

After Agenda

Board of Commissioners of Spalding County
Extraordinary Session
Monday, March 16, 2020
6:00 PM
Room 108, Annex Building

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held their Extraordinary Session in Room 108 of the Spalding County Annex on Monday, March 16, 2020, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with Chairperson Gwen Flowers-Taylor presiding. Commissioners James Dutton, Rita Johnson and Bart Miller were present for the meeting. Commissioner Donald Hawbaker was absent from the meeting. Also present were County Manager, William P. Wilson, Jr., County Attorney, Stephanie Windham, Assistant County Manager, Michelle Irizarry and Kathy Gibson, Executive Secretary to record the minutes.

I. OPENING (CALL TO ORDER) by Chairperson Gwen Flowers-Taylor.

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES AND ALL OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

II. INVOCATION

Rev. Tim E. Conort of Union Baptist Church delivered the Invocation.

III. PLEDGE TO FLAG

Commissioner Rita Johnson, District #3, led the pledge to the flag.

IV. APPOINTMENTS

1. Consider appointment of an ACCG Legislative Coordinator to replace Donald Hawbaker for a term to expire December 31, 2020.

Mr. Wilson stated that even though this legislative session is past crossover day and is in recess, we need to appoint someone as Legislative Coordinator to replace Commissioner Hawbaker at ACCG Legislative functions.

Commissioner Dutton stated that he would like to serve as the ACCG Legislative Coordinator for Spalding County.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to appoint Commissioner James Dutton at the ACCG Legislative Coordinator to replace Donald Hawbaker for a term to expire December 31, 2020.

V. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

1. District IV Health Services Medical Director Dr. Olugbenga Obasanjo to brief the Commissioners on the Corona Virus.

Mr. Wilson then stated that former County Commissioner and Board of Health Chairman, Johnie McDaniel will introduce Dr. Obsanjo.

Mr. McDaniel then stated that he lives at 1603 Beville Drive, Griffin, GA. Mr.

McDaniel stated that he was here this evening representing the Spalding County Board of Health and the Health Department. They felt it important that the Board receive good information and not just the information being delivered by the news media. So, the Board of Health asked Dr. Obasanjo to make a presentation. He is the Director of District #4 Health Services and he can give you information that is reliable. If you have any questions regarding what is happening in the local Health Department nurses, Jasmine Webb and Nicole Harris are here to address any questions you may have.

Dr. Obasanjo thanked Mr. McDaniel for creating this opportunity to meet in this forum to get information out. He spoke to the Board about the COVID-19 outbreak worldwide. He then advised that we have had our first identified case here in Spalding County. He then spoke about how cases are identified and what happens after that.

Dr. Obasanjo advised that right now there are two ways that cases are identified. Individuals can present to their healthcare practitioner in an outpatient setting or through the emergency department. If they present with COVID-19 symptom, the provider tests them commercially, through Lab Corp or Quest. These independent labs will test and then they will inform Georgia Department of Public Health. Additionally, if the provider feels strongly prior to the results of the commercial test results, they can contact the Department of Public Health either by phone or through their website and then the Department of Public Health will test the patient. Either way, the individual ultimately comes to them for testing and confirmation.

Dr. Obasanjo stated that once an individual is identified on the State level it comes to the District Office assigned to the area as a pending case. Once that person is determined to be positive, they have a protocol, they inform the applicable Board of Health and they inform applicable County leadership. We depend on the local Board of Health official to inform County leadership and get that information out.

Dr. Obasanjo also stated that once a case is identified within a County they do a press release and blast it to the local press in the County to let them know the first case has been identified in the County. We do not identify who the patient is, we try to keep it as anonymous as possible, so they do not identify gender, age, or where they were tested. Some of the inpatient facilities have chosen to identify that one of their patients has tested positive, the State leaves that to the facility. We all have HIPAA responsibilities so however the facility chooses to respond within the HIPAA guidelines, that is on them.

Dr. Obasanjo stated that the Department of Public Health's press release will simply advise there has been a case identified in Spalding County and include precautions that should be taken.

Dr. Obasanjo then advised what to do should you be diagnosed with this virus. What to do if you come into contact with someone who has the virus. He then explained the length of time involved in the isolation decisions and the reason for the specific number of days required should you come into

contact with someone who has the virus or if you contract the virus. He stressed that if you are symptomatic you will need to call your healthcare provider or the emergency room prior to going into the office and they will make special arrangements for your arrival. Dr. Obsanjo then answered questions from the Board of Commissioners.

2. Noresco to make presentation for renovations to County buildings to be funded with energy savings.

Mr. Wilson then advised that Ron Mayo with Noresco is here to present this evening.

Ron Mayo, 433 Carter Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Mayo stated that when they were here several months ago, the Board authorized Noresco to move forward with an energy study. At that time, the plan was to address the water intrusion of the roof at the law enforcement center and our goal was to put together a self-funding capitol project, one that would not impact the budget and would be able to pay for itself through energy and operational savings.

