MINUTES

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting in Room 108 of the Spalding County Annex on Monday, February 5, 2018, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman Raymond Ray presiding. Commissioners Donald Hawbaker, Rita Johnson, Gwen Flowers-Taylor and Bart Miller were present. Also present were County Manager, William P. Wilson Jr. and County Attorney, Jim Fortune. Mr. Wilson recorded the minutes.

I. OPENING (CALL TO ORDER) by Chairman Raymond Ray.

II. INVOCATION led by Commissioner Rita Johnson.

III. PLEDGE TO FLAG led by Commissioner Donald Hawbaker, District #5.

IV. APPOINTMENTS

1. Lift from the table an appointment to the Spalding County Library Board of Trustees:

   (a) To succeed John Groth for a four year term to expire 12/31/2021.

   **Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to lift from the table an appointment to the Spalding County Library Board of Trustees to succeed John Groth for a four year term to expire on December 31, 2021. Motion carried unanimously by all.**

   William Wilson, County Manager, advised that Barbara Patterson, of 115 Dahlia Drive has been a volunteer at the Griffin-Spalding Regional Library for six years and has expressed her desire to be appointed to this Board.

   **Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Miller to appoint Barbara Patterson to the Spalding County Library Board of Trustees. Motion carried unanimously by all.**

2. Consider appointment to the Spalding County Board of Health to fill the unexpired term of Teresa Buchanan to expire December 31, 2022. This position represents the "Consumer or an advocate for consumers of health services."

   Mr. Wilson stated that there are three nominations: Mildred Stull, 508 Birdie Road (January 19, 2018) by Commissioner Rita Johnson, Katherine Lindgren, 1119 Satilla Court (February 4, 2018) by Commissioner Donald Hawbaker and Anita Pryor, 2814 Apt. B Arthur K. Bolton Parkway (February 5, 2018).

   Chairman Ray stated that we would go by the date the nomination was received as is traditionally done.

   **Ms. Mildred Stull is the first one for considerations all those in favor of Ms. Stull please raise your hand. Vote 3-2 (Flowers-Taylor/Hawbaker)**

3. Consider appointment of Chairman or designee to the Atlanta Regional Commission for calendar year 2018.

   Mr. Wilson stated that we have special provisions from the Atlanta Regional Commission that allows us to appoint someone other than the Chairman to the Atlanta Regional Commission should the current sitting Chairman choose not to attend. Commissioner Hawbaker has been attending these meetings on behalf of Spalding County and has expressed his desire to continue in this appointment.

   **Chairman Ray designated Commissioner Donald Hawbaker as**
Spalding County’s representative on the Atlanta Regional Commission.

V. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS


Miller Edwards, Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC, stated that copies of the Comprehensive Financial Report (CAFR) and the Auditors Discussion & Analysis were presented to the Board. These documents recognize that Spalding County has had sixteen (16) CAFR’s that have been awarded the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting by the GFOA. Which represents that Spalding County goes above and beyond the standards required by the State of Georgia.

Mr. Edwards advised that the CAFR is broken up into sections: Introductory Section up front, then the Auditor’s Report, the Management Discussion and Analysis, the Financial Statements then the footnotes and supplementary information and internal controls.

Mr. Edwards then recommended if the Board did not look at anything else in the report that they review pages 4-13 which is the Management Discussion and Analysis. He stated that these pages will give the Board a good understanding of what happened over the past year in Spalding County all summarized in layman’s terms.

Mr. Edwards then covered the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances. He added that the revenues on property taxes did not come in like they would like to have seen them and therefore those revenues will have to be included on next year’s CAFR. The county needs to see what can be done to get revenues closer to the projects. Mr. Edwards stated that the County actually came out under budget on the expenditures. This shows accountability and responsibility on the County’s part. In this case, we didn’t have the revenues, but we also didn’t spend the expected expenditures, which is a good thing. Overall, all of the expenditures by department came in under budget, there were a couple of areas with a slight over spend in the area, but by in large all of the major categories came in under budget.

