

**GENERAL PRESENTMENTS OF THE
LIBERTY COUNTY GRAND JURY
FEBRUARY TERM 2006**

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|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Mosley, John F. | Foreperson |
| Mingledorff, Frederick W. III | Asst. Foreperson |
| Martin, Linda W. | Clerk |
| Pitts, Beverly L. | Asst. Clerk |
| Carreras, Luis | |
| Clifton, Tommie Jean | |
| George, Bessie M. | |
| Gonzales, Alfred M. | |
| Holland, Woodard D. | |
| Johnson, Charles E. | |
| Jones, Charlie L. | |
| Montoya, Mary Ruth | |
| Porter, Barbara A. | |
| Reyes, Maria E. | |
| Robertson, Yoko | |
| Schmidt, Stephen A. Jr. | |
| Spires, Sandra H. | |
| Steele, Bryan E. | |
| Stewart, Wayne C. | |
| Walthour, James A. | |
| Ward, Griselda | |
| Williams, Dozier Dwight | |

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FILED
LIBERTY COUNTY
CLERK OF COURT
JULY 2 10 10 10 10 10

Business Conducted

• **Cases and Results**

61 Cases Returned as True Bills
1 Case Returned as No Bill

The Grand Jury received a memo from Mr. F. Barry Wilkes, Clerk of the Courts, that the terms of two members of the Liberty County Board of Equalization had expired. The Grand Jury reappointed Mr. Joseph Caligiure as a regular member and Mr. Pablo LaSalle, Jr. as alternate number two.

The Grand Jury invited Mr. Joey Brown, Liberty County Administrator, and Ms Kim McGlothlin, Finance manager, to make a presentation on the status of Liberty County. Mr. Brown's presentation included the upgrades to the Jail, the new Justice Center, construction and improvements of Liberty County roads, the East End Annex and it's intended usage. Mr. Brown discussed the Liberty County Planning Commission and the progress that is occurring regarding the utilization of the County's resources. At the present, Mr. Brown stated that there

are numerous concerns before the County Commission, i.e. Water & Sewer, Housing, Education, and each issue is to be examined and plans will be developed that will address the concerns and solutions.

REPORT FROM THE COUNTY JAIL COMMITTEE

On Wednesday, April 12, 2006, nine members of the Grand Jury's County Jail Committee met at the Liberty County Jail at 9:00 am. The jail was found to be managed efficiently, and safely. Management continues to look for avenues to cut down on tax payers costs wherever possible while still meeting the needs of all inmates.

The committee was first greeted by Chief Deputy Keith Moran. After a short briefing, Chief Moran introduced the committee to the County Jail Administrator, Mr. Franks and Captain Duncan, the Assistant Jail Administrator who would conduct the rest of the tour.

During the briefing Chief Deputy Moran informed the committee members that the jail's capacity was set for 250 inmates and at the present time the jail was housing 200 inmates. He was very enthusiastic about the new County Work Release Program, which was to become fully operational on April 17, 2006. There are only two other programs such as this in the State of Georgia. This program would allow 40 inmates who are jailed for non-violent crimes to go out and work on their own reconnaissance with minimal custody. We were briefed on the procedures and protocols of the program. The question was raised on the success rate of such a program. With much optimism the committee was told that the expectation for success from this program was at a 50% rate. The Grand Jury commented on the fact that it was an excellent program and their recommendation is that it should be given ample time to succeed, especially since in the beginning it would experience growing pains.

Mr. Franks and Capt. Duncan took over the tour from this point. The first stop for the committee was the Sally Port. This is where all inmates are first brought into the facility to begin their in-processing. They are patted down, their information processed, and fingerprints taken. We were shown the holding tanks where they are placed and the state of the art computerized fingerprinting & database system used for fingerprinting. This computer makes it possible to obtain files not only from the GBI but also the FBI. The computer can also fingerprint electronically and accurately. This very sophisticated computer was purchased with grant money. Other law enforcement agencies from the surrounding areas visited the County Jail to use the system. The Grand Jury remarked that the other law enforcement agencies would also benefit in purchasing such a system.

Mr. Franks then took us to the new In-House Court Room that would be used in the near future. This court room would allow for inmates to appear in court via teleconferencing without having to be transported downtown to the main court house. This would not only reduce cost on transportation and the manpower needed to transport, but also security would significantly be improved since minimal risk would be involved. The Grand Jury remarked that the concept was great and recommended that anything that was needed to complete the project should be pursued and implemented as soon as possible.

The next stop was the business office. The Committee was impressed on how much work and effort the staff provides in the normal conduct of the daily business and the extensive use of checks and balances to ensure the accuracy of all transactions.

Mr. Franks stated to the Committee that he made a recommendation to include in this year's budget funds to secure the following; 3 additional correction officers, 1 maintenance worker, 2 additional deputies, 1 house security, 1 canine, and a new lawn mower tractor.