Mr. Mayo stated the goal of the exercise was to put together a project that would be budget neutral in 16-17 years and they believed that they could fund the roof replacement at the law enforcement center during with the savings. During the course of the audit, the locations we visited with the engineers and in talking with staff and observing conditions of buildings. We identified other reasons water was intruding in addition to the roof.

Mr. Mayo then advised that initially they had not expected to be able to fund the roof top units – heating and air – at the law enforcement center or the clogged drains which were also causing water penetration; however, their findings will be able to fund the roof top units and clogged drains as well as the roof in 15 years as a self-funding project. This will also include lighting and modernization at 11 other locations within the County. Water conservation and weatherization at 3 locations for the County.

Mr. Mayo stated that they are pleased to deliver what they expected at the beginning of the energy audit. The energy audit proved to be worthy effort and now they feel confident that this project is one that will address the pressing need at the law enforcement center as well as modernizing several other buildings.

Mr. Mayo advise the items to be included in this project will be weatherization, water improvements, lighting and modernization. The project is designed to allow energy savings modernizations to be put in place at other buildings to pay for the roof. The goal remain constant in finding a self-funding project to pay for the roof at the law enforcement center.

Mr. Mayo then stated the current annual spend on water, gas and electricity is approximately \$1.1 million. Through this project, Noresco will guaranty savings that they have uncovered through the energy audit of \$342,982 annually which will pay for a self-funding project of \$4.9 million over a 15-year period.

Mr. Mayo then covered the next steps in the project. Initial steps included a utility analysis to determine feasibility, that study was at no cost and no risk to the County. We then moved forward with the preliminary study and the detailed audit and here we are this evening asking your favorable consideration to move forward to the next step which will be a 12 month construction period followed by a 15-year period of measurement and verification to validate the savings they have committed to.

Mr. Wilson then advised that later in the agenda the Board has a resolution to approve and move forward with this project should you choose to do so. You can ask questions now, or you can ask questions at that time.

Commissioner Dutton stated this is a 15-year guaranty of \$342,000 in savings annually. How does that guaranty work? What if the law enforcement center isn't there anymore.

Mr. Mayo then asked for a scenario where that would occur.

Commissioner Dutton stated that what if a huge tornado comes and destroys the whole place and we have to build a new one. Are we still on the hook for something, are we still guaranteed a savings, just how does that work?

Mr. Mayo then called on Doug Hennen with Noresco to answer that question.

Mr. Hennen advised that the insurance would cover the loan should something like this happen, whether you are self-insured or whether you pay for insurance if an act of god should destroy the building, that is part of the building that would be covered under the insurance requirements.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then stated that the improvements would be replaced.

Mr. Hennen stated that is correct, at that point you would end up with a new building and they could assist with the design and make sure that it is performing the same as what we will installing.

Mr. Wilson then stated it is not just the energy savings for the law enforcement center it is the energy savings for the 11 buildings total.

Commissioner Dutton then stated that obviously we are still on the hook to pay back the initial improvement costs, but there is a guaranteed savings, what happens if we fall short of that? Does your company subsidize that loan for the offset?

Mr. Hennen stated, "that is correct."

Commissioner Dutton then asked if an act of god were to happen and it took a month or so for the insurance to kick in, would Noresco cover the missed cost savings for that month.

Mr. Hennen then advised if you do the improvements with a bond, and the improvements are destroyed the next year, insurance would cover the value of the bond indebtedness as part of the building. That is the whole purpose of insurance.

Commissioner Dutton then stated that he isn't asking about the value of the loan he is asking about the guaranteed savings.

Mr. Hennen then stated that if the building is destroyed, then it won't be using any energy, so the savings would be even greater during the construction period.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then stated that the \$342,000 in savings is based on what we are currently spending at \$1.1 million.

Mr. Hennen stated that it correct.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that the \$342,000 savings annually with a loan payment of \$333,000 annually and that is why it is budget neutral.

Mr. Wilson advised that is correct.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then asked what would be done at the other locations like the Senior Center.

Mr. Wilson stated that many of the improvements will involve lighting, retrofitting light fixtures to go to LEDs like we have in this building. Many of our buildings like the Courthouse of the Senior Center, which is only 12 years old, do not have LED lighting. The 11 buildings listed in the attachment are the buildings that they will touch.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor asked what the weatherization at the Senior Center would involve.

Mr. Mayo stated that the weatherization would only be at 3 buildings and that was where their team notices gaps or air infiltration going into the building that is mitigated, which would involve putting in proper shields, etc.

Mr. Wilson then advised that the weatherization would involved the Law Enforcement Complex, the Courthouse and the Public Defenders Offices. The Roof at the Law Enforcement Complex is the biggest, HVAC replacement at the LEC is huge as well.

Mr. Mayo stated the heating and air conditioning systems are at their end of life at the Law Enforcement Complex right now. The compressors are failing, the service agreement is coming up very soon, the air handling units at the Law Enforcement Complex are 24 years old and in bad need of replacement, the roof is failing. You are going to be forced at some time in the near future with coming up with the money to fund these projects. We are offering a way to fund these items through energy savings, where you don't have to come up will funding

through a capital budget.