Mr. Edwards then advised that under the footnotes is a section for abated property taxes there is approximately $500,000 in abated property taxes in Spalding County. That is not a high number compared to other counties of this size.

Mr. Edwards stated that there are no findings, we found no breakdown in internal controls that we felt were significant enough that he needed to heighten them to make the Board aware of them as far as a finding. From their standpoint, this audit was very clean.

Mr. Edwards then asked the Board to turn to page 14 of the Auditor’s Discussion & Analysis and they had three recommendations:

(1) Maintenance of General Ledgers for Funds by the Magistrate and Probate Courts;

(2) Old Outstanding Checks (at the Clerk of Court’s office there is a check over 5 years old in the amount of $40,000) they strongly recommend that someone dive into this and recommend what needs to be done relative to this unclaimed property.

(3) The last being the Clerk of Court Software Conversion Problems, what we had was a situation where there was not adequate training, there was not adequate “taking responsibility” of the new software and how to implement it. Coupled with a lack of leadership. He thinks this has been resolved at this point. There were no other recommendations to be made.

VI. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
1. Consider approval of financial statements for the six months ended December 31, 2017.  

Jinna Garrison, Administrative Services Director, stated she would be happy to answer any questions the Board may have regarding the Financial Statements.  

**Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Miller to approve the financial statements for the six months ended December 31, 2017. Motion carried unanimously by all.**

VII. CITIZEN COMMENT

Speakers must sign up prior to the meeting and provide their names, addresses and topic in which they will speak on. Speakers must direct all comments to the Board only. Speakers will be allotted three (3) minutes to speak on their chosen topics and relate to matters pertinent to the jurisdiction of the Board of the Commissioners. No questions will be asked by any of the commissioners during citizen comments. Outbursts from the audience will not be tolerated. Common courtesy and civility are expected at all times during the meeting.

No one signed up to speak.

VIII. MINUTES -

1. Consider approval of minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting on January 8, 2018, the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Special Called Meeting on January 22, 2018, Spalding County Board of Commissioners Closed Session on January 22, 2018 and the Board of Commissioners Special Called Meeting on January 26, 2018.  

**Motion/Second by Johnson/Hawbaker to approve the minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting on January 8, 2018, the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Special Called Meeting on January 22, 2018, Spalding County Board of Commissioners Closed Session on January 22, 2018 and the Board of Commissioners Special Called Meeting on January 26, 2018.**

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked about the meeting where we asked about the Board of Elections, she didn’t see how that was left.

Chairman Ray advised that we tabled the item and ask that the request be sent to the Board of Elections for their recommendation.  

**Motion carried unanimously by all.**

IX. CONSENT AGENDA – None.

X. OLD BUSINESS –

1. Lift from the table a discussion regarding a request to introduce legislation to clarify supervision of the position of Elections Supervisor.  

**Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson not to lift this item from the table. Motion carried 3-2 (Hawbaker/Ray).**

XI. NEW BUSINESS -

1. Consider purchase of new Self Contained Breathing Apparatus for the Spalding County Fire Department from FireLine, Inc. in the amount of $382,064.00.  

Mr. Wilson stated that in August of 2017, we were awarded a Firefighters Assistance Grant in the amount of $421,150 to purchase self-contained breathing apparatus. We put out bids for the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and are recommending purchase from FireLine, Inc. in the amount of $382,064.  

**Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to approve the purchase of new Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for the Spalding County Fire Department from FireLine, Inc. in the amount of $382,064.00.**

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked how this was budgeted, if it was a SPLOST
Mr. Wilson advised that this was a grant only, we applied for the grant and there is a match. Total cost is $382,000, County's share is 10% or $38,000. We came in under budget, so the County's share will be $38,000 and we budget $50,000 annually in the Fire District for grant matches.

Motion carried unanimously by all.

2. Consider implementation of a Training Reimbursement Agreement for outside training provided by Spalding County to employees that will allow reimbursement of training costs should the employee end their employment with Spalding County within 24 months of completion of training.

