Board of Commissioners
Wilkinson County

MEMBERS OF BOARD:
MICHAEL GOTELL, Chairman
GLENN KESTER
JAMES HAGINS
PETE WILLIAMS
JOHN WILLIAMS

PO BOX 161
IRWINTON GA 31042
(478) 946-2236
FAX 946-3767

DENNIS STROUD, County Manager
DUBOSE PORTER, County Attorney

E-mail:
bdofcomm@wilkinsoncounty.net
Website: www.wilkinsoncounty.net

COMMISSION MEETING
May 3, 2022
9:00 AM

The Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session at 9:00 AM on May 3,2022 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.

Invocation

Chairman Gotell asked Commissioner John Williams to lead the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Gotell asked Commissioner James Hagins to lead the pledge.

Agenda

Motion to amend the agenda to add item 1 Motion to discuss the Fire Department Pay Per Call Policy- EMA Director Emma Bacon, and Item 2 Motion to discuss the replacement of the Cascade System- EMA Director Emma Bacon. Motion made by Commissioner Pete Williams and seconded by Commissioner John Williams to approve the amendment to add item 1 and 2. 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.

Chairman Gotell entertained a motion to approve the agenda with the amendment. Motion made by Commissioner John Williams 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 19,2022, meeting. Motion made by Commissioner John Williams and seconded by Commissioner James Hagins to approve the Regular Session Minutes and the Executive Session Minutes of April 19,2022. 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.

Visitors' Present

Natalie Whipple Underwood, Tece Bloodworth, Wendell Bloodworth, Beverly Clark, Emma Bacon, Pat Topping, Donna Asbell, and Ulysses B. Wilson.

Recognition of Visitors / Presentations

Unfinished Business

EMA Director Emma Bacon discussed item two first and discussed the Cascade System and how it needs major repairs as this point. She discussed how there has been much patch work on the system and how we need a new system. Commissioner John Williams asked EMA Director Emma Bacon if the company she was looking at for replacing the system was the only company or procurement protocol asked about other quotes. EMA Director Emma Bacon discussed how she has used this company in the past she can trust this company as well as it is the best that she can find for the best price.

EMA Director Emma Bacon also discussed how she would like the Board's signature on the pay per call policy showing a signature that shows the county will pay per call.

Commissioner's District Report

1. Commissioner Glenn Kester discussed how the contractor should be repairing the dam in Ivey this week or next week.
2. Commissioner James Hagins discussed how the traffic has slowed down on Asbell Road.
3. Commissioner Pete Williams asked for an update on the bridges. County Manager Dennis Stroud given authorization for the change order to expedite the needed poles.
4. Commissioner John Williams discussed the solar lights at the trash collection points. There was a discussion about possibly upgrading the solar lights and how the lights are mounted.

Chairman's Report:
Chairman Michael Gotell discussed the recreation department in regards to the baseball and t-ball team. Commissioner James Hagins mentioned that there are about 24 on the T-Ball team. Chairman Michael Gotell mentioned to please support them.

County Managers Report:
a. County Manager Dennis Stroud discussed the Safety Grant that is around $2500.00 and discussed the ways that it's possible to spend the funds like public works.
b. County Manager Dennis Stroud stated that the Gazebo is about 4 weeks out and said that Saturday the contractor is scheduled to demolish the old building.
c. County Manager Dennis Stroud gave an update on the bridge progress.
d. Commissioner John Williams asked about the Senior Citizens building. County Manager Dennis Stroud mentioned that they are closing bids for demolition.

Comments from the Public:
a. Mayor Joyce Denson discussed about Firemen responding to calls in the city/ county and she was wondering if a fireman in the city would have to go grab a county vehicle to respond to the call. County Manager Dennis Stroud that they will be addressing that and trying to fix the policy.
b. Beverly Clark discussed illegal dumping. Chairman Michael Gotell discussed how they have given out around 4 citations and they have cameras at the dump site.
c. Donna Asbell asked what the contractors name was. County Manager stated that it is Goldstone General Contractor Inc.
d. Wendell Bloodworth discussed the need to fast track the discussion about firefighters and firetrucks as well as machine air tanks and getting those updated. Chairman Michael Gotell stated to move money around.
e. Matt Fowler discussed how the items discussed need to be priority. Tece Bloodworth asked if the decision for the items discussed for the firefighters would be approved publicly and if the money would be disclosed. The board responded and said yes it would be discussed publicly. Commissioner John Williams asked if the systems were to break tonight would there be a plan to take into action. EMA Director Emma Bacon responded that Wilkinson County would have to ask other counties for assistance essentially and rely on the kindness of the other counties for assistance.

Executive Session

Motion made by Commissioner John Williams to enter into executive session to discuss pending litigation. Motion seconded by Commissioner James Hagins. 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 John Williams. Seconded by Commissioner James Hagins, 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 John 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.