Mr. Wilson stated that the CI and the Sheriff's Office are both huge water users.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then asked what they would be doing to reduce the amount of water used by these two buildings.

Mr. Mayo advised that they would be utilizing what is called a "drop in" kit. Right now, the County uses approximately 4 gallons of water every time a toilet is flushed, so we put it in new devices to reduce the amount of water each time there is a flush. We will be putting in new toilets and new valves to be able to reduce the amount of water used to approximately 1.5 gallons per flush.

Mr. Wilson stated that the Sheriff's Office, Correctional Institution, Construction and Maintenance, Finance, the County Attorney has reviewed all of the documents, everything is on the agenda and recommended for approval later in the agenda.

VI. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – None.

VII. CITIZEN COMMENT

Speakers must sign up prior to the meeting and provide their names, addresses and the topic they wish to discuss. Speakers must direct your remarks to the Board and not to individual Commissioners or to the audience. Personal disagreements with individual Commissioners or County employees are not a matter of public concern and personal attacks will not be tolerated. The Chairman has the right to limit your comments in the interest of disposing of the County's business in an efficient and respectable manner.

Speakers will be allotted three minutes to speak on their chosen topics as they 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 speaker will be permitted to speak more than three minutes or more than once, unless the Board votes to suspend this rule.

Gene Brown, 127 Coe Drive, Griffin – Mr. Brown stated that there are approximately seven homes on Coe Drive. Coe Drive connects to a subdivision and we have a lot of traffic through the street going to and coming from the subdivision. The County has recently scraped the road, put down gravel and cleaned the ditches and that very evening the same group of people speeding through the area.

Mr. Brown then advised that last Summer they did get a speed limit sign of 25 m.p.h. posted; however, the people coming down the road totally ignore the sign. They will come onto the road fishtailing and scattering the gravel and making a mess. They have talked with the Sheriff's Office on a number of occasions and they have talked with the Road Department. The Road Department has tried to help in a number of ways, but they haven't been able to control the traffic or the people in the vehicles. We are here to do whatever we can do so that this can be controlled.

Mr. Wilson advised that we are familiar with the problem. Code Enforcement and the Sheriff's Office have been out there, but the residents had asked that their road be made a dead end at one time and this is a through road.

Billy Ray McFarlin, 106 Coe Drive – Mr. McFarlin stated that he has lived on this road for about three years. This road is a drop off location for cats and dogs, the people coming from the subdivision behind them come down the road and drop the cats and dogs off anywhere on that gravel road and they have had to call Animal Control to come out and pick them up or try to catch them in the cages.

Mr. McFarlin stated that the County spends money to maintain this dirt road and it seems as though the people in the subdivision love to tear up the road as soon as the County comes out to maintain the road and then the County has to spend more of our tax dollars to come out and fix it. We have asked, if there is anyway possible, the subdivision backing up to this road has at least two paved roads that will connect to Vineyard without coming through Coe Drive and if the road could be cut off from the subdivision that is what we would ask.

Mr. McFarlin then advised that on a pretty Saturday, they will have 50-75 cars coming in and out of that road. There is only six houses on this section of road. We had called the Sheriff's Office because they were running 4-wheelers on the road fishtailing and making donuts disturbing the gravel. The residents of the subdivision are oblivious to the elderly and the dust off the road will filter into the house. He then asked if there is any way the Board could consider blocking the road out of the subdivision, the road is not very long and there is a church and six houses on the road. The subdivision behind them has two roads, they don't need to use Coe Drive, the residents need to use the road.

VIII. MINUTES -

1. Consider approval of minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Zoning Public Hearing on February 27, 2020 and the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting on March 2, 2020.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve the minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Zoning Public Hearing on February 27, 2020 and the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting on March 2, 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.

IX. OLD BUSINESS – None.

X. NEW BUSINESS -

1. Consider authorizing Chairman to execute agreements necessary to move forward with renovations to County buildings to be funded with savings from utility billings.

Mr. Wilson stated this is the resolution authorizing the Chairperson to sign all of the documentation required. Bank of America won the financing on this and Ms. Garrison was able to get them down to just over 2% financing for the 15

year period. Mr. Wilson further stated that he knows it is hard for the Board to approve this kind of expenditure on a building that may be replaced in the future, but we need to do it now, while we can afford it and while we have energy savings to do it. Recommend approval.

Commissioner Dutton stated he would like to hear from the Sheriff.

Sheriff Dix stated we are coming to a dead end on the condition of the jail, there are some talks about doing a SPLOST some time in the future to build a new jail, but this is a right now problem. We have got to do something about it right now and it is going to be easier to do it this way, then it is when the Federal Government comes in and says, "you will do this." There are issues at the jail that have got to be addressed.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve authorizing the Chairperson to execute agreements necessary to move forward with renovations to County buildings to be funded with savings from utility bills. Motion carried unanimously by all.

2. Consider request from Meja Construction, Inc for an alternate design review as provided for under Appendix J, Section 416 of the UDO.