Mr. Wilson advised that this was discussed at the retreat. There are two items on the Agenda this evening one of the agreements is for Firefighters and the other is for “other employees.” The purpose of these agreements are to reimburse the County should that employee leave the County within 24 months of their initial employment. We spend a lot of money training individuals whether they are firefighters, sheriff’s deputies or correction officers in the first 9 to 12 months of their time with Spalding County and we are having problems in the Fire Department and in the Sheriff’s Department. As an Elected Official, Sheriff Dix has implemented this agreement in his department and it has cut down on people leaving that department. This agreement is for any employee of the County other than Fire Department.

Mr. Wilson stated that the next agreement is for the firefighters as we have a number of firefighters to come to work for Spalding County and then leave right after their training to go to work for someone else.

Chairman Ray stated that the purpose of these agreements is to save money for Spalding County and Spalding County citizens. As Mr. Wilson stated, we are training law enforcement, we are training firefighters and other people within Spalding County Government. We get them trained, we pay to get them certified and then we lose them, in some cases that is $19,000 in training and equipment to an individual and then they turn around and walk out the door. This is an opportunity for us to recoup that money or keep them as employees long enough to where we recoup the cost of training that individual.

James Fortune, County Attorney, stated that Item #2 that the Board is considering right now and Item #3 are very similar. Item #3 with the fire training reimbursement agreement has if they voluntarily terminate, if they quit their job and move on, they owe us the money. He would suggest that we add to Item #2 that if they voluntarily terminate their employment or if they are terminated for cause because that is in the fire training reimbursement agreement. He would like to see that in both of the agreements.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she too has some concerns over the document and someone being fired and being relieved of their responsibility to reimburse their training costs. There is also some language that she feels is redundant and confusing.

Wendy Law, Human Resources Director, stated what was in the regular agreement on page 2, number 2.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then read this section: “In the event the employee voluntarily terminates his or her employment within 24 months following the date of completion, employee agrees to reimburse Spalding County for the costs of training incurred by Spalding County as determined by the schedule below:”
Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that in the Fire Department a firefighter has to train for almost nine months to get their certification, if someone tries to leave in the first month they should have to pay us all of our money back. She feels it should be 100% for the first year and then it should be graduated after that period of time. There isn’t a non-compete clause that states they can’t get their training in Spalding County and then drive to Fayette County and get a job. In the medical profession if you leave one organization you have to sign a non-compete clause that prohibits your working within a 50 mile radius from the location.

Mr. Fortune advised that non-compete can be done in the private sector; however, non-compete cannot be done in the public sector, but you can have the reimbursement scheduled to where if they do leave, it is going to cost them.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she feels the employees need to understand that they absolutely need to stay a minimum of 12 months if we are going to spend the money to train them.

Consensus of the Board was to make the change to 1-12 months reimbursement at 100%

Motion/Second by Hawbaker the employment agreements in Items #2 and #3 with the modifications to the general agreement made by Mr. Fortune to includes termination for cause and that the sliding scale be adjusted to 100% reimbursement if termination occurs either voluntary or for cause within the first year of employment, months 13-18 would be 50% reimbursement and months 19-24 would be 25%.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then asked that Commissioner Hawbaker rescind his motion as she has more questions.

Commissioner Hawbaker rescinded his motion.

On the main document #3 is where Mr. Fortune referred to “…this agreement shall terminate in 24 months following the date of completion of training, or if Spalding County terminates employee’s employment.” She feels that it needs to state: “…or Spalding Count terminates employee’s employment and if the employee is fired.”

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated in the paragraph below the reimbursement schedule, “…the training cost incurred will include: but not be limited to registration fees, transportation to and from the training site, food lodging salary and/or wages for any time spend by employee traveling to and from the training…”

Ms. Law stated that we need to remove traveling to and from the training as we do not reimburse for travel time; however, we do reimburse for mileage.

Motion/Second by Ray/Johnson to table Item #2 until such time as it is revised and ready to be presented to the Board. Motion carried unanimously by all.

