

# **After Agenda**

## **Board of Commissioners of Spalding County Extraordinary Session Monday, May 18, 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, May 18, 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**

Commissioner Rita Johnson, District #3 delivered the Invocation.

### **III. PLEDGE TO FLAG**

Commissioner James Dutton, District #2, led the pledge to the flag.

### **IV. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**

1. Margaret Bentley, Chairperson of the Board of Elections to address the Board concerning their FY 2021 Budget Request.

Ms. Bentley had not arrived when this item was called so the meeting continued until Ms. Bentley's arrival. Ms. Bentley arrived at 6:10 p.m. and was given the opportunity to address the Board following the completion of Citizen Comment.

Ms. Bentley stated that the Spalding County Board of Elections in the recent budget process recommended a salary increase for the Elections Supervisor. Changes mandated by the State of Georgia's Secretary of State Elections Division has impacted the current staffing of the Board of Elections and Registration.

Ms. Bentley then asked that a wage and compensation study be conducted for the position of Elections Supervisor by the Archer Group and that data from similar sized counties be included in the study. She then advised that due to the new voting equipment implemented by the State, there is a requirement for additional staff to maintain the equipment and perform the updates as necessary. Ms. Bentley then asked the Board to consider a full time technician position for the Elections and Voter registration office to program and ensure that the new voting equipment remains current and operational for future elections.

## **V. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

1. Consider approval of financial statements for the ten months ended April 30, 2020.

Jinna Garrison, Administrative Services Director advised that she would be happy to answer any questions the Board may have regarding the financial statements.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Miller to approve the financial statements for the ten months ended April 30, 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

## **VI. 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.

**Peter Phelps, 804 Dusky Sap Court**, was present and wanted to speak as the Spalding County Pickleball Association President. Mr. Phelps wanted to know when they could expect any change to the guidelines for organized sports and asked the Board if they could give him some idea as to when that would happen?

**Newton Galloway, 612 Terrace Street**, spoke regarding Item #2 under New Business. Mr. Galloway advised that since this was introduced there have been a series of meetings via conference calls and in person between County members: Mr. Wilson, Ms. Irizarry, Ms. Harps, Mr. Galloway and ArtSpace to discuss additional work and additional interest in the redevelopment of the Rosenwald School Building and the area surrounding it.

Mr. Galloway stated that it was his understanding that what the Board currently has before you for consideration is the redevelopment of part of the property for additional housing units, approximately 83 housing units, which will be funded through low income tax credits, which is consistent with the development that ArtSpace proposed last year.

Through those conversations, a consensus has evolved that at least a portion of the redevelopment could be designed to include a creative and cultural community that would work to preserve not just the history, but also the heritage of the Rosenwald Property. Since the proposal from the Housing Authority will involve some

renovation, but very little use of the Equalization Building. It is primed for community and cultural redevelopment and assets to be placed there.

Mr. Galloway stated that many people thought of ArtSpace as a property developer which wasn't in the case. They consult with an agency like the Housing Authority and they can identify cultural and educational programs and how to make them sustainable for that location. That would be done in conjunction with the renovation of the Rosenwald building as a cultural history and museum center representing the preservation of the history and heritage of those who attended the school.

Mr. Galloway stated that he would highlight what Ms. Harps has said which is: "The preservation of Rosenwald must be more than just bricks and mortar. The goal would be to allow the Housing Authority to contract with ArtSpace.

ArtSpace had held the Market Study because an initial grant that was going to be applied for by the Housing Authority was not applied for, so now the Market Study has been approved and will be issued.

Mr. Galloway stated that he had received notification from the Atlanta Regional Commission that they will assist in publicizing the Market Study. The Market Study will identify that component of the housing redevelopment that would be successful for a creative or cultural community to be developed around Rosenwald.

He then asked the Board, as they consider what the Housing Authority wants to do, include in the option the requirement that the Housing Authority cooperate and work with ArtSpace to develop a creative cultural center with sustainable programs that can go into all of Rosenwald, not just low income housing.