Mr. Wilson stated that Mr. Don Hulon is here to address the Board. This is the package store being built on former property that his family owned and he is going to exit the room. Mr. Hulon is here to speak and Ms. Irizarry was briefed by Chad Jacobs and can provide you any additional information you may need.

Mr. Wilson then exited the meeting.

Don Hulon, 291 Steele Road, Griffin – Mr. Hulon state that he works for Meja Construction which is located in Peachtree City. Mr. Hulon then passed out some information to the Board members. Mr. Hulon then advised the reason for the request is that the Ordinance states that any building under 10,000 square feet has to have a minimal 4-12 pitch roof. The building they are proposing to build has a flat roof and he has provided the information because there is concern regarding the products being used for the exterior of the building.

Mr. Hulon went on to state that the board to be used is a high-end product that is used to accent areas on a building. The majority of the building will be stacked stone with a combination not to exceed 50% on the front façade of other material. He has read the ordinance and understands what the County is trying to accomplish as far as the look. Their request is to do something more with this building with the board they are proposing and to have a flat roof instead of a 4-12 pitch roof.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor asked Ms. Irizarry what the ordinance states regarding roofs.

Ms. Irizarry stated that Appendix J, Section 416, states that all one-story buildings less than 10,000 square feet must have a pitched roof between 4-12

and 12-12, if not possible, a combination of flat roof and pitch roof is required provided pitch roof on front and side of building to screen any flat roof. It also always for review before the Board of Commissioners should a developer propose to vary from that criteria, which is why they are here today.

Mr. Hulon then advised that with regard to the exterior, they have to go through an official planning review and come back before the board for approval of the exterior. At this point, we can't do a rendering of the building until we can provide what type of roof is being approved. He brought the material list simply because he has receive phone calls on what type of materials they will be using on the exterior.

Commissioner Johnson asked if this meeting is premature since the matter will be going back to staff?

Commission Dutton stated that Mr. Hulon does need a little bit of direction from the Board, but a consensus, instead of a decision instead of giving him a variance. He feels it would be enough to give him direction to say if you are going to have a rendering that looks like the example presented to the Board, we're going to be okay with that.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor advised that is not what Mr. Hulon is requesting, he is requesting a variance for the roof and it is no good to discuss the materials if we aren't going to vary from the pitch. They are here asking for a flat roof.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then stated that she is interested as to why they are interested in a flat roof. We have a lot of flat roofs in the County and many of them leak.

Mr. Hulon then advised that many flat roofs have skylights in them and they are an issue. On this building we are not putting anything on the roof, it is a flat roof and all of the equipment will be outside of the building there will be no roof top units on this building.

Commissioner Dutton then stated that he would like to see a complete design before approving the variance. Giving a variance at this point he feels is premature.

Mr. Hulon stated the drawing presented to the Board is the conceptual drawing. The ordinance has a breakdown of the types of materials to be used on the building and dictates the types of materials that have to be used.

Ms. Irizarry then reminded the Board that the request is for the roof only, not for the design.

Mr. Hulon stated the design phase costs thousands of dollars and if you don't know what the pitch of the roof is going to be, you have to start all over again. He further stated that his company does a lot of work within the County and he is very familiar with the County Ordinances and requirements.

Ms. Irizarry then reminded the Board that they would see the design once it is prepared and approved and staff is recommending approval. At this time, they want to know that it is okay to move forward with the pitch of the roof, before he goes to design.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then stated that the item under consideration this evening is just the roof. If the builder and the owners choose this is how they want to construct the roof on the building, she doesn't have a problem with that. Before they get anything else approved, it will have to come back to us.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Flowers-Taylor to approve the request from Meja Construction, Inc. for an alternate design review for a flat roof as provided for under Appendix J, Section 416 of the UDO. Motion carried 3-1 (Dutton).

3. Consider recommendation from Paragon Consulting to award bid for the CI and Jail Bar Screen project to P.F. Moon and Company, Inc. low bidder in the amount of \$223,000.00.

Mr. Wilson then rejoined the meeting and advised that this is a \$200,000+ project that is not budgeted. The low bid is P.F. Moon in the amount of \$223,000. We don't have any choice but to do this. In order to get "garbage" out of the sewer line which is a violation of City Ordinance, this is the best way to do it. It is the new standard for Correctional Institutions and Jails and staff recommends approval.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor asked if this construction would shut anything down and asked how long it would take to accomplish this.

Bryan Upson, Paragon Consulting, advised that this will not shut anything in the County down and it will take about 90 days total.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve the recommendation from Paragon Consulting to award bid for the CI and Jail Bar Screen project to P.F. Moon and Company, Inc. low bidder in the amount of \$223,000. Motion carried unanimously by all.

4. Consider Memorandum of Agreement between the Federal Aviation Administration, Georgia Department of Transportation, Spalding County, the City of Griffin, the Griffin Spalding Airport Authority, and the State of Georgia Historic Preservation Officer regarding the construction of a new airport.

