

Board of Commissioners Wilkinson County

MEMBERS OF BOARD:
MICHAEL GOTELL, Chairman
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JAMES HAGINS
PETE WILLIAMS
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COMMISSION MEETING
March 15, 2022
5:00 PM

The Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session at 5:00 pm on March 15, 2022 in Commission Chambers (because of the amount of constituents we moved the meeting to Courtroom A). The following Commissioners were present: Chairman Michael Gotell, Commissioner Glenn Kester, Commissioner James Hagins, Commissioner John Williams, Commissioner Pete Williams,

The following staff was present: County Manager Dennis Stroud, Lindsey Benefield Senior Account Tech 1, County Attorney DuBose Porter.

Broadcasted Live via Facebook.

Invocation

Chairman Gotell asked Commissioner John Williams to lead the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Pete Williams led the pledge.

Motion to amend the Agenda

Chairman Gotell entertained a motion to approve to amend the Agenda. Motion made by Commissioner James Hagins and seconded by Commissioner Glenn Kester to approve to amend the Agenda. Commissioner Glenn Kester voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Commissioner Pete Williams voted yes, and Chairman Gotell voted yes. Motion carried there were none opposed

Chairman Michael Gotell made a motion to amend the Agenda

- I. Motion to discuss promotions in the Sheriff's Office and reallocation of funds from vehicle auction.

Agenda

Chairman Gotell entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Motion made by Commissioner Glenn Kester and seconded by Commissioner John Williams to approve the agenda. Commissioner Glenn Kester voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Commissioner Pete Williams voted yes, and Chairman Gotell voted yes. Motion carried there were none opposed.

Minutes

Chairman Gotell entertained a motion to approve the Regular Session Minutes and the Executive Session Minutes of the March 15, 2022, meeting. Motion made by Commissioner James Hagins and seconded by Commissioner Pete Williams to approve the minutes of the Regular Session and Executive Session minutes Commissioner Glenn Kester voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Commissioner Pete Williams voted yes, and Chairman Gotell voted yes. Motion carried there were none opposed.

Visitors' Present

Tece Bloodworth, Royce Brewer, Tommy Brown, Karen Kester, Beverly Clark , Donna Asbell , Peter Anderson , Nancy Moon, Randy Moon, Kristen Pitts .

Recognition of Visitors / Presentations

Unfinished Business

- a. Chairman Michael Gotell discussed the pay per call policy for the fire department. County Manager Dennis Stroud discussed that it would be \$15 dollars per call and anything that exceeds above 3 hours would be \$25 dollars per call.

Chairman Gotell entertained a motion to approve the pay per call policy for the fire department. Motion made by Commissioner Pete Williams and seconded by Commissioner James Hagins to approve the pay per call policy for the fire department. Commissioner Glenn Kester voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Commissioner Pete Williams voted yes, and Chairman Gotell voted yes. Motion carried there were none opposed.

District Report

1. No Report
2. No Report
3. No Report

4. No Report

Chairman's Report:

- a. Chairman Michael Gotell stated that Baseball is still going on for recreation department.

County Managers Report:

- a. County Manager discussed how he has conducted the pre-bids and he has the bids back this morning. Cross Justice came in at 214,650, Wriley Road came back at 113,250, stating that he will be looking at the funds from the LMIG dollars to help with those projects. County Manager Dennis Stroud discussed that those are for repairs.
- b. County Manager Dennis Stroud stated that he also has gotten back two bids back to abate and demolish the old senior center. County Manager stated that they are leaning towards one more however he stated that he would like to see something in black and white and that happens at 4:30 today.
- c. County Manager Dennis Stroud also stated that in the next check register you will see a Pension Trust payment in the amount of \$294,498.00
- d. County Manager Dennis Stroud stated that that Pension payment will be on the next check register.
- e. County Manager Dennis Stroud stated also that the conference has already been spoken about for ACCG conference April 28th- May 1st in Savannah.
- f. County Manager Dennis Stroud also stated that he spoke with the coroner as well as the contractor. The contractor has agreed that this is his price \$18,000.00, and it does not require a deposit has been given the green light should take him about 5-6 weeks to get it here.
- g. County Manager Dennis Stroud also wanted to remind everyone that LOST Negotiations, we have to have something done by July 1st.
- h. County Manager Dennis Stroud discussed Gay Wood Company approximately 22 acres of timber for \$35,000.00. Chairman Michael Gotell stated that we are going to hold on that.
- i. County Manager Dennis Stroud also discussed how he reached out to Mayor of Irwinton and have not received payment and sent notification Feb 2022. Chairman Michael Gotell stated to continue with the plan and all agreed.
- j. County Manager Dennis Stroud also discussed the SPLOST payment for Jan \$106,029.98 to Feb \$58,234.55.
- k. County Manager Dennis Stroud discussed UGA Contract mentioned that it did not change very much but that it is a contract and wanted to get permission to continue that contract. Chairman Michael Gotell opened the floor for discussion on the subject.