## **VII. MINUTES -**

1. Consider approval of minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting on May 4, 2020 and the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Work Session on May 11, 2020.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Miller to approve the minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting on May 4, 2020 and the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Work Session on May 11, 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS –**

1. Lift from the table recommendations from Park & Rec Advisory Commission regarding request to use of BMX bicycles at Spalding County Skate Park facilities.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to lift from the table recommendations from the Park and Rec Advisory Commission regarding a request to use BMX bicycles at the Spalding County Skate Park facilities. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

2. Consider recommendation from the Park and Leisure Services Advisory Commission that the Skate Park be used as an all-wheel park and add a BMX

Lane to the current Skate Park Design.

Mr. Wilson advised that staff has gone back and worked with the company who did the original design for the park. He advised that it would take an additional \$25,500 to add some additional equipment to make the park usable for both skateboards and BMX bikes. The Park and Rec Advisory Commission has recommended moving forward with this project.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that the equipment being added is designed specifically for bikes. These changes will enable this park to be for all-wheels, skateboards, BMX bicycles and rollerblades. This park gets a lot of use, she has seen little kids and older adults out there.

Commissioner Johnson stated that with the addition of this equipment it would make the park safer for anyone using it.

Mr. Wilson then stated that the additional equipment and changes would be funded by Impact Fees.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve the recommendation of the Park and Leisure Services Advisory Commission to add a BMX Lane to the current Skate Park Design to allow use as an all-wheel park. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

#### **IX. NEW BUSINESS -**

1. Consider recommendation from staff for approval of a technician position for the 800 MHz Department.

Mr. Wilson stated that during the Budget Review there was a request from the Board of Elections a technical position for 196+ voting machines currently being utilized by that department. At that time, he did not recommend a full-time position for that department; however, since that time we have been in contact with the Company currently providing the service for the State of Georgia and he has checked with several Counties to see how they are handling maintaining the new machines. Mr. Wilson advised that he has learned that a number of Counties contract out the service or handle it within their own IT or Communications Department.

Mr. Wilson stated that we have a chance to fix two problems that we currently have. The need for a position to maintain voting machines and the need for a back-up person to oversee the 800 MHz System. We can contract with Dominion who is currently handling the technical portion of maintaining the election equipment for an estimated cost of \$20,000 to \$50,000 annually depending on how many hours they are required to be here, which is decided by how many elections we have, how many run offs we have, etc.

Mr. Wilson then advised that Mike Windham being on vacation this week brought to the forefront a need. We do not currently have a back-up 800 MHz person. At one time, there was a person in the Sheriff's Office that served in that capacity, but that person is no longer there and they have utilized that position for something else. If something were to happen to Mr. Windham we would have to rely totally on our vendor to bring the system back up and do whatever is needed to the system to keep us running

Mr. Wilson stated that staff is recommending that we hire a technician who could serve as the back-up for the 800 MHz department and who could get the training from Dominion and service the voting machines. It's not what the Board of Elections has requested, but it works out that two problems could be rectified.

Commissioner Dutton then asked what this person would do as he doesn't see 800 MHz back-up being a fulltime position.

Mr. Wilson stated that there are duties involving 800 MHz that have to be done on a weekly basis at each individual site, additionally this person would be available to service the radios for both City and County workers who walk in at any given time. This Department handles not only 800 MHz, but the cell phones and phone systems countywide.

Commissioner Dutton then asked who the person would report to?

Mr. Wilson stated it would be a second person in the 800 MHz department and would report to the Assistant County Manager.

Commissioner Dutton then asked if Mr. Wilson felt there would be enough work to justify a fulltime position?

Mr. Wilson there would be enough work for a fulltime position to cover both and he would really like to get someone in here to be trained by Dominion before their contract ends after the November election. We would be looking at something between \$30,000 and \$40,000 in salary.

