

# After Agenda

**Board of Commissioners of Spalding County  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, June 1, 2020  
6:00 PM  
Room 108, Annex Building**

**The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting in Room 108 of the Spalding County Annex on Monday, June 1, 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., Assistant County Manager, Michelle Irizarry, County Attorney, Stephanie Windham, Citizen Engagement Specialist, Rachel Conort 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 James Dutton, District #2 delivered the Invocation.

**III. PLEDGE TO FLAG**

Commissioner Bart Miller, District #4, led the pledge to the flag.

**IV. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**

1. Presentation of the 2020 Bain Proctor Award for Volunteerism recipient. - Kelly Carmichael, Leisure Services Manager.

Ms. Carmichael stated it was a great honor and privilege to present the 2020 Bain Proctor Volunteer of the Year Award. She advised that typically the award is presented in the month of April and given the importance of the award within the community it was decided to wait until the award could be presented in person.

Ms. Carmichael then gave a brief history of the award: Established in 2004, the Bain Proctor Award was established to recognize citizens of Spalding County who have provided significant volunteer services to the Community. The award was named after Bain Proctor, one of Griffin and Spalding County's most well-known volunteers.

Ms. Carmichael further stated that Spalding County is blessed to have so many individuals who freely give of their time and talents. Judging multiple award nominations that highlight volunteerism is an extremely difficult task. To keep the judging fair and completely non-biased, a committee of 5 non-related citizens review and score each submitted nomination.

Ms. Carmichael then stated that a true volunteer is one who unselfishly shares their personal time and talents to improve the lives of others without compensation or personal gain. They leave a lasting imprint upon the lives they touch and change them forever. It is the work of people like this who make lasting changes in the community and make it better.

Ms. Carmichael advised that when reading this volunteer's nomination, the first thing that comes to mind is "Servant Leader." He has served this community in a volunteer capacity for at least 45 years and most often within a position of leadership.

Mr. Carmichael relayed that the spirit of volunteerism embodies this individual and he has touched more areas of the community than most"

1. He has been a member of Griffin Rotary since the mid 1970's
2. Served within
  - a. The Griffin Area Concert Association
  - b. Griffin Choral Arts
  - c. Friends of the Griffin-Spalding Library
  - d. Griffin-Spalding Chamber of Commerce
  - e. Griffin-Spalding United Way
  - f. Southern Crescent Technical College
  - g. Salvation Army of Griffin
  - h. Flint River Regional library
  - i. Pine Valley Girl Scouts
  - j. Stepping Stones Educational Therapy Center
  - k. Gordon College Foundation
  - l. Griffin-Spalding Development Authority

Within our region he has also served on:

- m. Henry County Chamber of Commerce
- n. Henry County Council for Quality Growth
- o. Partners for Smart Growth of Butts County
- p. Clerk of Sessions and Committees at Regional Presbytery at First Presbyterian Church

Ms. Carmichael then stated that this servant leader is widely known across our great community and asked that the Board join her in recognizing **Mr. Arthur Hammond** for his years of committed service to the citizens of Spalding County. She added that Mr. Hammond personifies the spirit of Bain Proctor and thanked him for giving so unselfishly. She stated that his leadership and commitment to community has given Spalding County a strong foundation on which to build a hopeful future.

## V. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

No financial statements.

## VI. CITIZEN COMMENT

**At this time, I will read the following statement regarding the protocol to be followed during both the Citizen Comment and the Public Hearing portions of the Agenda.**

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.

The following spoke about the problems with guns being discharged, speeding and cars cutting donuts on the public street in their neighborhood.

**Sam Vesper, 1009 Chesterwoods Court, Griffin, GA**  
**Sybile Ridgley, 1016 Chesterwoods Court, Griffin, GA**  
**Richard Chalow, 1009 Chesterwoods Court, Griffin, GA.**

Sheriff Dix advised that he is aware of the problem in this area and that one of the offenders has also been involved in cutting donuts on the Wyomia Tyus Park property and he is addressing the problem.

## **VII. MINUTES -**

1. Consider approval of minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Extraordinary Session on May 18, 2020.

***Motion/Second by Miller/Dutton to approve the minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Extraordinary Session on May 18, 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS –**

1. Review and discussion of proposed 800 MHz Radio Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Griffin.

Mr. Wilson stated that the County had sent an Intergovernmental Agreement to the City of Griffin late last year. The City of Griffin responded with what they would like to see in the Intergovernmental Agreement, their proposal was that no radios for their police and fire departments be included in the Agreement, they would pay for the radios that were not part of Public Safety.