Chairman Gotell entertained a motion to approve the UGA Contract. Motion made by Commissioner James Hagins and seconded by Commissioner Pete Williams to approve the UGA Contract. Commissioner Glenn Kester voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Commissioner Pete Williams voted yes, and Chairman Gotell voted yes. Motion carried there were none opposed

L. County Manager Dennis Stroud discussed how he had one last thing to bring up. County Manager Dennis Stroud stated that our SERT G contract that watches over our Fire wall it is time to renew and restructured current contract. County Manager Dennis Stroud stated that they have a new one that protects us from hacking. We've asked them to look at the current contract and add this hacking system along with our existing contract. County Manager Dennis Stroud mentioned that of course that existing contract will take us to about \$1,100.00 dollars a month and it may sound like allot however we are exposed.

Chairman Gotell entertained a motion to approve the SERT G Contract. Motion made by Commissioner James Hagins and seconded by Commissioner Pete Williams to approve the SERT G Contract. Commissioner Glenn Kester voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Commissioner Pete Williams voted yes, and Chairman Gotell voted yes. Motion carried there were none opposed

M. Chairman Michael Gotell opened up a discussion to Sheriff Chatman to discuss promotions in the Sheriff's Office and reallocation of funds from vehicle auction. Sheriff Chatman stated that he asked to be put on the agenda because they had an officer the other week past two weeks ago in reference to the patrol cars that we had asked you all to set aside a surplus and they bought about \$10,500 sale over in Macon. Sheriff Chatman stated that his purpose of being there was to ask if that money could be supplemented back to his budget. Sheriff Chatman stated that it has been done in the past. Sheriff Chatman also discussed the issue of trespassing at the convince centers, he stated that they have had a number of calls to assist with people at specific locations of trespassing because of a disagreement. Sheriff Chatman stated that there were some words exchanged the question was proposed however as to what was he charged for as well as what reasons he was banned. Sheriff Chatman also stated if the person gets banned what is the recourse does the person have. Sheriff Chatman asked are they banned indefinitely? Sherriff Chatman stated that they didn't write a situation or anything like that, they were just told to trespass the person off the premises. Chairman Michael Gotell asked County Attorney Dubose Porter what his opinion is on the matter. County Attorney Dubose Porter stated essentially that there needs to be procedures in place for occurrences like this, stating something needs to be done so that there is an appeal process for your rights to be there. Commissioner John Williams proposed the questions about what do we do in regards to transit if there is an occurrence similar to the same situation. Sheriff Chatman stated that in the past they have removed people in those situations because they are clearly acting out of sorts and wrote a citation. Commissioner John Williams stated that there has to be some type of procedure in place. Chairman Michael Gotell stated that that is the recommendation from County Attorney Dubose Porter. Chairman Michael Gotell stated that for this situation we are going to have to learn and move forward from it, right now we are exposed and we need to get on it as soon as possible and take care of employees. Sheriff Chatman stated that the attorney for this particular case brought up some good questions as far as his due process. County Attorney Dubose Porter stated that the cameras would help as far as evidence in the case but you still have to have some type of citation of some kind that prevents them from coming back to that site that process