Chairman Ray asked if there were any changes needed to this agreement.
Ms. Law responded that she didn’t believe there would be any changes as on this one we had already inserted “for cause”; however, we will make the changes if the Board agrees on the reimbursement schedule.

**Motion/second by Johnson/Miller to approve the Fire Training reimbursement agreement with changes to reimbursement schedule for month 1-12 at 100%, months 13-18 at 75% and months 19--24 at 25%. Motion carried unanimously by all.**

4. Consider approval on first reading an Ordinance establishing a 25 MPH speed limit on Coe Drive.

Mr. Wilson stated that we received complaints from residents in the area and we asked the Sheriff to make a recommendation and they recommended 25 MPH.

**Motion/Second by Flower-Taylor/Miller to approve on first reading an Ordinance establishing a 25 MPH speed limit on Coe Drive. Motion carried unanimously by all.**

5. Consider approval of New Concept Plan and Revised Final Construction Plans Proposal from Falcon Design Consultants for realignment of Intersection #3.

Mr. Wilson stated that the new design moves the intersection away from the Hammond Property as we were asked to do. Falcon’s design fee is $19,000 to draw up the new plan. We do have a GTIB (Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank) Grant for over $900,000 toward the project. GTIB will allow us to change the scope of the project to move it to the east once we get all of the plans updated by Falcon.

Mr. Wilson stated that this review and request is for Falcon Design Consultants to approve the plans and documents necessary for the grant application, then we will begin the process of acquiring right of way.

Commissioner Johnson asked if there was a deadline for submitting the information for the Grant.

Mr. Wilson advised that we need to have the project under construction during calendar 2018 or we will lose the Grant.

**Motion/Second by Johnson/Flowers-Taylor to approve the New Concept Plan and Revised Final Construction Plans Proposal from Falcon Design Consultants in the amount of $19,000 for realignment of Intersection #3.**

Commissioner Miller then asked how much this change would increase the cost of this project.

Mr. Wilson advised that the realignment should actually decrease the total cost of the project. $1,229,055 is the revised estimate, the original cost was $1,366,185.

Mr. Wilson then reminded the Board that the right of way acquisition costs are based upon Tax Assessors value of the property and that value was significantly exceeded at Intersection #2 because the properties contained active businesses that had to be compensated for loss of business etc.
Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked how the value of the property to be acquired would be determined.

Mr. Wilson advised that a current appraisal of the property would be done by an independent appraiser, not the Tax Assessors Office. It is all part of the acquisition costs.

**Motion carried unanimously by all.**

6. Consider recommendation from Park and Recreation Advisory Commission to approve the fund-raising proposal by the Leadership Griffin+Spalding class of 2018 to construct a Dog Park on Carver Road property.

Mr. Wilson stated that T.J. Imberger, Parks, Public Grounds and Public Works Director, would give a broad overview of the project. What is being requested is concept approval for this park facility, should the Leadership Griffin+Spalding Class be successful in raising the funds, final design would come back before the Board.

Chairman Ray asked if we were considering a fund raising proposal or an overall concept proposal.

Mr. Wilson advised that the Board would have to approve the concept of the Dog Park and then approve the Leadership Griffin+Spalding Class to move forward with a fund raiser to see if they can acquire the necessary funding to complete the project.

**Motion/Second by Ray/Hawbaker to amend the Agenda to add Concept Proposal and Fund Raising Proposal to Item #6. Motion carried unanimously by all.**

Mr. Imberger then stated that there are also several supporting documents included in the Agenda package. This evening the proposal for the fund raising comes to you from the Griffin+Spalding Leadership Classes. They are asking to be allowed to raise funds for the Dog Park on the Carver Road property. Also, present this evening Reese Simmons who is the Parks & Leisure Services Advisory Commission Chair, Katherine Fields, Representing the Leadership Groups and Spalding County Collaborative Chairperson, Ms. Regina Abbot along with several members from the classes.

Mr. Imberger then advised that the Carver Road property is slated for construction of a restroom and parking lot through the 2018 approved Impact Fee Funds for the first phase of park development in that area.

