

Wilkinson County Commission
January 17, 2006

The Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 17, 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 and County Attorney Jon. The following visitors were present: Jonathan Jackson, Daniel Simpson, Leonard Owens Chairman Holder called upon Commissioner Brooks to give the invocation.

I. Approval of Minutes.

Chairman Holder presented the minutes of the January 3, 2006 meeting. Copies of the minutes were distributed prior to the meeting. Upon motion of Commissioner Williams and second by Commissioner Howell, 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 the environmental survey work is still being completed on Dent Road and Nichols Farmer Road. No report has been received on the timber cruise of the Oochee Creek Road projects.

2. County Surveyor Chairman Holder stated that Donny Brooks was not agreeable to the elimination of the position. Upon motion by Commissioner Brooks and second by Commissioner Williams, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously agreed to rescind the motion approved at the January 3 meeting on to recommend the elimination of the County Surveyor position.

3. Request from City of Gordon The City of Gordon previously requested assistance in the layout of the road in Hartford South. The Board of Commissioners unanimously agreed that the County could provide a motorgrader and an operator to cut the road, after the City had the road de-stumped.

IV. New Business

1. Beer and Wine License Renewal for 2006 Upon motion by Commissioner Gibson and second by Commissioner Howell, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the issuance of a Beer and Wine License for Off Premises consumption to Blanton's Place and for On-Premises Consumption to Chocolate City for 2006. The Board of Commissioners also directed that the license for Chocolate City would not be issued until all ad valorem taxes were paid.

2. Resolution on Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste Trust Fund Upon motion by Commissioner Williams and second by Commissioner Brooks, the following resolution was approved unanimously.

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WILKINSON COUNTY, GEORGIA EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR FULL FUNDING OF STATE AND LOCAL EFFORTS TO CLEANUP HAZARDOUS AND SOLID WASTE SITES, PROPERLY ADDRESS WASTE-RELATED ACTIVITIES, AND CONTROL EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION; TO STRONGLY URGE THAT ALL PROCEEDS GENERATED THROUGH STATUTORILY-DEDICATED FEES FOR CRITICAL STATE AND LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES BE APPROPRIATED ONLY TO THOSE USES FOR WHICH THE FUNDS WERE CREATED; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, in order to protect public health and the environment and enhance the quality of life for Georgians, state and local governments must properly control threats posed by hazardous and solid waste sites and activities, and sources of erosion and sedimentation; and

WHEREAS, Wilkinson County believes that effective and efficient cleanup of hazardous and solid waste sites and control of erosion and sedimentation relies on a cooperative approach between the state and local governments, utilizing established tools and funds designed for these purposes; and

WHEREAS, success in protecting public health and our environment, as well as improvements in the quality of life, are directly tied to adequate funding for cleanup of hazardous waste and solid waste sites, mitigation of waste-related activities, and erosion and sedimentation control programs; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the importance of these duties, state law establishes dedicated funding sources through fees and fines to assist in addressing hazardous and solid waste sites, waste-related activities, and erosion and sedimentation control; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly has substantially redirected these fees' proceeds for other uses in recent years, rendering state and local efforts to cleanup hazardous and solid waste sites, address waste-related activities, and control erosion and sedimentation significantly understaffed and unsatisfactorily funded; and

WHEREAS, the redirection of fee proceeds collected specifically for management of these critical environmental programs negatively impacts Georgia's communities, public health, and environment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Wilkinson County, Georgia as follows:

SECTION 1. The Board of Commissioners steadfastly supports the full utilization of all dedicated environmental revenues for state and local efforts to cleanup hazardous and solid waste sites, properly address waste-related activities, and control erosion and sedimentation.

SECTION 2. The Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the citizens of Wilkinson County strongly urges the Governor to recommend a budget that appropriates all proceeds generated through statutorily-dedicated fees for these critical environmental initiatives only to those uses for which the funds were set aside, and that the General Assembly's appropriations reflect such dedication.

SECTION 3. The Board of Commissioners urges that any future fees and funds collected for specific environmental programs be directed only to those purposes for which they are statutorily authorized.

SECTION 4. A copy of this resolution shall be provided to the Governor, each member of the Georgia General Assembly representing any portion of Wilkinson County, and to the Association County Commissioners of Georgia.

3. Vapor Extraction Unit Bids Chairman Holder stated that we received one bid from Greenleaf Environmental for the Soil Vapor Extraction Unit on the Hwy 57 site. The bid is for \$283,145.50, excluding the cost of the power to the property. Ms. Mathis stated we do not have a firm cost from Oconee EMC at this time. No action was taken.

4. Approval to establish Fall Line Regional Development Fund Account Upon motion by Commissioner Williams and second by Commissioner Brooks, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners authorized the establishment a savings account named Fall Line Development Fund to hold the \$200,000 in landfill sale proceeds that have been earmarked for the Fall Line Regional Development Authority.

5. Approval of Expense on Fall Line Regional Development Fund Upon motion by Commissioner Brooks and second by Commissioner Howell, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved expenditure not to exceed \$18,325 for one-half of the survey cost on the proposed land for the industrial park.

6. Resolution in support of Fair Annexation Upon motion by Commissioner Williams and second by Commissioner Howell, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, House Bill 962, the Fair Annexation Act, has been introduced in the 2006 session of the Georgia General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, said bill amends Chapter 36 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated relating to municipal annexation; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 962 would establish state policy regarding annexation and specifically stating legislative intent as recognizing that annexation is appropriate when cities are to provide services unavailable to unincorporated areas, but not when the primary purpose is raising revenue, particularly at the expense of unincorporated residents and school districts; and

WHEREAS, the bill also recognizes that, under current law, cities have near unilateral power to annex without considering the impact of annexation on county or school district revenues, on the delivery of services by the county or school district, on infrastructure investments made by the county or school district, or on the comprehensive plan adopted by the county and which reflects the desires and goals of the community; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 962 would level the playing field by vesting counties with the authority to influence the occurrence of annexation in those counties that are providing urban services and implementing zoning ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the bill will give counties and cities the opportunity to consider the impact of proposed annexations of the county, unincorporated citizens and school districts as a condition of municipal annexation being approved; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 962 will ensure that the county, unincorporated citizens and school districts will not be negatively affected by annexation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners does hereby recognize and agree that House Bill 962, the Fair Annexation Act, is in the best interest of all citizens of the county as well the county, school district and municipalities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners does hereby endorse House Bill 962, the Fair Annexation Act, and strongly urges the local delegation of Wilkinson County to actively support House Bill 962 and, furthermore, to urge their colleagues to pass the bill.

V. County Managers Report

1. Courthouse Project Ms. Mathis stated that work is progressing on the courthouse phase I. Ms. Mathis discussed the status of the current telephone system and the need for an upgrade to insure the operation of 911. Upon motion by Commissioner Brooks and second by Commissioner Williams, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved to upgrade the current Mitel system to the next generation of technology and to contract with Voice Solutions for the work. The cost of the telephone system upgrade is \$33,947.94.

IV. Visitor Comments

Chairman Holder opened the floor to visitor comments. Leonard Owens asked that the Board of Commissioners review the additional drainage from the Courthouse since the parking lot has been paved.

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