Commissioner Dutton stated he doesn't see why this should start as a fulltime position especially if Dominion is contracted to do the job through the remainder of the calendar year. We could start with a part-time person and next year after Dominion leaves move them into a fulltime position. He isn't really seeing a fulltime position.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that we are having elections this year and at each time there will need to be 4 pieces of equipment utilized for one person to vote. Right now, that technical person needs to be in there between now and November to assist in the number of absentee votes that are coming in. The number of absentee voters is unprecedented, and we are not equipped to handle the volume so that person could be in there all day every day assisting in processing the volume. To get us through this election we need this person in there every day. They currently have Dominion, but as soon as Dominion leaves who is going to do what needs to be done to these machines? Who is going to make sure they are properly deprogrammed and stored correctly? Instead of us having one machine to vote on there is now 4 pieces of equipment that needs to be addressed. This person has got to learn this and if they don't learn it before Dominion leaves, then the Election's Supervisor is going to have to learn the additional steps and we are back at the same place.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then added that she wants to be conscientious about the money, but if we don't get this election right there are going to be a lot of people upset.

Commissioner Dutton then stated that Dominion is under contract for this year and they are going to fill this need for the entire year. Somebody coming in part time could still get the full amount of training they would need, just as a fulltime person would.

Commissioner Johnson stated that the bulk of the work to be done in the Elections Office is what concerns her at this time. She then asked Mr. Wilson how this was going to affect the budget.

Mr. Wilson advised that there are enough funds in the current budget to fund this position as there are only six weeks left this year. Next year, you all had reduced the Development Authority by approximately \$125,000 so, if the whole position amounted to \$60,000 you would still have \$65,000 in savings. So you could take it from those funds if you wanted to.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that she has concerns regarding 800 MHz as well because it is never a good feeling when you have a huge multi-million-dollar system and we only have one person who knows how to operate it. We have got to get someone, whether it is part-time or whatever.

Commissioner Dutton then stated that we have the system under contract so Mr. Windham is not the only person involved.

Mr. Wilson stated that we do have maintenance contracts on the equipment, if something goes out they replace it. There is a number of preventative maintenance items that Mr. Windham performs at each of the four tower sites and the amount of time that takes, he doesn't know if it is 40 hours a week, but between the Communications with the phones, cell phones and what he does for the 800 MHz system and 911 it is a fulltime job, he is constantly busy.

Whether or not it would be fulltime for two people is the question and we could try to get somebody to apply and then come back to the Board in January after Dominion finishes and make sure they are trained and see if we can come up with something better.

Mr. Wilson stated there are currently 194 pieces of equipment involved with voting at this time, you have a big touch screen, the printer, the scanner and the collection box. The big screen and the printer have to be programmed and as you know sometimes the computers don't talk to the printers, but they are new and we are hoping that everything will communicate and everything will be fine. There is also new machines that will count the absentee ballots and those ballots will have to be scanned in individually on election day.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that her goal for this year is to have an election where we're not dinged for violating somebody's rights or violating their privacy or not letting them vote. She wants us to get through that and at some point somebody is going to have to maintain all of the machines and we are talking about 4 machines for each voting unit. She then stated that she would like to see a job description that says 45% of the time would be spent in the Elections Office and 55% of the time would be dealing with the 800 MHz. Whatever the percentages may be, if we could get some job duties down on paper and then have it sent to the Archer Group to figure out the job description and

salary, it would give us a better idea of what it is we want somebody to do.

Commissioner Johnson stated that there is a need in both of the departments and if we can determine what this person is to do, she would be on board with the new position.

Commissioner Dutton stated that he doesn't want to create a fulltime position based on an increase in work due to a crisis. The crisis is going to end, and a fulltime position doesn't. This year there is a huge increase in the Elections Office due to absentee ballots so that person is going to have more to do, whereas next year we won't have this problem.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that next year we are looking at having a TSPLOST and the next September having another SPLOST. Either way, every time we are going to have an election we are going to have to make sure that the equipment is programmed and ready to go.