In the Fall of 2017, the Archways Program came to the Parks, Public Grounds and Leisure Services Department asking for a project for UGA Engineering students in Athens. This park was one of the projects submitted and was accepted for their concept design. Currently, Archways and the UGA students are working on concept designs for this facility.

In December, 2017 the Leadership Group came to Parks & Leisure Services wanting to do something for the community. They got the idea of a Dog Park from a group of individuals who spoke to them. The previous Leadership Class actually designed some concepts for a Dog Park somewhere in Griffin based on the need of not currently having one. At that time, staff walked the group
through the process they would need to take to be able to raise funds, which included: putting together a committee, going before the advisory commission and ultimately coming before the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Imberger then stated that before we looked at a location to recommend, we reviewed our 2008 Master Plan which is included in the supporting documents attached to the agenda item. We then determined that a dog park would be a good idea for the Carver Road area. The group then took that to the Parks & Leisure Services Advisory Commission last month for their approval. At that meeting it was recommended for approval and for presentation to the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Miller asked how many acres were in the tract of land on Carver Road.

Mr. Imberger advised there was about 30 acres in that parcel. He then stated that this tract of land is serviced by all of the utilities, including sewer. We are looking at using only the portion that is closest to the road, essentially a couple of acres. Mr. Imberger stated that this area formerly housed a pen and barn area where animal control used to house larger animals.

The property has been looked at in the past, at one time for the Senior Center. When testing was done on the top of the hill on the property, it did not lend itself to construction of a large building, we ran into several areas or rock that would not allow us to dig foundations. The front of the property seems to be better for more natural construction. This would be a long term project with walking trails and pavilions and possibly practice soccer fields in the future.

Commissioner Johnson stated that the Board is looking at Concept and Fund Raising, is there a time line that is being looked at as to when the money would be raised.

Mr. Imberger stated that in the attached documentation, the group has given an example of their proposal for fund raising. He believes their intent would be to start immediately. Their initial goal would be $20,000. The only portion they would be raising money for is the actual Dog Park portion. We think for the $20,000 they can construct two areas: one would be for small dogs and one would be for larger dogs. If they were to raise more than $20,000 it could go for a third area which would be agility. Their intent is to raise funds for the dog usage areas.

Mr. Imberger advised that they have met with Brent Foster, Animal Control Supervisor, and he is in support of this project. Mr. Foster would be working directly with Kelly Leger to develop the usage of the facility and the guidelines for usage.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she looked at the concept when this was presented to the Park & Rec Advisory Commission meeting and she thinks it is kind of cruel to plan to put a Dog Park right next to where the shelter is where dogs are “in jail.” Maybe it is convenient for people to walk around on that side, but if you really want to utilize that area, you are basically cutting off an entryway. If you have 30 acres that you want to make into a park, this should be an entryway into the area and if parking is going to be on the right and then along the stream to the right.

After discussion, it was determined that the property in question is located approximately one mile from the current Animal Shelter.

**Motion/Second by Johnson/Ray to approve recommendation from Park and Recreation Advisory Commission to approve the fundraising proposal by the Leadership Griffin+Spalding Class of 2018 to construct a Dog Park on Carver Road property. Motion**
7. Consider Resolution supporting the application for FY2018 CDBG funds to be applied toward sewer improvements in the Dundee Mills target area.

Mr. Wilson stated that previously the Board had authorized Allen Smith Consulting to work with the Water Authority for a 2018 Community Development Block Grant. This is a Resolution of support that is needed when the application is made. Applications are due in March 2018 and this the County’s commitment to the project. All costs associated with this project are borne by the Water Authority.

*Motion/Second by Ray/Miller to approve a Resolution supporting the application for FY2018 CDBG funds to be applied toward sewer improvements in the Dundee Mills target area. Motion carried unanimously by all.*

8. Consider approval of FY 2019 Budget Calendar.

Mr. Wilson stated that this is the standard Budget Calendar, it starts with the February 23 request from Department Heads and Elected Officials and end on June 30. He asked that the Board pay particular attention to May 1-3, please mark your calendars 9:00 a.m. until, is when we will review with the Board of Commissioners the budget.

