

MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING JANUARY 27, 2026 @ 5:10 PM 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 |
| Kerney Hair | Commissioner |
| Mel Powell | Commissioner |
| County Manager | Michael Pomirko |
| County Attorney | Toni Sawyer |
| Adam Dowdy | Road Superintendent |
| Mark Wilcox | Recreation Director |

Call to Order

Chairman **Jamie Handley** called the meeting to order at **5:10 p.m.**

1. Pavilion Quote – Recreation Department

Mr. Wilcox presented a proposed 20’ x 30’ pavilion concept for the Recreation Department, noting a long-standing need for a shelter for parents and children at the park. The proposed pavilion includes an open shelter design with a 20’ x 30’ concrete pad, lighting, a wood structure, and a metal roof.

A quote was presented from Jimmy Wright in the amount of \$7,941.60. Mr. Wilcox stated the preferred location would be between the playground and the walkway, which had previously been identified as a suitable site.

County Manager Michael Pomirko asked the Board if they were comfortable voting on the pavilion at the February monthly meeting. The Board expressed agreement to do so.

2. Communication Room Move – W.N. Newt Hudson Agriculture Center

Mr. Wilcox informed the Board of a potential plan to relocate the repeater system currently housed at the W.N. Newt Hudson Agriculture Center to restrict public access to the equipment.

Mr. Pomirko added that during elections the system currently has only one access point, which could present operational challenges. He further explained that when the system was originally installed, important considerations such as air circulation, security, and access were not fully addressed.

The proposed change would allow first responders external access to the equipment without entering the Agriculture Center. Discussion included options such as building a new external hub or adding and sealing a door to the nearest storage closet.

Mr. Wilcox and Mr. Pomirko will further evaluate future needs and determine which option best fits the current facility layout.

3. Road Department Motor Grader Lease – Expiring July 2026

Mr. Dowdy presented information regarding the upcoming expiration of the Road Department’s motor grader lease in July 2026. He discussed potential challenges related to rising equipment costs and future lease availability. Dowdy explained that leasing has proven effective in keeping equipment operational and reducing downtime caused by maintenance. He plans to return to the Board with additional figures and recommendations once a clear path forward is established.

4. Road Department Backhoe Lease (SPLOST)

Mr. Dowdy presented **three lease quotes** for a future backhoe purchase, explaining the condition of the current fleet and referencing outcomes from a previous Case lease. The quotes presented were:

- **Caterpillar 420**
1,500 hours/year — **\$2,834.40 per month** for 60 months
- **Case 580**
1,500 hours/year — **\$3,359.40 per month** for 60 months
- **John Deere 410P**
1,000 hours/year — **\$2,202.89 per month** for 60 months

Mr. Dowdy stated the department averages just over 500 hours per year per backhoe and recommended the John Deere 410P as the most suitable option. The Board agreed to vote on the lease at the February monthly meeting.

5. Garlaudie Fire Station – Special Fire Tax District

Mr. Pomirko provided a status update on the Garlaudie Fire Station, noting the structure is nearing completion. He stated the Board will soon need to consider the purchase of a fire truck, tanker, and equipment.

Mr. Pomirko explained these operational costs were not originally accounted for and discussed the possibility of establishing a Special Fire Tax District to support the station.

County Attorney Toni Sawyer reviewed relevant election timelines and noted a special election could be held in May 2026 or November 2026. The Board agreed to further explore the November 2026 option once all necessary components are in place.

Mr. Pomirko also discussed the Cedar Creek Fire District, noting that the current 0.5 mill rate is becoming increasingly insufficient to cover basic expenses such as property insurance, liability insurance, and operational needs.

6. FLOST – May 2026 Ballot

Mr. Pomirko stated the purpose of this agenda item was to ensure all documentation would be ready for a May 2026 FLOST election. Following brief discussion, the Board agreed to proceed as quickly as possible to meet required deadlines.

7. Bi-Weekly and Monthly Payroll Schedule Adjustment

Mr. Pomirko presented an overview of a proposed plan to correct and simplify the County's payroll schedules. He explained that EMS, other County employees, and monthly-paid employees are currently on different pay cycles. The goal is to align all employees under consistent pay periods to streamline payroll processing. After discussion and review of proposed calendars, the Board agreed to move forward with the plan.

8. Solar Ordinance

County Attorney Toni Sawyer presented information regarding the development of a solar ordinance for Wilcox County. She explained that the County currently has no solar ordinance in place and has been reviewing both zoning and non-zoning ordinance options.

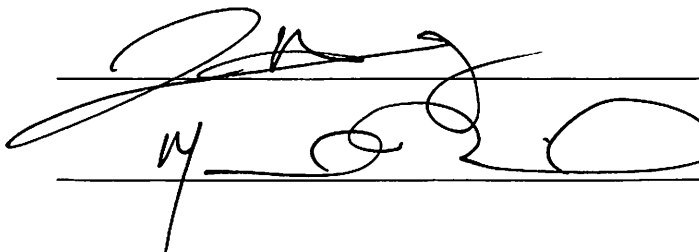
Ms. Sawyer recommended reviewing the non-zoning ordinance draft and encouraged the Board to suggest modifications as needed. Discussion included provisions such as no tax abatements, project size classifications, and safeguards to ensure the County receives fair terms should a solar company seek to operate locally.

Further work will continue on the ordinance.

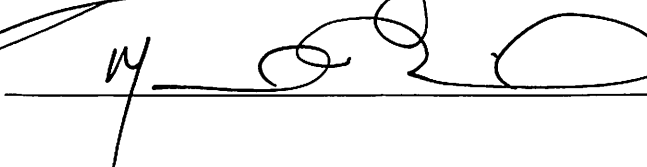
Adjournment

Commissioner Mel Powell made a motion to adjourn. Vice Chairman Clay Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.



CHAIRMAN, JAMIE HANDLEY



COUNTY MANAGER, MICHAEL POMIRKO