

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE WILCOX COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD ON JANUARY 6TH, 2026 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; Janice Brown; Wilcox County Coroner, Jeff Wessel, Wilcox Co. Sheriff; Richard Rhodes; Cedar Creek Fire Chief; Charles Futch, EMS Director; Larry Brown; Abbeville Fire Chief; Scotty Keene, Abbeville Fire; Kirk Musselman, Abbeville City Councilman; Margaret Brown, Abbeville City Councilwoman; James Davis, Abbeville City Councilman; and Lucas Allison, Cordele Dispatch.

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 I made a motion to approve the prior monthly meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jowan Johnson with a unanimous vote.

GUEST WITH PUBLIC COMMENTS: No Public Comments.

1. Chairman Appointment (2026)

Chairman Jamie Handley opened discussion regarding the appointment of officers for the 2026 year, beginning with the position of Chairman.

Commissioner Jowan Johnson made a motion to reappoint Jamie Handley as Chairman for 2026. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Clay Reid and carried by unanimous vote.

2. Vice Chairman Appointment (2026)

Chairman Handley proceeded with the appointment of Vice Chairman for 2026.

Commissioner Jowan Johnson made a motion to reappoint Clay Reid as Vice Chairman for 2026. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mel Powell and carried by unanimous vote.

3. County Attorney Appointment (2026)

Chairman Handley opened discussion for the appointment of the County Attorney for 2026.

Commissioner Jowan Johnson made a motion to reappoint Toni Sawyer as County Attorney for 2026. The motion did not receive a second, with Commissioner Mel Powell and Vice Chairman Clay Reid opposing.

Commissioner Jowan Johnson made a second motion to reappoint Toni Sawyer as County Attorney for 2026. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Clay Reid, with Commissioner Mel Powell voting opposed. The motion carried.

4. County Manager/Clerk Appointment (2026)

Chairman Handley moved to the appointment of the County Manager/Clerk for 2026.

Commissioner Jowan Johnson made a motion to reappoint Michael Pomirko as County Manager/Clerk for 2026. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Clay Reid and carried by unanimous vote.

5. Auditor Appointment (2026)

Chairman Handley opened discussion for the appointment of auditors for 2026.

Commissioner Jowan Johnson made a motion to reappoint Eckler CPA as auditors for 2026. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Clay Reid and carried by unanimous vote.

6. Legal Organ Appointment (2026)

Chairman Handley opened discussion regarding the designation of the county's legal organ for 2026. Brief discussion occurred regarding prior consideration of alternative legal organs; however, it was noted the Board had previously returned to the Cordele Dispatch.

Commissioner Jowan Johnson made a motion to reappoint the Cordele Dispatch as the legal organ for 2026. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Clay Reid and carried by unanimous vote.

7. Financial Institutions Appointment (2026)

Chairman Handley opened discussion regarding the county's financial institutions for 2026. Commissioner Jowan Johnson made a motion to reappoint Colony Bank, Rochelle Bank, and the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) as the county's financial institutions for 2026. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kerney Hair and carried by unanimous vote.

8. Resolution 2026-01 – Qualifying Fees (Districts 1, 3, and 5)

The Board considered Resolution 2026-01 establishing qualifying fees for Districts 1, 3, and 5 for both the Wilcox County Board of Commissioners and the Wilcox County Board of Education.

County Manager Michael Pomirko requested the County Attorney provide additional explanation regarding the calculation of qualifying fees. It was noted that historically the fees have been set at a 3% base rate, without consideration of the Chairman's higher salary. The proposed resolution reflected an increase in the district 5 commissioner qualifying fee, currently held by Chairman Jamie Handley.

With no further discussion, Vice Chairman Clay Reid made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-01. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jowan Johnson and carried by unanimous vote.

Approved Qualifying Fees:

Office	District 1	District 3	District 5
Wilcox County Board of Commissioners	\$144.00	\$144.00	\$216.00
Wilcox County Board of Education	\$144.00	\$144.00	\$144.00

OLD BUSINESS Action: No action taken.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Sheriff Jeff Wessel

- Reported 4,189 calls for service during 2025.
- Total inmate housing for 2025 was 272 inmates, with a weekly average population of 28.

Janice Brown

- Reported a new cot would arrive soon, with Dirty South Customs scheduled to install the rack next week.
- Reflected on 2025 activity, reporting 51 cases handled by her office, including 16 originating from the state prison.

Charles Futch & Ricard Rhodes: No report.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT (Michael Pomirko)

- Provided updates on setting up banking accounts and transferring funds for the Fire Station and Equipment account.
- Reported that county offices are supplying all required information to auditors to ensure a strong start to the audit process.

- Advised that discussions with Randy Rathburn should result in a GDOT update regarding Owensboro Road and the GA Highway 215 inspection recommendation.
- Informed the Board that a design proposal RFP for the Jail/Sheriff's Office was issued, with additional information expected in the coming month.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT (Toni Sawyer)

- Apologized for arriving late to the meeting.
- Provided clarification on Resolution 2026-01, stating that state law requires qualifying fees to be based on 3% of the salary, and since the Chairman earns a higher salary, the increased fee for District 5 is required by law.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS: None recorded.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Enter Executive Session

Motion by Commissioner Jowan Johnson to enter Executive Session at **6:54 p.m.** to discuss personnel matters pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(2) and to consult with legal counsel regarding pending or potential litigation pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1).

Seconded by Commissioner Kerney Hair.

Vote: Unanimous.

Exit Executive Session

Motion by Vice Chairman Clay Reid to exit Executive Session.

Seconded by Commissioner Kerney Hair.

Vote: Unanimous.

Time Exited: 7:16 p.m.

Action Following Executive Session: No action taken.

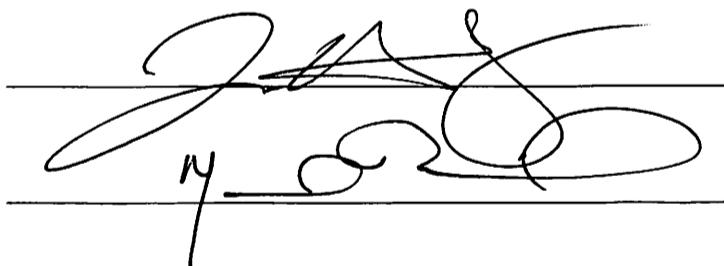
ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Mel Powell to adjourn.

Seconded by Vice Chairman Clay Reid.

Vote: Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at: 7:18 p.m.



Jamie Handley, Chairman

Michael Pomirko, County Manager