Currently, the amount charged to the City is not the actual cost per piece of equipment for use of the system; therefore, the County currently has to subsidize the difference in what is being charged to the City of Griffin and the

actual cost of the service per piece of equipment. This subsidy is paid out of the General Fund of the County. It is the City of Griffin's contention that since the County subsidizes the upkeep of the 800 MHz system out of the General Fund, it would be double taxation on the citizens of the City of Griffin as they pay both City and County taxes for Public Safety radio communication.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Miller to reject the proposed 800 MHz Radio Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Griffin. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

## **IX. PUBLIC HEARING –**

**Please note that the protocol stated for the Citizens Comments remain in effect for the Public Hearing.**

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to open Public Hearing on the FY2021 Budget. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

Mr. Wilson stated that no one had signed up to speak at the Public Hearing. He advised that the only change in the budget from what was presented by staff was the reduction requested by the Board to fund the Development Authority at 75% of their budget instead of the 100% recommended by staff at the direction of the Board during the retreat this year.

Mr. Wilson then stated that the new position of 800 MHz and Elections Computer technician will be presented to the Board at the next meeting as the job description and pay evaluation from the Archer Group has not been received. Also, the position of Supervisor of Elections has been sent to the Archer Group for review and recommendation. He would forward the findings of the Archer Group to the Board as soon as received and any adjustments will be made to the budget when it is presented for first reading on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to close the FY2021 Public Hearing. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

## **X. NEW BUSINESS -**

1. Consider approval of a resolution to enter into contract with the Georgia Department of Human Services to provide funding for services through the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Program.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated this is the same Community Services Block Grant that takes care of Back-Pack for Kids, Meals on Wheels, Senior Congregate meals and it also takes care of part of the funding for the girls and boys program at the Salvation Army. For the past six or seven years, each year she has said to them that the program at Salvation Army is not growing and it needs to be expanded and each year they say they will do it the next year and then the next year, the person who heads the Salvation Army location in Griffin leaves and they don't have anybody there who can do it.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that each year she asks them for that same money, then at the end of the year there is always an amount of money that is not utilized and we reallocate it to Meals on Wheels or one of the other

programs. She is concerned because when the program started 10+ years ago, they saw hundreds of kids, but over the last five years they are not seeing that many kids. There was an after school program in the Fairmont Community, it was called the Enrichment of Young Minds and it eventually moved to UGA. We have had an after-school program at that location in the past and she has tried to get them to expand that program to include the rest of the community. It is the Salvation Army, it's not just for one side of town, it should serve the entire community, if it is using the entire community's money.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor advised that she had spoken with Kelly Carmichael in Leisure Services and Jeannie Brantley at Three Rivers today. Ms. Brantley stated that she had put money in the budget for FY21 to allow for an after-school program to happen at Fairmont; however, she also learned today from Ms. Carmichael that it depends on what the Salvation Army Headquarters says and she simply wants to go on record as saying she is going to vote for this because she doesn't want anything to happen to the money that is going to Meals on Wheels and Congregate Meals, nor does she want anything to happen to the money for Back-Pack for Kids, but she wants to be on record letting them know this is the last time that they should be able to get the money for the community and not be willing to serve the entire community with the money they are getting.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor then stated that Three Rivers Regional Commission administers this grant. She was questioning the costs charged as administrative costs for the grant. She advised that when she goes to the Three Rivers Meeting she is going to ask what it is they are doing that costs so much money. There is almost \$20,000 in administrative costs for this one grant.

Commissioner Dutton then asked the total amount of the grant.

Mr. Wilson advised the total amount of the grant is \$174,000 and a total of \$35,000 is cost to administer this grant. It is approximately 20%. Mr. Wilson then advised that the grand funds everything, and the cost of administration is for the paperwork involved in administering the grant.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to approve a resolution to enter into a contract with the Georgia Department of Human Services to provide funding for services through the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Program. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

2. Consider approval of Inmate Telephone and Commissary Services agreement with Inmate Calling Solutions, LLC. for the Spalding CI.

Mr. Wilson stated that the group we currently have for this service has been purchased by another group. We are in year two of a three-year contract. They have come back to us with a better commission than previously offered and they are coming back with more funding in the technology fund. This is the group that you approved last year when we went to the inmate emails instead of the regular mail that was coming through. This system has been working very well and has significantly reduced the amount of mail coming in and the amount of contraband coming.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve the Inmate***

**Telephone and Commissary Service agreement with Inmate calling Solutions, LLC for the Spalding County CI. Motion carried unanimously by all.**

3. Consider approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between Spalding County and the City of Griffin for the purpose of establishing funding allocations for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program.

