

Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners
January 16, 2007

The Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 16, 2007 at their office in the Courthouse. The following Commissioners were present: C. L. Brooks, Alfred Gibson, Dennis Holder, J.M. Howell and John Williams.

The following staff was present: County Manager Laura Mathis and Attorney Jon Helton on Hilbun and Helton. Visitors present: Dan Dixon, Joe McKenzie, Karen Nesbitt, Billy Matthews, Loesia Hodges, Lee Wall, Richard Chatman, Vickie Horne, Jonathan Jackson, Tommy Brown and Heath Bache.

Chairman Holder called upon Commissioner Brooks to give the invocation.

I. Approval of Minutes.

Chairman Holder presented the minutes of the January 2, 2007 meeting. Copies of the minutes were distributed prior to the meeting. Upon motion of Commissioner Williams and second by Commissioner Gibson, minutes were approved as presented.

II. Recognition of Visitors

Chairman Holder recognized and welcomed all visitors to the meeting. Chairman Holder called upon Vickie Horne to address the Board of Commissioners. Ms. Horne addressed the Board of Commissioners about applying for CDBG funds for housing since the County is eligible. Ms. Horne stated that she has addressed the board on this topic before and would like to see something done about the condition and availability of housing. Chairman Holder thanked Ms. Horne for her comments and stated that the Board was currently developing an application for a food bank building.

Chairman Holder called upon Joe McKenzie to address the Board. Mr. McKenzie of BASF presented a proposal to relocate a portion of the dirt road of Allgood Road to allow BASF to mine the kaolin. Upon motion by Commissioner Gibson and second by Commissioner Brooks, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the relocation of a portion of Allgood Road for a two year period and directed Ms. Mathis to execute a relocation agreement between Wilkinson County and BASF.

Chairman Holder called Sarah Dennard to address the Board of Commissioners. Ms. Dennard stated that contractors for DOT had entered her family's property on Hwy 57 and 18 without permission. Ms. Dennard outlined the notification she received and asked for assistance from the Board of Commissioners. Chairman Holder stated that since the property was on a state route, the Board of Commissioners was limited in what they could do. He did recommend that she contact Senator Brown, Representative Freeman and District Engineer Michael Thomas.

Chairman Holder called upon Dan Dixon to address the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Dixon serves as the Wilkinson County representative on the Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Mr. Dixon stated that the state is developing a comprehensive water conservation plan that will effect all areas of the state. Mr. Dixon suggested that the Board of Commissioners may want to learn more about the water planning process and he volunteered to coordinate a meeting of all

elected officials to learn more. Chairman Holder thanked Mr. Dixon for bringing this matter to the Board's attention and suggested that an awareness meeting be held.

III. Old Business

1. **Nichols Farmer Road** Ms. Mathis reported that the heavy rains over the past two weeks caused problems with the shoulders of the road, which were in the process of being stabilized. Additional work will continue.
2. **Davis Cemetery Road** Ms. Mathis stated that since WKA started hauling again the week of December 4, no complaints have been received.
3. **Oochee Creek Road** Ms. Mathis stated that she would work with the Attorney to complete right of way acquisition.
4. **Turkey Creek Convenience Center** Ms. Mathis stated that the scope of work has not been developed yet but will be done in the next month.
5. **Set Back Requirements** Ms. Mathis stated that she requested information from the Middle Georgia RDC but has not received it yet.
6. **Enforcement Officer** Commissioner Howell requested a work session the enforcement officer position.

IV. New Business

1. **2007 Beer and Wine License for Blanton's Place** Upon motion by Commissioner Brooks and second by Commissioner Howell, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the Beer and Wine License for Marjorie Blanton at Blanton's Place.
2. **Request for Capital Item** Several years ago, Cinda Bright, Clerk of Superior Court, and Ms. Mathis worked with the District Court Administrator to plan for an ELMO system in Courtroom A. ELMO is an acronym for a multi-media projector to display evidence on a plasma screen during court proceedings. During construction, the wiring was put in place and the necessary framing to support the system. However, ELMO has not been installed because funding was not available to purchase this expensive system. The new District Court Administrator Tripp Fitzner has identified a source of funds to purchase a \$10,000 digital board that can hook up to a number of electric devices. Ms. Bright has requested \$1,100 from SPLOST 2003 Construction to match these funds and purchase the ELMO system. Upon motion by Commissioner Williams and second by Commissioner Brooks, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the expenditure of \$1,100 from SPLOST 2003 Construction.
3. **Recreation Director** Ms. Mathis stated that the Recreation Board has recommended Renee Wilson for the position of Recreation Director. Upon motion by Commissioner Williams and second by Commissioner Gibson, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the hiring of Renee Wilson as Recreation Director.

4. Gordon Complex Ms. Mathis reported that a water leak has been discovered at the Gordon Complex at the concession building. In addition, Ms. Mathis reported that the ladies restrooms are in poor condition. Upon motion by Commissioner Brooks and second by Commissioner Gibson, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners authorized Ms. Mathis to solicit proposals to renovate the bathrooms and to correct the water problem.

5. Executive Session Chairman Holder stated that the Executive Session to discuss real estate acquisition was not needed.

V. County Manager Report

1. Recreation Grant Ms. Mathis reported that the Recreation Board applied for funding to train 49 coaches in the recreation program.

2. Entrepreneur Friendly Designation Ms. Mathis stated that the County will be recognized at the next OneGeorgia meeting in Warm Springs on January 30.

VI. Visitor Comments

Chairman Holder opened the floor to visitor comments. Ms. Nesbitt asked if it is possible that DOT would notify the County Commissioners when they are working on a project. Sheriff Chatman asked about the county property. Ms. Hodges asked about Joshua's Law.

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