Mr. Wilson stated this is an agreement that has to be signed by all entities and it lays out what the Airport Authority must do when they acquire the final parcels for the Airport. We are recommending approval and the Chairman will have to sign both a paper and a digital copy of this document. There is no cost to the County.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve the Memorandum of

Agreement between the Federal Aviation Administration, Georgia Department of Transportation, Spalding County, the City of Griffin, the Griffin Spalding Airport Authority, and the State of Georgia Historic Preservation Officer regarding the construction of a new airport. Motion carried unanimously by all.

5. Paragon Consulting to present concept plan and associated costs for location of Aquatic Center at The Lakes at Green Valley.

Brian Upson, 507 N. Pine Hill Road, Griffin – stated that a few weeks ago the Board asked Paragon Consulting to look at The Lakes property that is being considered as a site for the proposed Aquatic Center. He advised that they are presenting a concept plan of that Aquatic Center. This property fronts on the first lake as you come into the industrial park off of Rehoboth Road. The facility would front the lake and the parking would be behind the facility and tie to the old Barrow Road. We will have an access point off of Rehoboth Road and one off of Barrow Road.

Mr. Upson stated that there are three buildings noted on the design, the building in dark blue would be the current proposed the Aquatic Center, it is approximately 17,500 square feet and that number is from preliminary talks with architects and pool contractors approximately a year ago. In order to plan for the future there are two additional areas which includes a therapy pool area.

Mr. Upson advised that the current building was placed in the location so that future additions could be built out without disturbing the parking in the future. Once the parking it put in it can remain as it is and we placed the current building far enough away from the lake that any future building could be place on the side fronting the lake and still have buffer room for the lake. Mr. Upson advised that the design also allows for future parking should the additions be constructed.

Commissioner Dutton then asked if Paragon had worked with the Development Authority in developing this plan.

Mr. Upson advised that they had received the plan that UGA put together, this design is actually located a little further up the hill toward SR16 and the topography is a lot steeper there, so the grading costs would be higher if they were to place it there, plus it would be further away from the lake and it wouldn't give you the aesthetic look, so we moved it close to the lake. The remainder of the property could be used for future development of Parks and Rec. or whatever use deemed necessary. The grading costs were less than putting it on the other side of Barrow Road.

Commissioner Dutton then asked if this rendering would meet the needs of the swim teams that would be utilizing this building.

Mr. Upson stated that they have been asked by staff to contract with an architect to do a scoping study to try to figure out what this will cost and the first order of business will be to give them the SPLOST budget and work backward on what we can afford. Our goal, at the end of the day is to place the

site as it is and put what you want inside of that building. He can't tell the Board what the costs are going to be until the architect and pool experts come in and deal with the inside of the building.

Commissioner Dutton stated that essentially this is a concept for a building that we can scale up or down.

Mr. Upson stated this is hopefully assisting in the decision on where to put the facility and that was their goal, to cost it out, to tell you what it would cost and give you an example of what it would look like on this particular site. We haven't gotten to the building yet.

Mr. Wilson stated that Paragon was tasked with seeing if the Aquatic Center could be placed there and how much it would cost to place it there with the site improvements and site requirements.

Mr. Upson stated that the initial building does not include the therapy pool, it does not include splash pads, it is strictly a pool, decking, bathrooms, and changing rooms. It would include all of the necessary components for an Aquatic Center.

Mr. Wilson stated that this design is to show the Board that the Aquatic Center will work here, to do this number of parking spaces and do the necessary drainage and soil erosion, etc. is \$874,519.00.

Mr. Upson reminded the Board that this will have to be factored into the total Budget, which means there will be approximately \$4 million budgeted to build the building and the pool.

Mr. Wilson then reminded the Board that they had discussions last week with the City regarding other locations, this is in response to the Board asking if the Aquatic Center is feasible at this location and that is what Paragon has presented.

6. Consider approval of Task Order Form with Paragon Consulting for the Programming and Conceptual Design of an Aquatics Center.

Commissioner Johnson then asked if the \$19,300 for the task order, if we approve this and we are considering City Park would that have any effect on this design?

Mr. Upson advised that the conceptual design of the Aquatic Center would contain everything that would be inside of the building, no matter where you put it. The purpose of this is the architect and the pool consultant scoping the request, hearing from you what you want, pricing it and then doing a concept.

Mr. Wilson stated this is how we decide what is going to be placed in the Aquatic Center. This process will define the Aquatic Center we are going to build.

Mr. Upson stated that first of all they will be given the budget, that is what they will start with and they will come back and tell the Board what they can do for that budget, then it is up to the Board as to how to deal with it. This is for a scoping study, it will not be the full design. This is for everyone to determine what is wanted and how it would be laid out.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve the Task Order Form with Paragon Consulting for the Programming and Conceptual Design of an Aquatics Center with the addition of a stakeholder meeting to get all input. Motion carried unanimously by all.

7. Consider recommendations from Spalding County Leisure Services regarding request to use of BMX bicycles at Spalding County Skate Park facilities.

Mr. Wilson stated that there are recommendations from Parks, Leisure Services and our insurance carrier and all three say that we should not have BMX bicycles on the Skate Park.