Commissioner Johnson asked when the Board would be returning from the ACCG.

Commissioner Ray advised that the Board would be returning on May 1.

Mr. Wilson then asked what week the Board would like to conduct the Budget Review and he would make it fit.

Consensus of the Board is to conduct the Budget Review on April 23, 24 and 25 prior to leaving for the ACCG from 9:00 a.m. until.

*Motion/Second by Ray/Johnson to approve the FY2019 Budget Calendar with a change to the Budget Review to April 23, 24 and 25th.*

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked what direction would be given to the Department Heads to assist the Board in getting to where we need to be.

Chairman Ray then asked Mr. Wilson to compile a list of instructions being given to the Department Heads and forward it to the Board.

*Motion carried unanimously by all.*

**XII. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER**


Mr. Wilson advised for December 2017 SPLOST revenues for December were up from last year. As you know we budget $700,000 per month for SPLOST revenues, for the month of December it was $877,242.02, last year it was $871,000 so it is up. Our 21 month average for collections is $716,629 so we are about $16,000 per month ahead of projections.


Mr. Wilson stated that the 2017 Spalding County Government Accomplishments
were reviewed at the Retreat and since that time, the Sheriff’s Department asked that we include some of their accomplishments as well: Implemented a Body One Camera System, Instituted a Standard Operating Procedures Manual, Increased Training Hours from an average of 55 to an average of 101, Implemented a Drone Program, Implemented Power DMS (a computer program where you can put out memos and notices to all employees and when they log on, they acknowledge that they have read and understand the memo), Hired a Certification and Accreditation Manager, Establishment of an Office Of Professional Standards and they increased their hiring process to include the Employment Agreement that was discussed earlier tonight. There are over two pages of accomplishments which will be provided to the News Media and everyone.

3. Nominations for the Bain Proctor Award for Volunteerism are open and will be accepted through February 28, 2018.

A press release has been issued and there are certain qualifications that must be met and you have any questions you can contact Kelly Leger in the Leisure Services Department.

4. Update on status of old correctional building received from Georgia Department of Corrections.

The County acquired both the RYDC near Public Works and what was called the Probation Office or Diversion Center across from the Sheriff’s Department. Since that time, he asked Terry Tardy, Chad Jacobs, Eric Mallard and representatives from DSP2 to go out and inspect the property. Depending on what uses DSP2 would like for that facility, it will require some architectural engineering. Currently these are industrialized buildings and there are ingress and egress concerns, engineering for moving and remodeling needs to be done depending on what they want to use it for, and it may or may not be economically feasible to renovate.

At the time, it was mentioned by DSP2, they thought the County would renovate those buildings for their use. That is the first time that Mr. Wilson had heard of that and we don’t have any funds budgeted to do anything like that. He was wondering if that was the Board’s intentions or if that was just wishful thinking on DSP2’s part. We will need some additional instruction on that from the Board.

The buildings may be feasible for some uses, but there is mold in several of the units, there are also electrical problems in some of them and general degradation of the building as a whole. Until DSP2 has a definitive plan for what they want to use the building for along with architectural plans a decision on economic feasibility cannot be made.

XIII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Bart Miller

• Wanted to thank Public Works, he has had a number of calls over the last few months regarding dirt roads, he is hoping we will have some dry weather because they haven’t been able to do anything because of all the rain, but he does appreciate everything that Public Works is trying to do.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor

• She would like to know the status of the agreement with the Housing Authority. She stated that she is sure their “drop dead” date has come and she is really disappointed with the fact that we let this “fall through the cracks.” The last she saw anything was the 28th of December and at that time we still had some issues.

