

Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners  
February 20, 2007

The Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 20, 2007 at their office in the Courthouse. The following Commissioners were present: C. L. Brooks, Alfred Gibson, Dennis Holder, J.M. Howell. Commissioner John Williams was absent due to surgery.

The following staff was present: County Manager Laura Mathis and Attorney Jon Helton on Hilbun and Helton. Visitors present:

Chairman Holder called upon Commissioner Howell to give the invocation.

I. Approval of Minutes.

Chairman Holder presented the minutes of the January 16 and 29, 2007 meeting. Copies of the minutes were distributed prior to the meeting. Upon motion of Commissioner Brooks 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 Jimmy Ruddy to address the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Ruddy addressed the Board of Commissioners about Criswell Road and Imerys' intentions to use Macedonia Church Road as their haul route. Chairman Holder stated that Imerys had agreed to exit their mine on Macedonia Church Road and to pay for improvements to the road. However, Imerys just notified the Board of Commissioners that they can not afford the improvements to meet DOT heavy truck standards (estimated at \$122,000). A copy of the letter from Imerys was distributed prior to the meeting. Mr. Ruddy asked what the County could do to solve the problems of dust and speeding trucks. Upon motion by Commissioner Brooks and second by Commissioner Howell, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously to meet with Imerys and discuss the use Macedonia Church Road.

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 WKA started hauling again the week of December 4 and complaints have been received on the dust.
- 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 soil testing has been completed and we will develop the site plan based on the recommendations.

#### IV. New Business

**1. Hickman Road** Chairman Holder stated that there is some confusion about Hickman Road and whether it is a county road. Upon motion by Commissioner Brooks and second by Commissioner Gibson, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved Hickman Road as a County Road.

**2. Request for SPLOST Recreation Funds** A copy of the request was distributed prior to the meeting. The Wilkinson County Recreation Board recommends that SPLOST Recreation funds be used to light the football and soccer field at the Gordon/Wilkinson County Athletic Complex for the 2007 season. This request was presented to the City of Gordon in 2005 and no response has been received. Without lighting on these fields the use is limited, therefore practice and games for these organizations are being held on the outfields of the baseball and softball fields and potentially damaging those fields for baseball and softball use. Upon motion by Commissioner Brooks and second by Commissioner Howell, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the request for \$186,000 from SPLOST 2003 Recreation.

**3. Request to Rename a Field at the Gordon Athletic Complex** A copy of the request was distributed prior to the meeting. The Wilkinson County Baseball and Softball League and the Wilkinson County Recreation Board request to rename the T-ball field at the Gordon/Wilkinson County Athletic Complex in Gordon to "Richard's Field" in memory of Richard Durden. Mr. Durden was a very dedicated and long time volunteer to the baseball and softball organization. He has coached at the complex for approximately 11 years. He started coaching when his oldest daughter played T-ball. Richard was the manager of the 14U and 17U Girls State Champions, he also helped in many other areas. His wife Marie Durden has also coached at the complex many years, served on the board of the Wilkinson County Baseball and Softball League and the Wilkinson County Recreation Board. This has been a very long time and dedicated family to the organization. The Wilkinson County Baseball and Softball League would like to have this honor done on Opening Day of the baseball and softball season. Upon motion by Commissioner Brooks and second by Commissioner Gibson, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the renaming of the TBall field to Richard's Field in honor of Richard Durden.

**4. Request for SPLOST 2003 Public Safety** A copy of the request was distributed prior to the meeting. Ms. Mathis stated that the 2007 budget for SPLOST Public Safety includes \$33,000 for the in car video cameras as requested by Sheriff Chatman. Since the budget was approved, the Sheriff has learned of problems with the initial system and has received a proposal for a new system that includes more cameras. The revised cost is \$49,115, an increase of \$16,000. SPLOST Public Safety funds are available. In addition, the cars in the SPLOST budget have been purchased. However, the budget did not originally include the necessary equipment for the three patrol cars. The cost of this equipment is \$16,509. These expenditures still leave \$86,000 in SPLOST Public Safety that could be used during the upcoming fiscal year for capital

purchases. Upon motion by Commissioner Brooks and second by Commissioner Howell, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the additional \$30,509 in expenditures from SPLOST 2003 Public Safety.

**5. Solicitor** Sheriff Chatman made a request that the County consider hiring a solicitor / prosecutor for Probate Court, where traffic cases are handled. Many times defendants bring attorneys to court, particularly on DUI cases. Prosecution of the case is usually left to the Deputy or State Patrol Officer. Sheriff Chatman discussed the matter with Jon Helton. Mr. Helton stated that the services could be provided for a retainer or contract fee of \$1000 per month, or \$12,000 annually. Chairman Holder stated that the Board of Commissioners would review the request.

**6. Contract with the University of Georgia Extension Service** A copy of the contract was distributed prior to the meeting. Upon motion by Commissioner Brooks and second by Commissioner Howell, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the contract with the University of Georgia Extension Service.

**7. Hazardous Waste Trust Fund Application** Ms. Mathis stated that some expenses at the Hwy 57 site would be eligible for reimbursement from the Hazardous Waste Trust Fund. Upon motion by Commissioner Brooks and second by Commissioner Howell, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the submission of an application to the Hazardous Waste Trust Fund.

**8. Memorandum of Understanding with Mustard Seed Ministries** A copy of a draft agreement was distributed prior to the meeting. Mr. Helton suggested modifications to the agreement. Chairman Holder tabled any action on the agreement.

**9. Selection of Architect for CDBG Project** Ms. Mathis stated that two proposals were submitted for architectural services: SP Design Group and Brittain Thompson Bray Brown. Upon motion by Commissioner Brooks and second by Commissioner Gibson, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners selected Brittain Thompson Bray Brown for the CDBG project.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING ON CDBG APPLICATION**

Chairman Holder called to order a public hearing on the CDBG application for 2007. Chairman Holder stated that the County is preparing an application to the Department of Community Affairs for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). If awarded, the funds would be used to construct a food bank building. Chairman Holder opened the floor for comments. None were received. Chairman Holder closed the public hearing.

#### **V. County Manager Report**

**1. Retirement Contribution** Ms. Mathis stated that the County received the actuarial report from GebCorp on the Defined Benefit Plan. Our required contribution is \$200,155, which is about \$5,000 more than budget. However, we were under budget on the liability insurance and workers compensation insurance. No action is necessary at this time.

**2. Audit Report** A copy of the audit was distributed. Ms. Mathis stated that the audit would be presented at the March 6, 2007 work session.

**3. SPLOST Work Session** Ms. Mathis stated that Board of Commissioners needed to meet again on the SPLOST. A meeting was set.

VI. Visitor Comments

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

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