

Wilkinson County Commission
January 3, 2006

The Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 3, 2006 at the Wilkinson County Courthouse. The following Commissioners were present: C. L. Brooks, Alfred Gibson, Dennis Holder, J.M. Howell, John Williams.

The following staff was present County Manager Laura Mathis. County Attorney Jon Helton was absent due to a court conflict.

The following visitors were present: Jonathan Jackson, Daniel Simpson, Victor Jones.

Chairman Holder called upon Commissioner Brooks to give the invocation.

I. Approval of Minutes.

Chairman Holder presented the minutes of the December 20, 2005 meeting. Copies of the minutes were distributed prior to the meeting. Upon motion of Commissioner Williams and second by Commissioner Brooks, the minutes were approved as prepared.

II. Recognition of Visitors

Chairman Holder recognized and welcomed all visitors to the meeting.

III. Old Business

1. Status of 2005 Road Projects Ms. Mathis stated that Macedonia Church has been striped and is basically on hold until the spring when grassing can take place. Surveying work continues on Dent Road and Nichols Farmer Road. No report has been received on the timber cruise of the Oochee Creek Road projects.

2. Legislative Priorities Chairman Holder stated that the Board of Commissioners prioritized the legislative issues for 2006 at the last meeting. During a recent meeting on the Twiggs Wilkinson County line, Representative Freeman suggested that the Board of Commissioners may want to re-prioritize to include a request for funding for the survey of the Twiggs Wilkinson County Line. After discussion, the Board of Commissioners took no action regarding the priorities. Chairman Holder stated that the priorities set in December remain the priorities of the Commissioners.

IV. New Business

1. Vice Chairman Upon motion by Commissioner Brooks and second by Commissioner Gibson, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the election of Commissioner John Williams to serve as Vice-Chairman for 2006.

2. County Surveyor Chairman Holder stated that during the recent meeting on the Twiggs Wilkinson County line, Representative Freeman asked both Boards of Commissioners to consider whether or not to eliminate the position of County Surveyor. Commissioners Brooks and Williams asked if the current County Surveyor, Donnie Brooks, was present during that meeting and if he voiced objections. Chairman Holder stated that he was at the meeting and did not indicate his objections to the elimination of the position since the role has changed over the years. Upon motion by Commissioner Howell and second by Commissioner Williams, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to request the passage of legislation to eliminate the position of County Surveyor for Wilkinson County.

3. Amendment to the Personnel Policy Chairman Holder called upon Ms. Mathis to discuss this matter. A copy of the proposed policy change was distributed prior to the meeting. Ms. Mathis stated that the proposed policy change would establish guidelines for the transfer or donation of sick leave from one employee to another. Upon motion by Commissioner Brooks and second by Commissioner Williams, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the amendment to the Personnel Policy regarding the donation of sick leave. Ms. Mathis clarified with the Board of Commissioners that this policy change does not change the particular employee who had accrued sick leave in excess of the allowed carryover.

4. Aerial Photography Chairman Holder stated that this is a new item for the Boards consideration based on the work session held immediately prior to the session. Chairman Holder asked Ms. Mathis to provide options for funding the project to update the aerial photography. Ms. Mathis stated that approximately half of the funds for the project (\$26,000) could come from the landfill sales proceeds and the balance could come from the FY 07 budget. After discussion, upon motion by Commissioner Brooks and second by Commissioner Williams, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the contract for updated aerial photography at the cost of \$56,000 with funding coming from the landfill sale proceeds and the general fund for 2007.

V. County Managers Report

1. Financial Report Ms. Mathis stated that due to a computer problem, the report would be completed by the next meeting.

2. Courthouse Project Ms. Mathis stated that there are several issues that may require Board action prior to the next meeting of the Board of Commissioners. Ms. Mathis distributed a summary of those items, including details of the Fire Marshall requirements. At present, these items make cost as much as \$42,000 and are not optional. Ms. Mathis stated that the architect is working with the Fire Marshall to minimize the expenses. Upon motion by Commissioner Williams and second by Commissioner Brooks, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously authorized the County Manager to approve the completion of work as required by the Fire Marshall in order to facilitate the completion of the project.

3. Conference Registration Ms. Mathis requested which commissioners would be participating in upcoming conferences.

IV. Visitor Comments

Chairman Holder opened the floor to visitor comments, none were received.

Upon motion by Commissioner Williams and second by Commissioner Brooks, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn meeting.