

Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners  
January 2, 2007

The Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 2, 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: Anderson Ford, Faye Bullard.

Chairman Holder called upon Commissioner Howell to give the invocation.

I. Approval of Minutes.

Chairman Holder presented the minutes of the December 5, 2006 meeting. Copies of the minutes were distributed prior to the meeting. Upon motion of Commissioner Williams and second by Commissioner Brooks, minutes were approved as presented.

II. Recognition of Visitors

Chairman Holder recognized and welcomed all visitors to the meeting. Chairman Holder called upon Faye Bullard to address the Board of Commissioners. Ms. Bullard discussed the Early Start Initiative that is spearheaded by former First Lady Rosalyn Carter to make sure that children are ready for school by age two with the necessary immunizations and health screenings. Ms. Bullard stated that the program, which started in Bibb County, would like to expand to Wilkinson County as a rural county pilot project. The project would provide a nurse for one year to provide immunizations and health screenings for children ages zero to five at no cost to the County, cities or families. Family Connections is in support of the project and a proposal as been made to each of the cities. Upon motion by Commissioner Brooks and second by Commissioners Williams, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to support the Early Start Initiative for Wilkinson County. Chairman Holder thanked Ms. Bullard for her presentation.

III. Old Business

**1. Criswell Road** Chairman Holder asked Road Superintendent Ford to update the Commissioners on Criswell Road. Mr. Ford stated that over the holiday weekend, a report was received that heavy equipment was unloaded on Criswell Road and it was impassable. Upon inspection, Mr. Ford had crusher run put on the road. Mr. Ford reported that he spoke with Greg Hatfield from Imerys prior to coming to the meeting and that Imerys will be invoiced for the material and labor.

**2. 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.

**3. Davis Cemetery Road** Ms. Mathis stated that since WKA started hauling again the week of December 4, no complaints have been received.

**4. Oochee Creek Road** Ms. Mathis stated that she would work with the Attorney to complete right of way acquisition.

**5. Dent Road** Ms. Mathis stated that all right of way has been secured except CARBO Ceramics. Ms. Mathis stated that prior to the meeting, she met with Mr. Helton to address the CARBO's questions.

**6. 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.

#### IV. New Business

**1. Election of Vice Chair** Upon motion by Commissioner Williams and second by Commissioner Howell, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted Commissioner Brooks as Vice-Chair for 2007. Commissioner Brooks abstained from voting.

**2. County Attorney Contract** Chairman Holder stated that Mr. Helton's contract is up for renewal under the same terms and conditions. Upon motion by Commissioner Brooks and second by Commissioner Williams, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the contract with Jon F. Helton of Hilbun and Helton as County Attorney for 2007.

**3. Community Development Block Grant Application** Chairman Holder stated that with an April grant deadline, the Board of Commissioners need to decide if an application will be submitted, the proposed project, grant-writer and administrator. Commissioner Williams asked Mr. Helton about his research on the request from Mustard Seed Ministries. Mr. Helton stated that the Board of Commissioners could contract with any entity for a service to be provided to the citizens of Wilkinson County but that the County could not provide a building, land, or other item to any entity without proper compensation. The Board of Commissioners discussed possible grant projects and options for grant writing and administration. Upon motion by Commissioner Brooks and second by Commissioner Gibson the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the preparation of an application for a Community Development Block Grant by the Middle Georgia Regional Development Center for a community facility with food bank/ warehouse capacity and to contract with the RDC to administration of the grant if awarded.

**4. Amendment to the Defined Benefit Plan** A copy of the proposed amendment to the Defined Benefit Plan was distributed prior to the meeting. Upon motion by Commissioner Williams and second by Commissioner Brooks, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the proposed amendments to the Defined Benefit Plan to comply with federal law and Internal Revenue Service regulations.

**5. Gordon Health Clinic** Commissioner Williams, who serves on the Board of Health representing the Board of Commissioners, reported that due to two key staff vacancies, the Board of Health voted to reduce the days of operation of the Gordon Health clinic from two to one. Commissioner Williams discussed the difficulties of the Board of Health to fill nursing positions because of cutbacks from the state. After discussion, no action was taken. The Board of Health will meet again in March to review the status of the clinic.

**6. Implementation of Notice of Construction** Ms. Mathis stated that when the Board approved the Development Ordinance, it did not implement the notice of construction portion of the ordinance until public hearings could be held, notice in the paper and further action by the Board. The Board of Commissioners discussed the ordinance and requested that Ms. Mathis present the job description of the Enforcement Officer at the next meeting.

V. County Manager Report

**1. Georgia Academy of Economic Development** Material related to the Academy was distributed prior to the meeting. No Commissioners will apply for the 2007 class.

**2. Department of Transportation Status of Projects** Ms. Mathis provided an update on the DOT projects that have been shifted due to an increase in construction costs.

**3. County Property** Upon motion by Commissioner Williams and second by Commissioner Brooks, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the preparation of a request for proposals to have the timber harvested from the County's property on Hwy 57.

**4. Legislative Conference** Ms. Mathis stated that the ACCG Legislative Conference will be held February 6, 2006. The Board of Commissioners discussed their attendance at the conference.

VI. Visitor Comments

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

VII. Executive Session

Chairman Holder stated that the Board of Commissioners received a grievance from a former County employee that must be resolved by Saturday, January 6, 2007. Upon motion by Commissioner Brooks and second by Commissioner Williams, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

Upon motion by Commissioner Brooks and second by Commissioner Howell, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to exit Executive Session and re-enter regular session. Chairman Holder stated that no action was taken during the Executive Session.

Upon motion by Commissioner Brooks and second by Commissioner Williams, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to affirm the termination of Ira Horne.

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