needs to be more formalized. Chairman Michael Gotell stated that there unfortunately is nothing really to enforce because nothing was done legally and we definitely need to strengthen that policy as soon as possible. Commissioner John Williams proposed the question of what we would do if there was misconduct at the ballfield at a game, we are getting into a lot with all of these public places. Sheriff Chatman stated that sometimes by the time a representative from the Sherriff's Office gets there sometimes the other party is already gone. Sheriff Chatman also stated that he has been working with local government risk management services to try to listen in terms of appointing people to supervisory positions. Sheriff Chatman stated that Natalie Sellers is going to be working with Chief Deputy Bache I will be out of work and the responsibilities will fall to Deputy Bache in my absence. Sherriff Chatman stated that she will be working with the Sheriff's Office on some recommendations, what we are trying to do is put people in positions. Sherriff Chatman stated that we have a young man that's been with us he says he's gone in July it is hard to find someone to work as a deputy for what we pay them, even in the jail. Sherriff Chatman stated that I had a young lady who was with me for 15 years and she left and went on to other things, we are not the only one's who are facing this. Sheriff Chatman stated that some other Sheriff Department's are down upwards of 15 deputies. Sheriff Chatman stated that as long as the money is in our budget that he will be sending over those promotions we have some people that we are trying to move up. Chairman Michael Gotell asked if these promotions were performance based. Sheriff Chatman stated that yes, they are performance-based promotions. Sheriff Chatman stated that some individuals who are coming into the Lieutenant position are making less money as a Lieutenant as opposed to when they were working on the road, and you can't ask someone to assume those extra responsibilities and then not compensate them stating that he will get those documents over.

Chairman Gotell entertained a motion to approve the funds to be allocated back to the Sheriff's Department budget. Motion made by Commissioner James Hagins and seconded by Commissioner John Williams to approve the funds to be allocated back to the Sheriff's Department budget. Commissioner Glenn Kester voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Commissioner Pete Williams voted yes, and Chairman Gotell voted yes. Motion carried there were none opposed.

Comments from the Public:

Donna Asbell what was the total amount of the allocation that the county would be putting a cap on for the firefighters? Donna Asbell asked not per call but total how do you put it in your budget, are you going to spend \$30,000, \$20,000, or \$10,000. Donna Asbell asked what's the total? Chairman Michael Gotell stated we put \$8,000.00. Donna Asbell asked how many firefighters? Chairman Michael Gotell asked EMA Director Emma Bacon if she knew around how many we had in the county she mentioned around 100. Chairman Michael Gotell stated that it is going to be per call and that we are going to see how it works stated that we are taking baby steps a little move forward. Donna Asbell asked didn't we do \$10,000 in the past? Chairman Michael Gotell stated that we haven't messed with nothing that we already had in place. Tece Bloodworth asked so your saying \$8,000.00 is what your allocating to them and you're not going to take away

from what they already have? Chairman Michael Gotell stated we already we are going to continue to give what we have been giving and we added that \$8,000.00. Tece Bloodworth asked and that's already in the budget that you guys approved. Chairman Michael Gotell stated we approved the budget already. Commissioner John Williams mentioned that he's not sure what she was mentioning about the \$10,000.00. Tece Bloodworth mentioned that Mrs. Asbell made a comment about the \$10,000.00 that they have done in the past. Commissioner John Williams stated that it hasn't went per call, this will be a new program. Commissioner Glenn Kester stated that this is sperate. Donna Asbell stated that one does not replace the other. Commissioner John Williams stated no ma'am. Chairman Michael Gotell stated we've been giving the city's money and then we came up with the pay per call, we just felt like since the city fire department helps each other the city and the county we bring everyone in the loop. Donna Asbell asked does it go directly to the cities or does it go to the fire department? Chairman Michael Gotell stated it goes to person per call. Donna Asbell asked the \$1,000 to the cities does it go to the cities or does it go to the fire departments budget? County Manager Dennis Stroud clarified that it goes to the cities. Donna Asbell asked so you write a check to the cities for X amount of dollars to compensate and then they can push it down the line.

Motion made by Commissioner John Williams to enter into Executive Session for real estate and personnel, Seconded by Commissioner Glenn Kester, no opposes

Motion made to exit Executive Session, Commissioner John Williams seconded by Glenn Kester

Motion to amend the addendum for the six-thousand-dollar payment to contractor for DOT trailer.

Adjournment

Moved by Commissioner Pete Williams and seconded by Commissioner Glenn Kester to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Glenn Kester voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Commissioner Pete Williams voted yes, Chairman Michael Gotell voted yes. Motion carried there were none opposed.

Notice to Visitors

The Board of Commissioners welcomes you to our meeting. We ask that you do not talk during the meeting to allow us to hear all discussion between Commissioners. If you would like to be placed on the agenda, please contact the Board of Commissioners Office at 946-2236 no later than the Thursday prior to meeting.