Board of Commissioners
Wilkinson County

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COMMISSION MEETING
April 1, 2025

The Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session at 9:00 AM. The following Commissioners were present: Chairman Anthony Bentley, Commissioner Flint Shepherd, Commissioner James Hagins, Commissioner Robert Dame, and Commissioner Anderson Ford.

The following staff was present: Senior Account Tech 2 Rakita Sinkfield, County Manager Tracy Strange, Senior Account Tech 1 Lindsey Benefield and County Attorney Benjamin Vaughn

Broadcasted Live via Facebook.

Invocation

Chairman Anthony Bentley asked Commissioner Anderson Ford to lead the invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Anthony Bentley asked Commissioner Robert Dame to lead the pledge

Agenda

Chairman Anthony Bentley entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Motion made by Commissioner Anderson Ford and second by Commissioner Flint Shepherd to approve the agenda. Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Commissioner Robert Dame voted yes, Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.

Minutes

Chairman Anthony Bentley entertained a motion to approve the Regular Session minutes from March 4,2025 and Work Session Meeting Minutes for March 18,2025. Motion made by Commissioner Robert Dame and second by Commissioner Anderson Ford. Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Commissioner Robert Dame voted yes, Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.

Visitors' Present

Ulysses B. Wilson, Dusty Thomas, Kevin Ford, Jonathan Snow, Graham Thompson, Kelly Chatman, and Marty Dominy.

Recognition of Visitors / Presentations

- Gabriel Outlaw with the Georgia Forestry Commission spoke to the board and introduced himself. He also gave numbers and statistics for Wilkinson County with the forestry.
- Elections Superintendent Kelly Chatman discussed about the consolidation of the High Hill and Griffin voting precincts. She talked about the shortage of poll workers in Wilkinson County. She discussed the process of where the voters would now report to for voting with the consolidation.

Old Business

New Business

a. The board discussed a possible shooting range for the sheriff's office. They discussed how to generate funds in order to build the structure that would be needed for a shooting range by timber being sold. They discussed how things would move forward.

Commissioner's District Report

1. Commissioner Flint Shepherd said that the Banana Pudding Festival had a good turnout. He also reminded everyone about the Balls Ferry Duck Race coming up.
2. Nothing to report
3. Commissioner Robert Dame talked about how Road Superintendent Charlie Palm has been busy filling up pot holes on roads.
4. Commissioner Anderson Ford talked about how bushes on Harland Day and Wriley Road that needed to be cut. Commissioner James Hagins stated that there are some trees in the ditches of roads that also need to be cut.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Anthony talked more about the shooting range and the ideas he had.

County Managers Report:

County Manager Tracy Strange reminded everyone of the Macon Bacon night on June 27th, 2025. She also talked about a letter she received for a request for another appointment for the EMS advisory council Tommy Brown is currently on. She said to let her know names so that she can add them to the Agenda. County Attorney Benjamin Vaughn talked about the DOT engineer decided that the maintenance that was previously requested by them for the county will no longer be needed.

Comments from the Public

EMA Director Chris Landrum talked about how they have 1 spare fire truck, and how one is still needed to have enough to maintain the county. He discussed how one of the vehicles had some safety issues and needed a replacement. The board discussed taking that truck with safety issues out of commission and replacing it with a new one.

Chairman Anthony Bentley entertained a motion to approve the purchase of a new fire truck. Motion made by Commissioner Anderson Ford and second by Commissioner Flint Shepherd to approve the purchase of a new fire truck. Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Commissioner Robert Dame voted yes, Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.

Marty Dominy discussed replacing a witness marker that is near his land. The board said they would get with Road Superintendent Charlie Palm to get that looked at.

Executive Session

Motion made by Commissioner Anderson Ford to enter executive session to discuss personnel. Motion seconded by Commissioner Flint Shepherd. Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Chairman Anthony Bentley voted yes, Commissioner Robert Dame voted yes, Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes, and Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion to exit Executive Session made by Commissioner Flint Shepherd. Seconded by Commissioner James Hagins. Commissioner Hagins voted yes, Chairman Anthony Bentley voted yes, Commissioner Robert Dame voted yes and Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes, Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition. No action taken.

Adjournment

Chairman Anthony Bentley asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Commissioner Flint Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner James Hagins to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Hagins voted yes, Vice Chairman Flint Shepherd voted yes, and Commissioner Robert Dame voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.

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.