Mr. Wilson stated that this is for FY2019, this funding always runs a year behind and the funding for 2019 is flowing through the County. Initially, the grant used to flow individually one grant for the City and one for the County; however, that was changed a few years ago and now all of the money flows through the County and we have to contract with the City in order for them to receive their funding.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor asked if the grant was a set amount every year?

Sheriff Dix stated that the amount fluctuates from year to year.

**Motion/Second by Dutton/Miller to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement between Spalding County and the City of Griffin for the purpose of establishing funding allocations for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program. Motion carried unanimously by all.**

4. Consider bids for the provision of indigent defense services for the State and Juvenile Courts of Spalding County.

Commissioner Dutton advised that he would recuse himself from this item as he practices in State Court and it represents a significant amount of business that his firm has. He would like to say that we heard some great proposals and the people of Spalding County will receive excellent services by whomever the Board chooses.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated that the Board had the opportunity to speak with the groups last week. We all had questions and concerns about what we wanted to see in the bid process.

Commissioner Johnson stated that all of the bidders had excellent presentations. Sullivan and Ogletree gave a remarkable presentation it was very thorough from the beginning of your process to the end. She stated that she received an education on it and they answered all the questions. She stated that the cost of their bid is a factor. Putting cost aside, Bradley Moody was also one who presented well, they covered all of the points being skilled, being knowledgeable, being capable with caseload management. Their 40 years of experience, she feels they are ready to go. She feels they have a good relationship in the Griffin-Spalding Area. She then stated that the The Jewkes Firm also stood out with their presentation as well.

Commissioner Miller stated he felt they all gave a good presentation. One that impressed him was the Kidd, Cato, Easom & Roquemore Law Firm. They had all the paperwork the Board had requested in their bid proposal. The other was the Jewkes Law firm, the cost of the service is a consideration. They say they are going to furnish the service, if they don't then we will get rid of them. If they can't live up to the agreement.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor stated she is not in a place to question how attorneys do their job, so for her everybody basically said the same thing. What she was looking for was someone who was interested in what she was looking for, which is finding out whether our not our clients are happy and she found it very interesting that Commissioner Dutton mentioned that as far as he knows no one is doing a customer service survey with any of their clients that we are paying money to provide a service for. She likes the fact that the Jewkes firm had survey sheets ready, they understood what it was that we wanted and she liked the fact that the Jewkes firm seemed to understand that the demographics of this community have a lot of people of color in the system. She stated that it is very important when you can see people who look like you and understand you, so she is impressed by how they presented themselves in that way. She stated that she is very much impressed with the Jewkes Firm and if she had to pick a #1 and #2, it would be the Jewkes Firm and Kidd, Cato, Easom & Roquemore.

Commissioner Miller stated that his two choices would be Kidd, Cato, Easom & Roquemore and the Jewkes Firm.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to appoint the Jewkes Firm, LLC to represent Spalding County for indigent defense services for the State and Juvenile Courts of Spalding County. Motion carried 3-0-1 (Dutton).***

Mr. Wilson advised that he had no idea the Board would finish this much of the agenda and would get to this point so quickly. Mr. Brian Upson with Paragon is on his way and should be here shortly.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor asked that the meeting recess at 6:44 p.m. for 10 minutes to allow for Mr. Upson to arrive.

Chairperson Flowers-Taylor resumed the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

5. Consider approval of revised Rosenwald School Renovation project concept and authorize solicitation of bids for construction.

Mr. Wilson stated that as discussed at the retreat, there are 2008 SPLOST Funds in the amount of approximately \$2.3 million for projects that are now not feasible. We went to the Bond Counsel and both the Bond Counsel and our Investment Banker stated that those funds could be use for any other SPLOST project that we had. So, immediately Heritage Park came to mind.

As you know, at the last meeting the Board of Commissioners authorized signing an option to purchase with the Housing Authority for the Equalization Building and property adjacent to Heritage Park for an 83 unit, tax credit housing unit to be placed there. With that, the Housing Authority will also renovate the Equalization Building at their expense. This evening we have Brian Upson here to present the Rosenwald Building plan. We have talked about projects and what is going on and we would not even be here if it weren't for the Rosenwald Building itself.

