

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE WILCOX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD ON DECEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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; and Hon. Mel Powell, Commissioner

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael Pomirko, County Manager; Toni Sawyer, County Attorney (BY PHONE); John Bennett; Wilcox County Extension, Janice Brown; Wilcox County Coroner, Man Furguson; Rochelle City Councilman, Larry Brown; Abbeville Fire Chief; Scotty Keene, Abbeville Fire; Cindy Willingham; citizen, and Lucas Allison, Cordele Dispatch.

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

GUEST WITH PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lanier Keene was scheduled for public comments but did not attend the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

**1. Resolution 2025-10: Fire Station Bank Account / Moving Funds**

Chairman Handley opened discussion on Resolution 2025-10, authorizing the opening of a new bank account with Rochelle Bank using prior-year cash on hand. The account will support fire station construction and fire protection services and will fall under Fund 271.

County Manager Michael Pomirko emphasized the importance of establishing the account to properly transfer funds from the adopted budget for this designated purpose.

**Action:**

Motion by Commissioner Mel Powell to adopt Resolution 2025-10 and proceed with opening the account and transferring the appropriate funds.

Second by Vice Chairman Clay Reid.

**Vote:** Unanimous.

**2. Wilcox County Extension Services – Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

Chairman Handley introduced discussion regarding the updated MOU for the Wilcox County Extension Services. Mr. John Bennett provided an overview of the updated five-year MOU, noting no significant changes other than information technology references, which currently remain managed under the University of Georgia system. County Manager Pomirko advised that although approval was originally expected next month, the MOU was simple and appropriate for action at this meeting.

**Action:**

Motion by Commissioner Mel Powell to adopt the updated MOU with the Wilcox County Extension Service.

Second by Vice Chairman Clay Reid.

**Vote:** Unanimous.

### **3. NFP/VFA Forestry Grant Application – 50/50 Grant (\$10,000 Value)**

Chairman Handley introduced discussion on a forestry grant opportunity in support of fire services. County Manager Pomirko explained that this annual grant helps acquire needed fire equipment. This year's request includes a water tank for the F-250 assigned to the Garlaudie Fire Station. The county match is **\$5,000**.

**Action:**

Motion by Commissioner Mel Powell to approve submission of the grant application.

Second by Vice Chairman Clay Reid.

**Vote:** Unanimous.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **1. Adoption of Amendment 1 to ACCG 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan**

County Manager Pomirko explained the amendment and its tax-related changes, including options for contributions to be taxed upfront, potentially benefiting employees at retirement.

**Action:**

Motion by Vice Chairman Clay Reid to approve the amendment to the ACCG 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan.

Second by Commissioner Mel Powell.

**Vote:** Unanimous.

#### **2. Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission – Third Member Appointment (Commissioner Kerney Hair)**

Chairman Handley noted that during a recent workshop, Commissioner Kerney Hair agreed to serve as the third member, relieving Vice Chairman Reid from the position.

**Action:**

Motion by Vice Chairman Clay Reid to appoint Commissioner Kerney Hair as the third member on the Regional Council.

Second by Commissioner Mel Powell.

**Vote:** Unanimous.

#### **3. County Manager Ordinance 05-02 Renamed to County Manager Ordinance 2025-01**

Chairman Handley opened discussion on the updated ordinance replacing Ordinance 05-02. County Manager Pomirko stated that the ordinance clarifies operational procedures and aligns with the county purchasing policy. The first reading was completed during this meeting; the second reading is expected in January.

**Action:**

No action taken.

#### **4. Timber Harvesting Ordinance Renamed to Ordinance 2025-02**

Chairman Handley introduced discussion on updating the timber harvesting ordinance. He noted the partnership with the Georgia Forestry Commission regarding reporting requirements and acknowledged concerns about the bond amount needed for road repair coverage.

**Action:**

No action taken

### **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

#### **John Bennett**

- No report other than the MOU presented earlier.

#### **Janice Brown**

- Reported that her new cot will arrive soon and Dirty South Customs will install the rack.

- Requested consideration for constructing a county-owned freezer to store bodies locally, as the county currently pays neighboring counties for storage.
- Discussion related to ongoing planning for the Jail Complex/Sheriff's Office architectural RFP. Commissioners will consider options as architectural planning advances.

#### **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT (Michael Pomirko)**

- **Cemetery Road TIA Project** is progressing toward the bidding stage in coordination with GDOT and Brian Henderson.
- **Ambulance 1 (M-4)** arrived on November 18, 2025; **Ambulance 2 (M-3)** is expected later this week.
- The **Jail/Sheriff's Office Architect RFP** is anticipated to be ready for advertisement by next month.
- The **McIntyre Division (Garlaudie) Fire Station** construction will begin this month; Dr. McIntyre has completed the building pad.
- The **Statham Shoals Boat Landing** project is complete; the Recreation Department will maintain the site.
- **Senator Ossoff CDS FY2026** Fire Station funding of **\$402,000** has been awarded. The county match is **\$328,000**, covering two station structure, two fire tanker, two fire truck, two brush truck, and two sets of fire gear.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** No report.

**COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:** None recorded.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

##### **ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion by Vice Chairman Clay Reid to enter Executive Session to consult with legal counsel regarding pending or potential litigation, settlements, claims, administrative proceedings, or judicial actions, and to discuss or authorize negotiations involving property transactions.

Second by Commissioner Mel Powell.

**Vote:** Unanimous.

**Time Entered:** 7:00 p.m.

##### **EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion by Commissioner Mel Powell to exit Executive Session.

Second by Commissioner Kerney Hair.

**Vote:** Unanimous.

**Time Exited:** 7:30 p.m.

##### **Action Following Executive Session**

Commissioner Mel Powell made a motion **not** to approve the \$5,000,000 lawsuit settlement demand from **Jody D. Peterman, LLC**, and to allow the county insurance provider to handle the matter.

Second by Vice Chairman Clay Reid.

**Vote:** Unanimous.


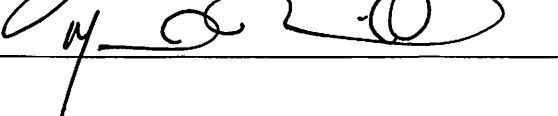
#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Mel Powell made a motion to adjourn.

Second by Vice Chairman Clay Reid.

**Vote:** Unanimous.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.**

Jamie Handley, Chairman

Michael Pomirko, County Manager