Commissioner Dutton stated that he had talked with one of the individuals who was on the Board that created the Skate Park and was advised that BMX bikes would not be safe in the facility.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that she wanted to remind those of you who were not here at the time the Skate Park was discussed, it was recommended by staff, it was recommended by Leisure Services and it was recommended by the insurance company not to force people to wear a helmet in the Skate Park. As you know we have a sign at the facility that states, you should wear a helmet when utilizing this facility. You enter without a helmet at your own risks.

She stated that the whole purpose of the Skate Park was to keep kids from skating downtown. They are already riding BMX bikes over there. The first part of the Skate Park that was built, can accommodate BMX bicycles; however, the second part was not designed for BMX bicycles.

Mr. Wilson then advised that because the second part of the Skate Park was not designed for BMX, that we would have to modify the design and do modifications to the second phase, which was paid for by Impact Fees, to allow that.

Commissioner Miller asked where the money would come from to redesign the second phase of the skate park and to do the modifications? We need to find out if they are going to go up on the insurance rates and what the design and modifications are going to cost.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then asked that staff determine if there are impact fees available for doing the modifications.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Miller to table recommendations from Spalding County Leisure Services regarding request to use of BMX

bicycles at Spalding County Skate Park facilities until staff can determine the costs for modifications needed to accommodate BMX bikes. Motion carried unanimously by all.

8. Discussion of Ethics Complaints filed against Commissioner Donald Hawbaker and establish a date and time to review the allegations to determine if there has been a prima facie violation of the Code of Ethics.

Mr. Wilson then turned the matter over to the County Attorney, staff has provided a copy of all of the complaints and the process. We did receive correspondence earlier this afternoon from Commissioner Hawbaker and a copy of that correspondence is also included.

Stephanie Windham, County Attorney, stated the Board has a copy of the Ordinance and it is up to you as to whether or not you think on its face these ethics charges are worthy of going forward to a hearing panel. She then stated that the charges are based on the ordinance. Number One: Uphold the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the United States, the State of Georgia and all governments therein and never be a party to their evasion.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor asked Ms. Windham to explain the previous statement.

Ms. Windham then stated that the Ethics charges are that Commissioner Hawbaker failed in his duty because notwithstanding any provisions of the law to the contrary each covered official of Spalding County shall: Uphold the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the United States, the State of Georgia and all governments therein and be a party to their evasion.

Commissioner Dutton the stated that what we are voting on is not beyond a reasonable doubt or anything it is if everything as alleged in the violation is true, then he could be guilty of an ethics violation and then it goes to the Ethics subcommittee who looks at it both for and against. We are charged with is if everything that Mr. Mattox alleges is true, could it be an Ethic violation?

Ms. Windham stated that the Board can make the determination that these allegations are prima facie evidence of an ethics violation such that it should go forward to the Ethics subcommittee. We do not have anything in our Ethics ordinance that would reflect conduct unbecoming a Commissioner.

Commissioner Miller stated that even though he is facing felony charges, he has not been to court nor has he been indicted of the charges.

Mr. Wilson reiterated that the item on the agenda is for the Board to establish a date and time to review the allegations. It's not to decide tonight because you have to determine if there is a prima facie case and that can be set in the future at any time.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to table the Ethics Complaints filed against Commissioner Donald Hawbaker and establish a date

and time to review the allegations to determine if there has been a prima facie violation of the Code of Ethics until such time as the Grand Jury is convened and enters an indictment. Motion carried unanimously by all.

XI. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER

- ✓ The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia has ruled that the Courts can close to foot traffic, but the Clerk of Court's Office cannot. We have, in conjunction with the Sheriff's Office, come up with a sign that will be placed on the inside and outside of the building that directs folks who have any questions to contact the deputy inside the Courthouse. Mr. Wilson then asked Judge Josh Tacker to come up and talk about the closings.

Judge Thacker stated that we are all moving as quick as we can in a very fluid and fast-moving situation. He advised there has been a steady line of communications between all of the leaders, department heads and elected officials and we have been in constant contact. If the Spalding County citizens knew how much we were communicating they would be pleased to know that we are working hard to get everyone ready.

Judge Thacker stated that with regard to the Courthouse it has been an issue because traditionally courthouses never close. We have been having the discussion not as to whether or not to close the Courthouse but as to whether or not close the Courthouse to foot traffic. In other words, the teams would be in their seats doing their jobs by email, by phone, by fax or by mail. Minimizing physical contact is what we are trying to craft a plan for, but the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court today is discouraging Counties from closing the Courthouses. There have been phone calls going back in forth trying to figure out how do we react in compliance with the Constitution of Georgia, the Constitution of the United States and make sure that people have access to justice, but at the same time make sure that we protect our teams. We all want to make sure that the team members inside the Courthouse doing their jobs are not doing so in unsafe conditions. Those are the things we are working on and communicating about daily. As it currently stands at this moment, the current status is we are unable to at this point to close the front doors of the Courthouse even if we have the teams in place with email, phone, fax and mail, the Clerk is to remain open during this time. The final decision maker on this is Judge Chris Edwards who is the Chief Judge of Superior Court over four Counties.