Mr. Wilson stated that he would bring the Board a job description with an estimate of the pay for the job, both part time and full time.

2. Consider resolution authorizing option to purchase real property with the Griffin Housing Authority.

Mr. Wilson stated that staff has been meeting along with Community Development, Newton Galloway and other community partners with the Griffin Housing Authority who advised that they have some projects that they have been tasked with over the next year, one of those projects fell out and they need another project to fill in. They felt the Equalization Building combined with 83-85 units of housing would make a project that would fit and they could fund both of them.

As you know, we have been looking for funding for Heritage Park because the 3 buildings together are in excess of the budget. When they came to us with this proposal, we were suspect, but we have had meetings with Ms. Walker-Harps and Mr. Galloway has talked with several Commissioners and what you are doing tonight is giving the County Manager the authority to enter into an agreement with the Griffin Housing Authority for an option to purchase the 6+ acres adjacent to Heritage Park and for them to have an option on the Equalization Building.

What this will do is allow the Housing Authority and Penrose, who they have partnered with for all of the developments they have done, to spend local money and federal money designing a program that will create both tax credit housing and refurbish the Equalization Building for their use and use by the community.

Essentially, it frees us up to look at Rosenwald and the associated parking lots amenities and landscaping at our next meeting so that we can move forward with that project this year. Then after we see how sales taxes come in over the next year to year and a half, we will see what's left for the gymnasium property. This is a win, win for everyone, it gets affordable housing in the area, it gets the Equalization School refurbished at little or no expense to the County and it allows us to move ahead with Rosenwald.

All the Resolution this evening allows is a purchase option so that they can spend their funding and federal money. They can only do this if they are assured that at some point they can own the property and use it for development.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that her concern is the green space. She had hoped there would be a certain amount of green space and she wants to make sure that the green space is preserved. How it can be developed is not set in stone. Right now they are at a place they can't make a move until we stated they have an option to obtain this land.

Mr. Wilson stated that during the retreat we talked about the SPLOST funds from 2008 approximately \$2.3 million and using that for Heritage Park. The Rosenwald Building, separate restrooms with lobby area, and the parking is about \$2 million. Brian Upson is finishing up the costs estimate on that building and he will have to run it by the Housing Authority to make sure that it fits with the theory of what they are wanting to do.

Mr. Wilson stated that he will come to the Board on June 1<sup>st</sup> with two things: Rosenwald specific asking that we bid the project out as designed, see what the bids come to and pay for it with funds from the 2008 SPLOST. The second will be the Animal Shelter, present designs and drawings and let you decide. We can't build what will prepare us for the future for the \$1.185 million it is going to take \$2 million. We can build the same size or a smaller building for \$1.185 million, but in order to handle what we need to do will cost approximately \$2 million and we need additional funding for that. This will get two big SPLOST projects underway for hopeful completion in 2021.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Flowers-Taylor to approve a resolution authorizing option to purchase real property with the Griffin Housing Authority to include working with ArtSpace. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

3. Consider agreement with Intellectual Technology, Inc. for self-service terminals that will allow taxpayers to renew motor vehicle registrations and commercial vehicle registrations anywhere in the State of Georgia a kiosk is located.

Mr. Wilson stated that this group approached Tax Commissioner Sylvia Hollums and advised that they have an agreement with the Georgia Department of Revenue where they provide this service all over the State of Georgia and they locate them in highly concentrated areas. Spalding County doesn't meet the head count requirement; however, we can make our tag purchases available through any machine in the State of Georgia by signing this agreement.

Commissioner Dutton asked if there was a cost for the Service.

Mr. Wilson advised that there is a 2.25% convenience fee to the user for the service, it doesn't cost Spalding County anything.

Commissioner Miller exited the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to enter into an agreement with Intellectual Technology, Inc. for self-service terminals that will allow taxpayers to renew motor vehicle registrations and commercial vehicle registrations anywhere in the State of Georgia***

**a kiosk is located. Motion carried 3-0-1 (Miller).**

4. Consider a contract with the Newnan Coweta Spay Neuter Clinic, Inc. d.b.a. Help Spay Neuter Clinic to provide spay/neuter and vaccination services to Spalding County Animal Care and Control.

