

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE WILCOX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD ON MARCH 3RD, 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, and Hon. Mel Powell, Commissioner

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael Pomirko, County Manager; Toni Sawyer, County Attorney, Jeff Wessel, Wilcox Co. Sheriff; Brittany Williams, Tax Commissioner; Janice Brown, Coroner; Larry Brown, Deputy Coroner; Kirk Musselman, Abbeville City Councilman; James Davis, Abbeville City Councilman; Man Ferguson, Rochelle City Councilman; Scott Keene, Citizens; 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: Vice Chairman Clay Reid I 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: No Public Comments.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Bid Tabulation RFP 26-A002: Wilcox County Jail Complex/Sheriff's Office – Top Three Ranking (Cost Analyst)

Chairman Jamie Handley opened discussion regarding Bid Tabulation RFP 26-A002 for the Wilcox County Jail Complex/Sheriff's Office design services. He stated that multiple workshop meetings were held over the past month to interview five design firms to determine the best fit for the County.

County Manager Michael Pomirko requested that the Board make a motion identifying the top three design firms in order to conduct additional research, including consultation with a cost analyst, prior to making a final decision. Mr. Pomirko stated this approach would allow the County to further evaluate the strengths and distinguishing factors of each firm.

Commissioner Mel Powell made a motion to rank the following firms as the top three:

- Studio 8
- CRA Architects
- Jericho Design Group

The following firms were excluded from the top three:

- McCall & Associates
- JMA Architects

The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Clay Reid and carried unanimously.

2. TTFP Funds – FY2026 Application (RMS) – \$41,104.00

Chairman Handley introduced the second item of new business regarding the FY2026 TTFP application in the amount of \$41,104.00.

County Manager Pomirko explained that the Transportation Trust Fund Program (TTFP) provides funding annually and that these funds are passed through the County to RMS, the County's third-party transit provider, for equipment replacement or new technology upgrades as identified in the grant application. He noted that the funding is provided by the State and does not require local matching funds.

Commissioner Mel Powell made a motion to approve the FY2026 TTFP application. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Clay Reid and carried unanimously.

3. Resolution 2026-03: Reappointment to Tax Assessor Board (Alex Clements)

Chairman Handley presented Resolution 2026-03 regarding the reappointment of Mr. Alex Clements to the Wilcox County Board of Assessors.

County Manager Pomirko informed the Board that Mr. Clements is willing to continue serving. His new term will begin March 4, 2026, and expire March 1, 2030.

Vice Chairman Clay Reid made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-03 reappointing Alex Clements to the Wilcox County Tax Assessor Board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mel Powell and carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Motor Grader Lease

Chairman Handley opened discussion regarding lease options for replacing the County's existing leased motor grader.

Mr. Handley explained that leasing allows the County to maintain reliable equipment while keeping up with advancing technology. Mr. Pomirko reminded the Board that the current Caterpillar motor grader lease will expire in July 2026.

The following quotes were presented:

- **Caterpillar – Model 140-15**
 - Current Payment: \$4,115.95
 - New Payment: \$2,773.17
- **John Deere – Model 670-G**
 - New Payment: \$4,079.68

Mr. Pomirko recommended continuing with Caterpillar, citing the financial benefit of trading in the used motor grader and the County's positive experience with the model.

Vice Chairman Clay Reid made a motion to approve the new lease with Caterpillar for Model 140-15 upon return of the current motor grader. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mel Powell and carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

- **Sheriff Jeff Wessel:** No report.
- **Tax Commissioner Brittany Williams:** Provided a brief update regarding FLPA funding from the Department of Revenue. Although all required documentation was submitted correctly, funding will not be received until after July 1, 2026, due to depletion of available funds for the current year.
- **Coroner Janice Brown:** Expressed appreciation to the Board for providing office space at the Government Center in Rochelle. She stated that the two offices are functioning well and thanked the Board for its support.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT – Michael Pomirko

- Included in the packets is the updated language for **House Bill 1116**, which provides for the elimination of homestead taxes.
- Preparation is underway for Department Head budget meetings scheduled to begin in April 2026. The budget calendar will be distributed this week.
- Construction of the pavilion at the Recreation Department is progressing as planned.
- Additional workshop goals include:
 - An update on the communication room entry improvements and long-term planning. Discussion of siding improvements at the Government Center.
- The final invoice for the Garlaudie Fire Station (SPLOST-funded project) has been paid

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

County Attorney Toni Sawyer informed the Board that she had a matter to discuss during Executive Session.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

No formal comments were recorded.

Councilman Kirk Musselman inquired about the status of the FLOST resolution sent to the cities. He noted that the City of Abbeville had not yet addressed the resolution and wanted confirmation that it would be placed on the agenda for Thursday's meeting.

Mr. Musselman was informed of the relevant meeting date. It was also noted that the City of Pineview has submitted its resolution to continue the process.

Ms. Sawyer stated that responses are needed promptly and indicated that the deadline is either March 10 or March 15, 2026.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice Chairman Clay Reid made a motion to enter Executive Session at 6:50 p.m. to consult with legal counsel regarding pending or potential litigation and personnel matters pursuant to O.C.G.A. §§ 50-14-2(1) and 50-14-3(b)(2). The motion also included discussion regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action, dismissal, evaluation, or interviewing of applicants for executive head of the agency.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mel Powell and carried unanimously.

Exit Executive Session

- Motion by: Vice Chairman Clay Reid
- Seconded by: Commissioner Mel Powell
- Vote: Unanimous
- Time Exited: 7:12 p.m.

Action Following Executive Session: No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.




Jamie Handley, Chairman

Michael Pomirko, County Manager