He then added that Ms. Sylvia Hollums is located in the Courthouse even though she is not part of the Justice section.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then asked if court hearings had been postponed?

Judge Thacker stated that he has officially postponed all of his court hearings through the end of March. They are anticipating postponing court through the first half of April and they are working on those details now.

They are working on the State Court reset dates and they are hoping to announce those reset dates tomorrow.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then asked if Judge Edwards made the decision for the Juvenile Court as well?

Judge Thacker stated that in the time of a Judicial Official Emergency, the hierarchy of the Court is the Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court and the Chief Judge of the Superior Courts have the authority to stay all deadlines, so nobody has to go to Court for file an answer. By extending the deadlines the need to have court and the need to have people come in and file answer, there is more breathing room. Then the Magistrate, Probate and Juvenile can all move their calendars around.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated there are people in the community on probation and she knows someone who reports to probation in Barnesville, how is that going to work for those people?

Judge Thacker advised that meeting is scheduled for Wednesday morning at 8:00 a.m. The short answer is yes, it is imperative because a lot of folks report to probation and are in the lobby together, but we are trying to figure out a way they can check in, but at the same time we are not having them all sitting in a room and potentially spreading the virus. He will be meeting with representatives from the Judicial Alternatives of Georgia coming in Wednesday morning and they are going to craft a solution that will bring as few warm bodies as needed at a time, but at the same time lets us check in with the probationers.

- ✓ Mr. Wilson stated that the Tax Commissioner has decided to close this week, everything for her office can be done on-line, through the mail, etc. She is extending deadlines. She is closing this week and will make a decision at the end of the week about next week.
- ✓ Clerk of Court will be open, but all of the other Courts, Probate, Magistrate, Juvenile, State and Superior will be closed to foot traffic. Workers will be there working and available by telephone, email, etc.
- ✓ The Administration Building will be open.
- ✓ A sign will be placed at the Courthouse because we have Courthouse Security with limited ingress and egress and the Sheriff and the ones who manage Courthouse security will be taking care of that for us.
- ✓ Mr. Wilson stated that he is recommending and has issued a directive to Parks and Rec to close the Senior Center effective tomorrow and all Recreation Centers. The Parks will remain open, the outside areas, but the buildings will be closed for gatherings.
- ✓ Meals on Wheels will continue to run, they are providing frozen and shelf ready meals.

- ✓ We have been conducting COVID-19 Meetings and we have had about 50 people in attendance from the Hospital to Southern Crescent, to Park and Rec, to the City of Griffin etc. This is a group that has been meeting since last week to develop action plans to serve the citizens of the community and protect our employees as well from this virus. Everything else will remain as normal. We are encouraging everyone to wash their hands, to maintain a social distance from everyone, etc.

Commissioner Johnson then asked about early voting.

Mr. Wilson stated that the primary has been moved to May 19th and he was told that early voting is suspended. In person early voting is suspended, but you can vote absentee by mail.

- ✓ Mr. Wilson stated that this is something that is constantly changing, he has sent the Board a link to a website so you can see how many cases have been reported in Georgia. That website is updated everyday at lunch. As of today, there were no cases in Spalding, 121 in the State.

Mr. Wilson stated that staff is doing everything that we can in this fluid situation. We are sanitizing everything. The inmates are still working and are doing expanded cleaning at each facility.

- ✓ We are working with the Red Cross for a Blood Drive at the Senior Center on March 25th. We're going to be using the big room so we can maintain social distance, but they are in dire need of blood, so he encouraged everyone do give. Every precaution that can be made will be made. The County feels this is something we should try to do to help everyone.

- ✓ The Sheriff has closed visitation and is working toward electronic visitation.

Sheriff Dix advised that they launched that today and they would be putting something out in the next couple of days on how it will work and how people can sign up to do video visitation with their love one at the jail. They will also be able to message as well. We moved the deadline up a couple of weeks because of everything happening.

Commissioner Dutton then advised that Judge Cavanaugh is letting the other judges use her remote capabilities to conduct bond hearings.

Judge Thacker stated that Judge Cavanaugh has technology where she can conduct hearing out at the jail from her office. She has reached out to all of the judges and said it's here if you want to use it. Giving all of the Judges the ability to have remote hearings at the jail.

- ✓ Mr. Wilson advised that we have canceled the Water Authority Meeting and other meetings coming up. He does not plan to cancel the Zoning Public Hearing on March 26th, there are six items on the Agenda, but three involve the same piece of property. There should be enough social distancing to

allow for this hearing. He would hate to cancel the zoning hearing because it hampers growth and development within the county. He will do whatever the Board says.

- ✓ The Griffin-Spalding County Library will be closed beginning tomorrow.
- ✓ The Hospital is recommending that anyone other than immediate family call and talk to the patient and not come in.
- ✓ Tonight we had a number of folks wanting to see the presentation from Dr. O so we made a link available at the top of the homepage on the website and you can watch the meetings live or you can go in and watch them after the meeting. This meeting will probably be live tomorrow or Wednesday for them to review.
- ✓ A number of Counties have closed their offices to the Public, he is not recommending that at this time. Most of those Counties have single methods of ingress and egress to their buildings with security, which we do not have at most of our buildings. This has been quite an adventure and it's not through yet.