Mr. Wilson stated that the purpose is to keep the Rosenwald Building as historically accurate as possible without putting it on the National Register and having to restore it to their specifications as that would double or triple the cost of the renovation. What Mr. Upson is bringing this evening is the parking

lot, visitors' center and the Rosenwald Building. If you approve this concept, we can move forward with final engineering and architectural plans. It is staff's hope that we can fit the project comfortably within the \$2.3 million available in funding, leaving any additional 2016 SPLOST funding for the gymnasium which would be Phase III of this project.

Mr. Upson stated that Paragon had been asked to come up with concepts for all three buildings and those were presented in February. At that time, the total cost for all three buildings was approximately \$7 million. Mr. Wilson then asked that he look at the Rosenwald Building and possibly reduce the parking spaces and cut some site costs so it would fit into a budget of under \$2.3 million.

Mr. Upson then reviewed the plans for the Rosenwald Building and the Welcome Center for the Board. The Board asked questions and Mr. Upson responded to the questions. Once the Board was satisfied Chairman Flowers-Taylor called for the vote.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to approve the revised Rosenwald School Renovation project concept and authorize solicitation of bids for construction. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

6. Consider approval of concept and plan for the new Spalding County Animal Shelter and authorize solicitation of bids for construction.

Mr. Upson then reviewed the concept and plan for the new Spalding County Animal Shelter and Mr. Mitchell Davis with POND and Company also discussed the layout of the concept plan with the Board.

After discussion of the plans and a question and answer period, Chairperson Flowers-Taylor called for the vote. The Board stated that we want to do what we said we would do and create a great facility and that is what we are going to do.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve the concept and plan for the new Spalding County Animal Shelter and authorize solicitation of bids for construction. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

Mr. Wilsons stated the Board has made great steps tonight and last month on the SPLOST Projects. The only major project left is the Aquatic Center and that will be on the July Agenda.

## **XI. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER**

- SPLOST collections for April were \$835,257.81 which was a 2.06% increase over the same period in 2019 and brings average collections to \$769,784.31 approximately 10% above the anticipated collections for this 49-month period. Total collections for the 49-month period are \$37,719,430.00.
- The Archway Executive Committee, Board of Education, Spalding County and the City of Griffin have worked with Archway on a joint strategic planning proposal, this is a countywide plan for the School System, the County and the City to be funded by Archway at no cost to the City, County or Board of Education. He feels it is something that we need and it is perfect timing because the school system is

redoing their 5-year plan and the City and County will be redoing our comp-plans next year. This is a plan on where we want Griffin-Spalding to be 10 years from now.

- There are members in the audience who are here who want to practice sports. He advised that he has read and re-read ACCG's commentary from the Governor's second Executive Order. He then read the portions relevant to the local government parks and recreation program.

He then advised that Kelly Carmichael had furnished him guidelines for each of the associations from USSSA, to Pickleball, to soccer or football. All of them have adopted return to play best practices. He then stated that he doesn't feel we are at the point to where we can allow competition, but we certainly can allow practice. Mr. Wilson stated that other entities have allowed practice to resume, not organized play, but practices.

Ms. Carmichael stated there are some counties that are allowing play within their communities but no tournament play. She stated she feels that would be the next step.

After considerable discussion between the Board members, consensus of the Board is to allow practice to commence with the guidelines as provided by each of the athletic associations as long as they can abide by the social distancing and a maximum of 25 people.

## **XII. REPORT OF ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER**

- EMA:
  - Today is the first day of Hurricane Season. EMA has provided Hurricane Preparation week and daily subjects to consider in your preparation process efforts for the upcoming hurricane season that begins June 1, 2020
- Fire:
  - The annual burn ban is under way that began May 1 and runs through September 30
  - Recruits are in their second week of basic training and all passed their 1st written exam. The first test is typically one of the hardest due to the students not knowing how to prepare since they have not seen the testing format prior. The test also covers seven chapters in which they have had lectures on during the course of the week.
  - Three certified new hires are settling in on their new shifts and seem to be fitting in.
  - Service awards were given to the following:
    - Lieutenant Randy Ponder 15 years
    - Firefighter Johnathan Fetters 10 years
    - Firefighter EMT Nick Long 10 years
    - Firefighter Brian Clothier 5 years
    - Firefighter Avery Bragg 5 years
    - Firefighter Desmond Woodard 5 years
- The Courthouse Janitorial Detail started Fogging/Disinfecting the Courtroom and

the Second Floor Magistrate Office last week.