A tour of the kitchen was next. The committee commended the kitchen staff on their hard work which was demonstrated by scoring a near-perfect score of 99 during the recent food service inspection. Special thanks should be given to Ms. Brenda Campbell, the kitchen supervisor.

After looking at the Control Room we toured the nurse's station. The county spends estimated \$200,000.00 on medical costs. Inmates are charged a very small fee for sick call and medicines. All medical and dental needs are met for each inmate in the facility.

The committee proceeded to the pods where the inmates are housed. An expansion span has been planned for the construction of additional pods in the future. This Grand Jury County Jail Committee found no discrepancies during the tour of the Liberty County Jail.

A suggestion was made by The Grand Jury that an intervention program be implemented with the Liberty County School System which would allow High School students to be taken on a tour of the County Jail facility. The goal would be to let the students see the other side of a criminal's life. Perhaps a view of reality would curtail thoughts against committing crimes.

The committee concluded that the jail staff is doing an excellent job in curtailing expenses for the county taxpayers and at the same time making sure that the health and welfare of the inmates are being met. The committee commends those who have spent a great deal of time and effort in making the Liberty County Jail a state of the art facility. The Jail was found to be exceptionally clean in all areas, including the floors.

COMMITTEE INSPECTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Clerk of Courts

Review of the Clerk of Courts' offices and interview with Mr. Barry Wilkes was completed on Friday, July 28, 2006. Mr. Wilkes was very informative and helpful in clarifying the role of the clerk's office. It is clear from this review that integrity and competence are core ingredients in the Liberty County Clerk of Courts office.

Mr. Wilkes' staff is to be commended for their efforts in dealing with a very heavy workload. While having a staff half the size of comparable counties, Mr. Wilkes' creation of work role redundancies is an extremely valuable tool. These redundancies help workers fill in for one another in the case of absences. The tremendous workload handled with the modest number of staff is a compliment to Mr. Wilkes and his staff.

Mr. Wilkes' integrity is clearly demonstrated in the realm of fiscal responsibility. Every effort is being made to ensure that all fiscal matters are handled with care. Staff members ensure that the utmost effort is taken in the daily collection and safe storage of monies. Mr. Wilkes has saved the taxpayers thousands of dollars with the use of cutting edge software utilized for jury pool selection and maintenance. This software expedites the jury selection process and was obtained at a substantially reduced price. Thousands of dollars were saved with the purchase of smaller, less expensive deed books while not sacrificing quality.

Mr. Wilkes' creation of the Clerks of Courts Cooperative has established a helpful tool for equipment purchase and upgrade. This cooperative has allowed the new equipment to be purchased through the collection of traffic fines instead of taxpayer dollars. This cooperative has been utilized in several counties for many years with great success.

Perhaps the most resounding endorsement of Mr. Wilkes' office is the virtual nonexistence of staff turnover. Staff loyalty and morale is at a very high level. Most employees have been with the office for at least eight to ten years.

One challenge confronting the Clerk's office is the lack of space. As Liberty County's population continues to increase, the workload of this office will increase. It is apparent that the office will run out of space in the near future. Moving to the new Criminal Justice Building should alleviate the problem, but space should be allowed for future growth.

RECOMMENDATIONS

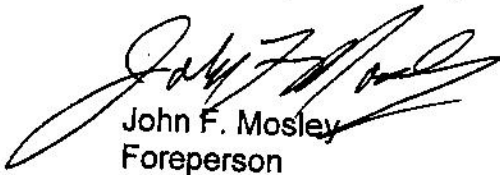
- Readdress the issue of security in the courthouse regarding individuals entering the building and the security of offices receiving daily monies, such as the tag office.
- Training for all security personnel.
- Carefully consider the assignment of offices in the new Criminal Justice Building. Ensure expeditious delivery of services and security by locating only those offices having direct relationship with the criminal justice system in the new building.

The Liberty County Grand Jury extends its thanks to Mr. Barry Wilkes, the Office of the Clerk of the Courts, Mr. Tom Durden, District Attorney, Sheriff Don Martin, Chief Deputy Keith Moran, the Deputies of the Liberty County Jail and all others in assisting the Grand Jury in the performance of its duties.

Attachments:

Probate Court Financials

Respectfully submitted,

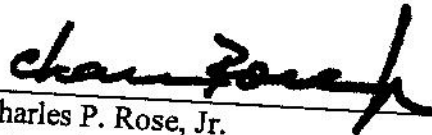


John F. Mosley
Foreperson

**ORDER FOR FILING AND PUBLICATION OF GRAND JURY
PRESENTMENTS**

The above and foregoing presentments of the Grand Jury for the February Term, 2006,
of the Superior Court of Liberty County having been presented to the Court, it is hereby
ordered that said presentments shall be filed by the Clerk of Superior Court and published
in the legal organ of said county in the manner provided by law for legal advertisements.

So ordered on this 31st day of August, 2006



Charles P. Rose, Jr.
Judge of Superior Court,
Atlantic Judicial Circuit of Georgia

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FILED
CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT
LIBERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA
JUL 20 2006