She can’t help but wonder if this was any other quasi-governmental entity would be really dragging our feet to get this arrangement made. Because she feels that whatever the people thought of the Housing Authority in Spalding County, it’s not that any longer. They’re about market rate housing, you can’t live there
unless you’ve got income. You have to keep your stuff straight, it is environmentally constructed.
She doesn’t know if it is reluctance on our Board or with our management in trying to secure what we need to do to make this partnership work with the Housing Authority. She would really like more input on that and on the arrangements for the agreement we have trying to get with the Housing Authority to have a liaison. We really need to move on that.

- She stated that she is troubled because she doesn’t know enough about the Budget to call out numbers especially collections to fund the things we want to fund in 2019. She really needs to know better how we can, as commissioners, help to tighten this up. We are at a crucial point with our employees and the other responsibilities that we have and she doesn’t think it is acceptable for a budget to be that far off. She hopes that some of the other commissioners will join her in taking a much deeper look at where money was and wasn’t spent so that they can determine where they can move money around.
- She also would like to suggest to the Sheriff’s Department that when they put their budget in they take a close look at arranging manpower so that you can free up money to come up with whatever the number is. Making sure that every bit that counts can get kicked in will make a difference.

Chairman Ray added that in response to Commissioner Flowers-Taylor’s first item Mr. Fortune would like to comment.

Mr. Fortune stated that the agreement with the Salvation Army concerning the Park where we just “ground to a halt” was they kept coming back wanting the County to indemnify them and Mr. Fortune explained to them that we couldn’t do that. We never indemnify anyone, it is unconstitutional. After Mr. Fortune advised this, the Salvation Army’s attorney asked that we grant them Sovereign Immunity, which makes no sense at all. We can’t grant anyone Sovereign Immunity. Mr. Fortune advised that if they were going to insist on indemnification we can’t go forward and evidently they took it to their Board and that is the last we have heard.

Commissioner Rita Johnson

- Commissioner Johnson asked if the County was open for Presidents Day. Mr. Wilson advised that the County is open for Presidents Day.
- She really enjoyed the County retreat this past weekend. Thanked the board members and staff who attended and Mr. Gordon Maner from UGS. She feels we got somethings accomplished; however, with the upcoming budget we have a lot more hard decisions to make.
- She is looking forward to the Archways Intergovernmental Retreat this week as we work in collaboration with the City, County and School Board and other entities to once again figure out how to move this County forward.

Commissioner Donald Hawbaker

- Stated that he is also looking forward to the Archways Retreat.
- He stated that he was glad that Chief Deputy Thomason and Dr. Philip Smith in the helicopter with him survived that crash.

Chairman Raymond Ray

- Asked that Mr. Wilson and Mr. Fortune get together with the appointed Clerk of Court and see what can be done about that $40,000 check and get that “cleaned up.”

Mr. Fortune stated that if we have had it more than five years these funds escheat an old common law principle, it goes to the State.
• Outstanding effort by the Elected Officials, County Manager, Department Heads and Directors on the budget for last year. As you heard, we saved over $900,000 that went into the fund balance and ladies and gentlemen we could not have done that without everyone coming together and doing the right thing. That includes the Sheriff, the Judges, the Probate Court, the Magistrate Court, the Clerk of Court, Mr. Wilson, the Department Heads, it took everyone coming together to get that done, so he would like to express his sincere appreciation on this accomplishment.

• Board Members, please provide Mr. Wilson with point of contact information for church leaders from your districts so that we can have different church leaders throughout the community come in and do the invocation for the meetings. We need to get this done quickly.

• Again, he wanted to follow up on the comment regarding the Retreat. We basically had a day and a half. We had a day here listening to different options on retirement for our public safety and our employees as well as a potential pay raise and the different options that were available for the pay raise. You heard that the $1.1 million was Option One, pay it all at one time to bring all employees to the new minimum. And there were other options over a phased in time period. A lot of work went into this, we had some great comments and exchanges between the Board members and the Sheriff at the retreat and we did very well there.

XIV. CLOSED SESSION - None

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second by Miller/Flowers-Taylor to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.

/s/ Raymond Ray, Chairman /s/ William P. Wilson, Jr., Clerk