

Board of Commissioners Wilkinson County

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WORK SESSION
January 19, 2016
4:00 PM

The Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners met in a Work Session at 4:00 PM on January 19, 2016 at their office in the Courthouse. The following Commissioners were present: Chairman Mark DuPree, Commissioner C.L. Brooks, Commissioner J. M. Howell, and Commissioner John Williams.

The following staff was present: County Manager David Franks.

Visitors: Dr. Jean Sumner Associate Dean for Rural Health Mercer University School of Medicine, Sam Stephenson with Georgia Partnership for Telehealth, Carla Belcher with FQHC, Bill Cheek with Heartland EMS, Michael Johnson with Heartland EMS.

Chairman DuPree opened the Meeting by asking Dr. Sumner to address the Board. Dr. Sumner explained to the Board that she was trying to promote a new system designed to enhance Medical care for rural areas. The system is designed to provide basic care in your county and support emergency transport when appropriate. This has been accomplished by using telemedicine and working with local providers such as your ambulance service and Federally Qualified Community Health Center. At that point Dr. Sumner asked Sam Stephenson with Georgia Partnership for Telehealth to explain to the Board how the system works. Due to the lack of internet service M. Stephenson could not actually do a demonstration, however he showed the Board the equipment and explained the concept. The equipment could actually be taken into a home and a doctor could be accessed online. The ambulance would be the hot spot; there was actually a camera inside the ambulance for communication. The main purpose is to bring care to rural areas and to cut down on transports that were borderline.

Chairman Dupree adjourned the meeting.