- Auburn University is still closed; however, some of the professors did come in the end of May to alter the animals and made videos for their students. We don't know when they will reopen.

### **XIII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Bart Miller** – No comment.

**Rita Johnson** – A lot of people have been protesting over the last few days and she can respect a peaceful protest, but she would like to encourage people to take action and utilize their right to vote. Go to the polls.

**James Dutton** – The Sheriff stated that he has already taken some steps regarding speeding and the donuts, but he is also getting complaints from other parts of the County about people shooting at night. He has also heard some folks saying that people are shooting from their property onto the property next door and in addition to the little bit of lead that is a trespass they can't do.

He wants to commend the Sheriff's Office for their support in assisting with court cases. Your staff has been exceptional in accommodating request from attorneys that are having to contact clients before court. Captain Phillips and Major Sowell are both phenomenal, we are so lucky to have both of them. Their innovative approach to solving the problems created by the Court was appreciated. He feels that other counties would not have even considered the request. They are responsive not only to the attorneys, but to the Public Defenders as well.

Any of the people who came in and bid on the Public Defender contract would have been excellent. The guys from Kidd, Cato drove all the way down from North Georgia to present. We had folks from Newnan and Henry County, all great attorneys. He feels the Board made an excellent choice in the ones selected. He stated that he is looking forward to their getting started. He has already been getting text from the judge asking for contact information.

He is equally excited about the Rosenwald School he is ready to get some bids back and start breaking ground and get this project for that wonderful community going as soon as possible. He thinks it is going to be great working with the housing authority go get this project completed.

He is hoping that our estimates for the Animal Shelter match the bids that come in. He hopes that we have overestimated the costs and the bids come in way under and we can get all the bells and whistles we want and we can really do justice by the animals that we have dominion over and it is our responsibility to take care of.

He stated that he wants to end with the fact that he wants everything to be open, he wants people to have the choices with the responsibilities being on the individual and not on the government. That being said, he asked that everyone please be safe.

**Gwen Flowers-Taylor** – She wanted to comment on the gentleman who talked about the shooting in the subdivisions. She has a problem with that, she knows everyone gets upset when it comes to whether an individual can have a weapon. When you live in a subdivision, she doesn't feel it is right for anyone to be firing a weapon if there are neighbors close to you. She doesn't know how this is addressed in the ordinance, but she feels sure there is something about densely populated areas and discharge of firearms. She would like to have a discussion about this because she really

doesn't understand at this point what the rules are and if you can shoot out in your yard if you have 5 acres or  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre? Surely nobody's neighbors should have to be subjected to having that kind of noise. She would love to have some dialogue on this, because it's not going to be enough for the Sheriff to go out if they're not breaking a law. It's rude, it's unsafe, but if there are no guidelines for safety in a densely populated area.

She doesn't know what can be done about the speeders. The speeders on Jackson Road and High Falls Road. She spoke with Mr. Hammond who lives on Jackson Road just past Jackson Lane and he says that in the time he has lived there, he has had three cars to plow into his front porch because they are coming over that hill by UPS and when they're going there, they are heading toward the school and with the school being out it is like a racetrack over there. If anybody ever wanted to come and sit as a traffic stop, that would definitely be the place.

The other concern she has is the traffic on the road at the East Griffin Baptist Church coming from Ambucs. She doesn't know what the speed limit is, but everybody coming up over that hill is doing about 55 m.p.h. By the time they hit the dip by the church. She was wondering if a speed indicator could be placed on this road, so that people will be aware of how fast they are going in that area.

Regarding the protests that are going on, someone called her wanted to know what we were doing as Commissioners? She stated that her answer is it is COVID 19, why would she want to go out and get in a crowd of people. She is 65 years old so she can be that person. Even though she sees a lot of the people in mass with mask on, she simply doesn't feel it is a place for her to be and if there is anything that needs to be said about all the fussing. She says you don't get anything done by walking around in the street, it is the laws that you need to get changed in order for those things to change. So, unless somebody is talking about changing some laws, she's not really interested. She is hurt and sad about this whole situation and the history that brought us to where we are, but she's not really interested in dealing with anybody who is not doing anything that is really going to make a difference. So for anybody wondering why she wasn't out there, there simply was not reason for her to be.

She thanked the Board for the meeting, it was a good meeting, we had a lot of hard decisions to make, but we got through it.

#### **XIV. CLOSED SESSION**

#### **XV. ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Miller to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.***