

Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners
March 20, 2007

The Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 20, 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 were: Jonathan Jackson, Jimmy Ruddy, Regina Ruddy, Clarence Cowart, Frank Bloodworth, Hazel Skaggs, Larry Skaggs, Billy and Corine Wilkes, Darrell Burns, Robert Jones, Gary Hargis, Charlotte Smith, Charles Smith, Renee Wilson, Jeff Dixon, Leonard Owens.

Chairman Holder called upon Commissioner Brooks to give the invocation.

I. Approval of Minutes.

Chairman Holder presented the minutes of the February 20, 2007 (as amended) and March 6, 2007 meetings. 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 Wendall Bloodworth to address the Board. Mr. Bloodworth, resident of Davis Cemetery Road, addressed the board regarding the WKA mine on Davis Cemetery Road. Mr. Bloodworth stated that the road is failing due to the truck traffic and that no one is accepting responsibility for the damage to the road. He also stated that the dust on the road is difficult to manage and that the trucks are speeding down the road. Commissioner Brooks inquired about the speed limit on the road. Ms. Mathis stated that it is 35 and 45 MPH. After discussion, upon motion by Commissioner Howell and second by Commissioner Gibson, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the reduction of the speed limit to 25 and 35 MPH and requested that the Sheriff assist in enforcing this speed limit.

Chairman Holder called upon Gary Hargis to address the Board. Mr. Hargis indicated that Mustard Seed needed a headquarters for their operation and that what is proposed for the CDBG project is just a food bank. Commissioner Brooks stated that the City of Ivey agreed to use the land for the project but limited the use of the property to a food bank only. Mr. Helton stated that the County could not use the grant funds to build a building for Mustard Seed Ministries as a headquarters; the building would have to be for a specific purpose. Commissioner Williams stated that the County was going to apply for the CDBG grant for other purposes and then Mustard Seed established a need for the food bank. He stated that the County abandoned the other project and pursued the food bank to help the community. Chairman Holder stated the County would like to see the food bank open for an average of 20 hours per week. Mr. Hargis stated that the food bank does not require that much time to operate. Chairman Holder that the

County would expect that Mustard Seed would operate under the same terms of agreement as the Service Center; including utilities. Several members of Mustard Seed indicated that they had not planned the cost of the utilities. After discussion, Chairman Holder asked Mr. Hargis if Mustard Seed was still interested in operating the food bank. Mr. Hargis and several members asked if they could meet again and let the Board of Commissioners know their decision.

III. Old Business

1. **Nichols Farmer Road** Ms. Mathis stated that permanent grassing should be completed in the next month.
 2. **Dent Road** Ms. Mathis stated that bids were received and action is on the agenda.
 3. **Oochee Creek Road** Ms. Mathis stated that there are 3 parcels where right of way is needed: one the Board voted to proceed with condemnation, one required title research and the final property involved the timber. Right of way acquisition should be complete in the next month.
 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.
 5. **Criswell Road** Chairman Holder called upon Mr. Helton to address the issues on Criswell Road. Mr. Helton stated that the County is looking at closing Criswell Road, which would direct the truck traffic on to Macedonia Church Road. However, before this is done, the County wants to establish a new ordinance with weight limits. Mr. Helton stated he is working on that ordinance at the present time.
 6. **CDBG Project** Ms. Mathis stated that the grant application is nearly complete and indicated that the County would need to add \$10,000 in cash to match the grant.
 7. **Brannen Vinson Cemetery** Chairman Holder stated that Mr. Helton, Ms. Mathis, Mr. Bo Loyd and himself met prior to the meeting to discuss ways that the County may be able to assist the Trustees in securing their parking.
 8. **Delinquent Mobile Homes** A copy of a report was distributed prior to the meeting.
- Commissioner Howell left the meeting at this time.
9. **Timber on County Property** A copy of the report was distributed prior to the meeting. Ms. Mathis stated that one portion of the property line is unclear and should be re-staked before the timber is sold. Upon motion by Commissioner Brooks and second by Commissioner Gibson, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the hiring of a surveyor to establish the property corner in question.
 10. **Gordon Complex Bathrooms** Bids were received for the renovation of the ladies restrooms at the Gordon Complex. Upon motion by Commissioner Brooks and second by

Commissioner Williams, the sole bid of \$43,391 was rejected and Ms. Mathis directed to explore other options.

11. Church Street/ City of Irwinton Ms. Mathis stated that the County could do some grading work on the County property along Church Street (the back of the Courthouse property) and that it may provide some relief to the flooding that occurs on Church Street. However, the City of Irwinton would still need to acquire drainage easements to do work on private property. Upon motion by Commissioner Williams and second by Commissioner Brooks, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners approved the work to be done.