Mr. Wilson stated that we had a contract with Help Spay and Neuter Clinic, but the contract expired. We have been utilizing the Foundation and Auburn University to perform these services; however, with COVID, Auburn University shut down and by us no longer having a contract with Help Spay and Neuter Clinic, we were without services. We were fortunate this time because we were able to make arrangements with the professors at Auburn and they came in and did the spay and neuter for us. This contract will allow us a back-up should something like this happen again.

Commissioner Miller re-entered the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to enter into a contract with the Newnan Coweta Spay Neuter Clinic, Inc. d.b.a. Help Spay Neuter Clinic to provide spay/neuter and vaccination services to Spalding County Animal Care and Control. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

5. Consider recommendations from the Parks and Leisure Advisory Commission regarding recreation programming and facility rentals.
  - (a) Keep all recreation centers and pavilions closed until June 12 pending changes to the Governor's Executive Orders
  - (b) Suspend all organized youth and adult sports play until June 12, 2020 with plans to allow scheduled practices thereafter should the Governor lift the State of Emergency Order. Cancel Summer Day Camp Programs for 2020
  - (c) Community Centers and Senior Center remain closed – further consideration after June 12.

Mr. Wilson stated that the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission has recommended that we suspend all organized youth and adult sports. Mr. Phelps came to you at the beginning of the meeting to advise that people are playing pickleball at the facility, but it is not the Pickleball Association. Mr. Wilson stated the people playing Pickleball right now are out there for exercise and for fun. They may or may not be part of the Pickleball Association, but what Mr. Phelps was asking is when Pickleball can begin organized play again.

Mr. Wilson stated that basically everything is to remain closed until June 12<sup>th</sup> when we will learn if the Governor changes anything with the exception of Day Camps which are cancelled for the entire summer and we look at Community Centers and the Senior Center after June 12<sup>th</sup> as well.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that the Park and Leisure Services Advisory Commission did not have enough information to lock anything down. If the Governor does not extend any restrictions, we're not going to immediately open everything back up. We will ask the associations to provide information on how they are going to create an atmosphere of social distancing.

Commissioner Dutton stated that he feels that the State has issued the restrictions and there is no reason for Spalding County to implement additional restrictions beyond those that the State of Georgia has issued. The Governor's

order makes all local rulings null and void. He feels that the message from Spalding County's to the associations regarding organized play is as soon as the Governor says it is ok for organized play.

Commissioner Miller stated that he is hearing that the Baseball Associations won't even talk to the citizens who have already paid. They've got their \$160 per child and they don't want to respond to the parents. The Association needs to make up their mind what they are going to do and let the parents know. You have people who have paid the \$160 and if they aren't going to play, they need to refund the money.

Commissioner Johnson stated that she agrees with what Park and Rec has recommended, it gives the County some definition. If the State is saying that everything is closed until June 12<sup>th</sup>, then it has to be closed until the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Dutton stated that the only change he would like to this is that "this remains closed per the Governor's order." We are closing in accordance with Governor Kemp's Order, not closed until June 12<sup>th</sup>. Then that places the direction on Governor Kemp. We are not the ones who abandoned organized play, Governor Kemp is.

Kelly Carmichael, Director of Leisure Services, advised that Baseball is looking at offering a delayed season, an abbreviated season, something during the summer and that is why they cannot provide answers. They are actually waiting on us to see if that is an option. She advised that they are not being silent on purpose, they were at the Advisory Commission meeting as was Pickleball and Swim. They are all very anxious to get their sports open and operating.

Commissioner Miller stated he can understand that, but they need to be polite to these people. They are holding their money and the parents can't find out anything. A lot of people, beginning in June will be going on vacation, so if those people want their money back the association needs to give them their money back. This is not the kids' fault, the parents' fault or the fault of the association, but they have got to work together and be polite.

