive session for litigation, personnel, & consult with attorney. The motion was second by Commissioner Mel Powell with a unanimous vote 7:44p.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jowan Johnson to join the opioid settlement with Purdue Pharma and Sackler Partner Settlement. The motion was second by Commissioner Mel Powell 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. 7:45p.m.



Jamie Handley, Chairman



Michael Pomirko, County Manager