

# Board of Commissioners Wilkinson County

MEMBERS OF BOARD:  
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PETE WILLIAMS  
JOHN WILLIAMS

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COMMISSION MEETING  
April 19, 2022  
5:00 PM

The Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session at 5:00 PM on April 19, 2022 in Commission Chambers. The following Commissioners were present: Chairman Michael Gotell, Commissioner James Hagins, Commissioner Pete Williams, and Commissioner John Williams. Commissioner Glenn Kester was not present.

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

Broadcasted Live via Facebook. A call-in phone number had also been installed for public attendance. (978) 990-5000 code 180826,

## Invocation

Chairman Gotell asked Commissioner Pete Williams to lead the invocation.

## Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Gotell asked Commissioner Glenn Kester to lead the pledge.

## Agenda

Chairman Gotell entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Motion made by Commissioner James Hagins and seconded by Commissioner John Williams to approve the agenda Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Commissioner John Williams 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 April 5, 2022, meeting. Motion made by Commissioner Pete Williams and seconded by Commissioner James Hagins to approve the Regular Session Minutes and the Executive Session Minutes of April 5, 2022 with amendment to Page 2 second paragraph to correct the spelling on the word rescind, as well as on page 3 about the holiday instead of saying "other than Georgia" it "includes Georgia" and corrected the number of states as 49. Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Commissioner John Williams voted yes, Commissioner Pete Williams voted yes, and Chairman Gotell voted yes. Motion carried there were none opposed.

## Visitors' Present

### Recognition of Visitors / Presentations

- a. Dr. Aaron Geter to discuss SPLOST was not present.
- b. Wes Bancroft- request to construct a 235 cell tower with Verizon as the anchor tenant. Wes Bancroft presented the commissioners with handouts. Chairman Gotell entertained a motion to approve the request to construct a 235 cell tower with Verizon as the anchor tenant. Motion made by Commissioner James Hagins and seconded by Commissioner John Williams to approve the agenda. Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Commissioner John Williams voted yes, Commissioner Pete Williams voted yes, and Chairman Gotell voted yes. Motion carried there were none opposed.

### Unfinished Business

Motion to discuss and approve adding (June 19<sup>th</sup>) Juneteenth to the Wilkinson County Holiday Schedule- Commissioner John Williams. The commissioners discussed their opinions on making June 19<sup>th</sup> a holiday. Chairman Gotell entertained a motion to approve adding June 19<sup>th</sup> Juneteenth to the Wilkinson County Holiday Schedule starting in the year of 2022. Motion made by Commissioner John Williams and seconded by Commissioner James Hagins to approve adding June 19<sup>th</sup> to the Wilkinson County Holiday Schedule starting in 2022. Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Commissioner John Williams voted yes, Commissioner Pete Williams voted yes, and Chairman Gotell voted yes. Motion carried there were none opposed.

- a. Motion to discuss Anthem's proposed rate increase of 19%. The board discussed wanting to hear presentations from two different entities before they make their decision on which to go with.

### Commissioner's District Report

1. Nothing to Report
2. Nothing to Report
3. Nothing to report
4. Nothing to report

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Michael Gotell discussed how the rules have changed on COVID relief money. Chairman Michael Gotell stated that we have got to get to work, mentioned that the money is there to serve the community. Chairman Michael Gotell discussed his idea of allotting around 50 thousand dollars to each district to choose projects in their districts. Chairman Michael Gotell mentioned that he is still asking the commission to agree with me on that to go ahead and work that project he mentioned that he knows that every district has something that needs to be done. Commissioner John Williams asked how much have we already spent. County Manager Dennis Stroud stated a rough guess would be around 500 thousand left. Commissioner John Williams suggested to meet again and go over the details. Chairman Michael Gotell stated that we don't need to sit on the money. Chairman Michael Gotell stated to get the true numbers so we can go ahead and start working.

County Managers Report:

- a. Special Cash Distribution of 26,471.00. County Manager mentioned that we got that money back from the pool money.
- b. Expedite bridge post. County Manager Dennis Stroud discussed how about how the contractors are already working but stated that he can only do so much that they are about 6-8 weeks discussed how the contractor stated to pay them 3 to 4 thousand dollars to expedite the post. County Manager Dennis Stroud stated that it could be an extra 4 thousand maybe even 5 but he mentioned he does not have it in black and white. Commissioner Pete Williams stated that he does not have a problem with that because it's been a major inconvenience. The board discussed how everyone felt and the board agreed to go forward.
- c. Library Window installation approximately May 11, 2022. County Manager Dennis Stroud stated that they received their windows about 3 weeks out estimate from the contractor.
- d. Check Register
- e. Financial Update May 3, 2022, after regular meeting. County Manager Dennis Stroud stated that they plan to give a financial update after their regular meeting on May 3, 2022.

Comments from the Public:

- a. Beverly Clark asked about the Library Pavilion and County Manager stated that by next week. County Manager also stated that a pad would be placed.
- b. Mr. Wilson discussed how law enforcement almost ran over him the other day. Mentioned it was around long bridge stating it was dangerous.
- c. Wilkinson County Elections Supervisor Kristen Pitts mentioned that Gordon McIntyre Road is bad also. She also asked about how the process

of getting a cell tower approved would go. County Manager Dennis Stroud stated that he could discuss that with her for more details.

### Executive Session

Motion made by Commissioner Glenn Kester to enter into executive session to discuss personnel matters, real estate, and pending litigation. Motion seconded by Commissioner John Williams. Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Chairman Michael Gotell voted yes, Commissioner Pete Williams voted yes, Commissioner John Williams. voted yes. Motion carries there were none opposed.

Motion to exit Executive Session made by Commissioner Glenn Kester. Seconded by Commissioner John Williams, Commissioner Hagins voted yes, Chairman Gotell voted yes, Commissioner Pete Williams voted yes and Commissioner John Williams. voted yes. Motion carries there were none opposed.

No Action Taken.

### Adjournment

Moved by Commissioner James Hagins and seconded by Commissioner Pete Williams to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Hagins voted yes, Chairman Gotell voted yes, Commissioner Pete Williams voted yes, and Commissioner John Williams 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.