Commissioner Dutton stated that he would like to see the recommendation reworded to simply stated that Spalding County is going to comply with the Governor's Executive Order.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to take under advisement the recommendations of the Park and Leisure Advisory Commission. In order to comply with the Executive Order of Governor Kemp, Spalding County has been forced to recommend the following: To keep all recreation centers and pavilions closed and to suspend all organized youth and adult sports. Furthermore, due to the criteria placed by the Governor's order on Summer Day Camps and the fact that Spalding County is not equipped to meet that criteria, Spalding County Day Camp Programs for 2020 will be cancelled. Community Centers and the Senior Center will remain closed pending recommendation from the Board once the Governor lifts all restrictions. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

6. Consider recommendation from Parks and Leisure Services Advisory Commission to consider implementing scheduled soccer field closure for turf maintenance.

Mr. Wilson stated that this was discussed during the Budget Work Session, we are meeting with a well drilling company out there and look for possible water

sources. Sometimes you have to take the soccer players off the soccer fields in order to let the grass grow back. Essentially, we will look for other practice fields, we will contact the ministerial association and see what practice fields may be available at churches. We're going to look at watering through a possible well if we can generate the minimum gallons required. We have drilled three wells so far and the maximum gallons per minute we have been able to tap into is 12. We need at least 50 gallons per minute.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve the recommendation from the Parks and Leisure Service Advisory Commission to consider implementing scheduled soccer field closure for turf maintenance. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

7. Consider recommendation from Park and Leisure Services Advisory Board to approve Prefab Restroom/Pavilion products as a construction option.

Mr. Wilson advised that the current pavilions are predominantly metal, concrete and steel. The last time we bid out one of the pavilions and had it constructed it was approximately \$135,000, we can purchase a prefab kit for roughly \$65,000 with the bathrooms. The kit can be modified to accommodate a 4/12 roof pitch, they originally didn't have a 4/12 and he advised that we must meet our 4/12 standard. It is a nice looking pavilion, it is a much more traditional design and look, but it would be a viable option for some areas.

As you know we have been working with mobile construction inmates at the dog park and we haven't been able to get that pavilion off the ground. We are planning to build one at our Quarry's Edge Trail and another one at Ninth Street/Thomaston Mill and this will allow us to construct these ourselves as we can pour the concrete slab and at our own pace we can put them up. It is a good substitute, it is not the standard that we have now that is almost indestructible, but he feels it is a valuable option during these times.

Staff is requesting the use of the prefab units for the Quarry's Edge Trail and the Ninth Street/Thomaston Mill locations. These units comes pre-plumbed and pre-wired.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve the request of the Parks and Leisure Services Advisory Board to approve the Prefab Restroom/Pavilion products as a construction option to be paid for by impact fees. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

## X. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER

- He is looking forward to the April Sales Tax numbers which should be in at the end of the month and he will report to the Board on June 1.
- We discussed having the plans for the Animal Shelter and Rosenwald on the meeting for June 1.
- The County Commissioners voted to move ahead with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks and the City has also voted to move ahead with the fireworks as well.
- We have the Griffin-Spalding Area Transportation Meeting on Wednesday by ZOOM.
- Our Public Hearing on the Budget will be on Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. Our first reading will be Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, and our second reading will be Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup>,

right before the Zoning Public Hearing that night.

## XI. REPORT OF ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER

- Georgia Public Safety Training Center opened up the Georgia Fire Academy so we have four personnel there starting today. If they make it through the program they will be come certified and graduate on Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup>.
- The Fire Department honored the Sheriff's Office by placing blue line tags on all the apparatus for National Police Week and they will present those tags to the personnel.
- EMA assisted the Department of Public Health, District 4, with COVID testing at the Oaks and they had 167 tested in one day.

Mr. Wilson advised that he received the COVID numbers and they were the same as last night.