12. Cable Franchise Agreement Ms. Mathis stated that at the last meeting, the Board of Commissioners approved a contract with John Howell to work on the franchise agreement with KLiP. Mr. Howell reviewed both of the franchise agreements, recommended a new agreement to KLiP, and found that with the new agreement, Alltel's agreement will change as well. Upon motion by Commissioner Brooks and second by Commissioner Williams, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the franchise agreement with KLiP and said agreement is made part of these minutes by attachment.

IV. New Business

1. Contract Award on Dent Road Chairman Holder stated that bids were received on Dent Road. The bids were: Reeves Construction: \$2,699,378; Peed Brothers \$2,948,807 and Middle Georgia Road Builders \$2,134,785. Upon motion by Commissioner Brooks and second by Commissioner Gibson the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the contract with Middle Georgia Road Builders for Dent Road subject to the notice to proceed from the Department of Transportation, bonds and insurance and the appropriate notice to EPD. In addition, Ms. Mathis stated that Dent Road will have to be closed to through traffic during part of the construction so that large culverts can be constructed.

2. Solicitor for Probate Court Chairman Holder stated that at a previous meeting, Mr. Helton and Sheriff Chatman discussed the need for a prosecutor in Probate Court to assist with traffic and other cases. In comparison with other counties, they range from \$500 to \$1000 per month. Upon motion by Commissioner Williams and second by Commissioner Brooks, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved an amendment to the FY 2007 budget to include \$1000 per month beginning April 1, 2007 for the services of County Attorney Jon Helton as Solicitor.

3. Fall Line Regional Development Authority Chairman Holder stated that The Georgia Forestry Commission has requested a second appraisal of the property that is to be purchased for the industrial park. The exact cost of this appraisal is unknown at this time; however, the funds that the Board has set aside for the project could be used for that purpose. In addition, as requested, a Committee of Wilkinson County and Baldwin County representatives have been discussing a proposed memorandum of agreement between the two counties for the Fall Line Regional Development Authority. Wilkinson County has been represented by Farrah Senn, Dennis Holder and Laura Mathis. Baldwin County has been represented by Angie Gheesling and Joan Minton. Jim Lovett with Georgia Power has assisted as well. We have reached a point

where we need to prepare a draft agreement for each County to review. Given this, the committee is recommending that Wilkinson County and Baldwin County's submit a technical assistance request to the RDC for assistance in writing this document. Kevin Brown, who assisted us with the CARBO agreement, is now the attorney for the RDC and would provide invaluable legal expertise to the agreement. Upon motion by Commissioner Williams and second by Commissioner Brooks, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the technical assistance request.

4. Fiscal Year 2006 Audit Upon motion by Commissioner Brooks and second by Commissioner Gibson, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the FY 2006 audit as presented at the March 6, 2007 work session.

VI. County Manager's Report

1. **ACCG Annual Conference** Ms. Mathis stated that the Board of Commissioners have been invited to participate in a tour of the Ports Authority on Friday, April 20.
2. **Meeting with the Auditor** Ms. Mathis reported that she and Chairman Holder met with Mark Hardison to discuss a new regulation that goes into effect with the current fiscal year end (9/30/2007).
3. **SPLOST Renewal** Ms. Mathis stated that the County had the required meeting with the cities on the new SPLOST and that the cities are requesting 55% of the proceeds of the SPLOST. The Board of Commissioners agreed to meet in a work session on Monday, March 27.
4. **LARP** Ms. Mathis reported that DOT selected Kennington Road and Fountain Road for LARP.
5. **Senior Center Meals** Ms. Mathis stated that the seniors are complaining about the quality of the food and that she has tested the food and found it to be unsatisfactory. The current provider has a contract through June 30. The Board authorized Ms. Mathis to solicit proposals for a food service provider.
6. **Resignation** Chairman Holder stated that the Board of Commissioners needed to vote on the resignation of County Manager Laura Mathis. Upon motion by Commissioner Brooks and second by Commissioner Gibson, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to accept the resignation of Ms. Mathis.

VII. Visitor Comments

Chairman Holder opened the floor to visitor comments; Jeff Dixon asked for an estimate on the utilities for the food bank building.

VIII. Executive Session

Chairman Holder stated that the Board of Commissioners needed to meet in executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Upon motion by Commissioner Brooks and second by Commissioner Gibson, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to enter executive session. Upon motion by Commissioner Williams and second by Commissioner Brooks, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to exit executive session. Chairman Holder stated that no action was taken during executive session and no action was necessary.

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