XII. REPORT OF ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER

- The Fire Department had three new employees begin on March 10th.
- Spalding County has been included in the State declared emergency for the recent flooding event. We are still waiting to hear more on this.
- EMA hosted an infectious plan update meeting recently.
- The upcoming Stop the Bleed classes that were scheduled have been postponed. We will reschedule those sometime in the future.
- We held the EMA meeting this morning, it included representatives from the City, the County, School Board, Higher Education, WellStar and Chamber of Commerce just to name a few and we will continue these meetings as the temperature changes.
- Georgia Department of Corrections has cancelled all inmate visitations through April 20th at the Correctional Institute.
- Animal Control received 250 lbs. of food, litter and other items donated by First Christian Church.

XIII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

Bart Miller – We have had a week of mostly dry weather, there needs to be a lot of work done on the dirt roads and people need to settle themselves to the fact that the dirt roads are not going to be paved even if a TSPLOST passes they aren't going to be paved when you look at what it is going to cost. We need to look at getting the dirt roads in some kind of shape and we may want to look at blocking Coe Drive off as requested by the residents. If the subdivision has access without utilizing the dirt road, then he doesn't have a problem with it. That will slow the traffic down on the road if they come to a dead end.

He wanted to say thank you to Public Works because he knows they have been working hard. The one thing he can say is they haven't been working on the Dog Park the last two weeks. He has received no criticism from folks regarding

the Dog Park.

Commissioner Miller then asked when something was going to be done about trash.

Ms. Irizarry stated that we did have our first training meeting today at Public Works with Animal Control and Code Enforcement reviewing what to look for and if you see these type of things to notify Code Enforcement.

Rita Johnson – She wanted to thank Doctor “O” for the presentation, it was very informative and one that we really needed to have. She is glad that the County is going to put the video on the website because she is going to refer people to the link. They need to hear it first-hand.

Ms. Gibson has advised that she will keep us updated on the ACCG Annual Conference.

She then asked about if we have had any luck with the Citizen Engagement position being filled?

Mr. Wilson stated he has received two more applicants and they will be interviewed next week.

James Dutton – He received an email during the meeting stating that Governor Kemp has ordered the closure of all Public Elementary, Secondary and Post Secondary Schools starting Wednesday through the end of the month. So to say that the government is taking this serious is to put it lightly. He feels that at the same time, people who go into panic mode and panic buy things like toilet paper, you’re not doing anyone any favors. You’re not going to run out of toilet paper, but that elderly person who can’t get out and get in that long line, now all of sudden they are having to fight for the resource because you panic bought. This is a situation that we need to be mindful of, but going out and doing things in a panic is making it worse and if everyone could take some deep breaths we should be okay.

The same thing happened several years ago with the gasoline shortage, everyone rushed out to fill up their tanks which made it appear to be a gasoline shortage. The trucks are rolling, the supplies are coming in, things are going to be there, if everyone could just calm down it will be better for everybody.

He has probably received 15 emails after the joint SDS meeting last week wanting to make sure there is going to be a place for the swim team to meet and not to speak on behalf of the City at all, but it seemed to him that it was very clear that they didn’t want to close the pool until the Aquatic Center was open. That there would be a place for the swim team to meet and no one is currently contemplating closing that pool until the Aquatic Center is open.

Gwen Flowers-Taylor – She wanted to say thank you to Glenn Polk, you don’t really see how much is going on around you until you attend a meeting like she attended this morning to see how many pieces and moving parts there are to emergency response. Actually, seeing the group of people in a room all talking about what we were going to do was very impressive. She wanted to thank Deputy Chief Polk for what he is doing, he is in his element right now and thank god you are here because you are helping the rest of us out.

She also wanted to add to the comments regarding Coe Drive, she has never heard anyone come in and say they knew it was a dirt road when they moved on it and they still want to have it as a dirt road. Secondly, if there is an ingress and egress to a subdivision area and the problems that we are currently having with dirt roads, it is crazy for us not to look at closing that dirt road and not make it an access for people to use when they have other means of accessing the subdivision. Hopefully, we can do something about that.

XIV. CLOSED SESSION – None.

Mr. Wilson stated that he also wanted to compliment Deputy Chief Polk on his organization during this pandemic and he wanted the Board to know that there were participants from almost every entity, it was City, County, EMS, Health Department, UGA and everybody in that room was working together for the benefit of the community. Deputy Chief Polk has been able to accomplish this by bringing these folks together and giving them great information and building the camaraderie of the folks there and we are there doing the best job for all of the citizens of Spalding County.

Mr. Wilson advised that we are issuing the RFP for Indigent Defense, it has been reviewed by the Judges. It should be issued tomorrow and bids are due back April 17th.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second by Miller/Flowers-Taylor to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.
Motion carried unanimously by all