## XII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

**Bart Miller** – He hopes the associations will get their stuff together. We are going by what the Governor had directed when it involves organized sports and as soon as he opens up something we will also begin to open up. These people who have put up their money for the sports, need to know something. June and July are vacation times for people so the associations need to be making plans and getting something done.

**Rita Johnson** – Big shout out to Spalding County Staff for the job they did on the budget this year. We are looking at no millage rate increase and that is fabulous, she thinks the tax payers will really appreciate that.

Regarding the technician position, it would be nice if we could find a recent graduate, someone who would like to get their feet wet. We don't know what that position is going to look like or what the money is going to look like, but there is certainly somebody who could benefit from it and want to come in and do a good job.

She also agrees that we need to wait to see what the Governor says regarding organized sports, if we need to revisit it on June 12<sup>th</sup> then we will have to revisit the matter. She asked that everyone be patient, stay well and take care of yourselves and try to abide by the Social Distancing as much as possible, that is the key.

**James Dutton** – Wanted to echo that we need to continue to be smart about our own health. That said, there are currently no restrictions that Spalding County has put on over and above what the Governor has done. We are simply following what Governor Kemp is forcing us to follow. If it was up to him, and it most certainly is not, we would be totally open right now and we would be back to normal.

He advised that the last two weeks have been extremely busy for him as attorneys and firms all over have been calling him about the Public Defender Bid and he has reminded them about the two things discussed at the meeting regarding complying with the Bar's rule on ethics as far as conflicts go and the second Chairperson Flowers-Taylors idea/requirement for a feedback system. He feels this is a phenomenal idea because he knows of no one who uses a feedback for their Public Defender. He is looking forward to the 28<sup>th</sup>, he hopes we have a lot of folks come in and bid. This is a big contract and he is really glad that we bid it out, he hopes that we get better bids, but if we don't it was still worth bidding it out.

**Gwen Flowers-Taylor** – She wanted to say the same thing that Commissioner Johnson had to say it was awesome the way the budget process went. She has been there for 14-15 years and it has never gone that smoothly.

Hats off to Park and Rec, that was the longest meeting in history the other night. She has to give the Commission credit as they truly do care about the health and wellbeing of our community. One of the things that came out of the meeting is that we want to figure out how to encourage our citizens to still utilize our facilities. Just because you can't go out and play organized sports doesn't mean you can't go out there with your children and kick a ball around or you can't go out and play on the swings, or walk on the nature trails or that you can't play disc golf. We just need to encourage people while they are home to utilize the parks. This is a great opportunity for people to rediscover what our parks have to offer.

Mr. Wilson stated he is going to come back to us with a potential job description and she thinks Commissioner Johnson's idea of finding someone right out of school or new to government and need the experience who could come in and do a good job for us.

What bothers her even more is the paper that Ms. Bentley gave us from the Board of Elections, it is hard for her to imagine that some of the Counties, which she knows is smaller than we are, actually pay their Election Supervisors more than we do. She felt it was a good point that Ms. Bentley made in clarifying what she was saying, what the Board of Elections is asking for is not a raise for the Elections Supervisor whoever it is. She would like to see what Archer says about what these two jobs combined look like in terms of what it should cost. Because we have someone who according to Secretary of State Raffensperger, Marcia Ridley is one of the best Elections Supervisors in the State, well thought of in terms of knowing how to conduct business. So, she has a hard time trying to imagine why we have such a problem figuring out what the job is actually valued at. She would love for us to look at that. We want to make sure that this individual gets paid appropriately for the job that is provided.

She had asked Mr. Wilson earlier today about looking at the Commissioners Per Diem, because when she became a Commissioner in 2004 the rate was approximately \$125 and now it's 2020 and the rate is \$150. She asked that this be looked at and how the expense allocation is determined. It costs more to be a Commissioner now than it did in 2004.

Mr. Wilson stated that he would get Miles Neville, Human Resource Director, to look at everything presented this evening by Ms. Bentley and he will get an email out to everyone letting you know some comparatives for us.

### **XIII. CLOSED SESSION**

### **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

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