

After Agenda

**Board of Commissioners of Spalding County
Regular Meeting
Monday, February 15, 2021
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, January 4, 2021, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with Chairperson Gwen Flowers-Taylor presiding. Commissioners James Dutton, Clay Davis, Ryan Bowlden and Rita Johnson (via ZOOM) were present for the meeting. Also present were County Manager, William P. Wilson, Jr., Assistant County Manager, Michelle Irizarry, County Attorney, Stephanie Windham 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

Pastor Drew Ellington with First Presbyterian Church of Griffin delivered the invocation.

III. PLEDGE TO FLAG

Commissioner Clay Davis, District #5 led the group in the Pledge to the Flag.

IV. APPOINTMENTS

1. Consider appointment to the McIntosh Trail Community Service Board to replace Judge Sid Essary who resigned as the County representative on this Board.

Mr. Wilson advised that we had made an appointment at the last meeting, then were notified by the McIntosh Trail Community Service Board that Judge Essary was the one needing to be replaced as he had resigned from the Board two years ago. Included in the documents attached to the agenda are the requirements for the appointee to this position.

Stephanie Windham, County Attorney, advised that she had the requirements and then proceeded to read the requirements for the Board.

“It can be an elected or appointed official. Elected or appointed officials would include the Chair of the Board of Commissioners or any member of the Board of Commissioners, the County Manager, the Sheriff, the Mayor or any City Commissioner, Police Chief or Fire Chief for the City of Griffin or Spalding County, any other elected official in the County, a member of the Board of Education or the School Superintendent.”

Mr. Wilson stated that Judge Essary was serving as the State Court Judge when he was appointed, so you may want to consider Judge Thacker or any of the other positions named by the attorney. Or, we could table this matter until the next meeting.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she would like to table this because the field is large and varied and she thinks it would be interesting to know what it was that Judge Essary brought to the table and to talk with the people at McIntosh Trail

to see what kind of strengths they might be looking for in the person appointed.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to table the appointment to the McIntosh Trail Community Service Board to replace Judge Sid Essary until the next meeting. Motion carried unanimously by all.

2. Consider appointment to the Spalding County Ethics Review Panel for District #5 to replace:
 - Bonnie Betsill, Jr.
 - Katherine Schafer Lindgren
 - Robert Beyer

for a term ending December 31, 2022.

Commissioner Davis advised that he would reappoint Katherine Schafer-Lindgren and Robert Beyer to the Spalding County Ethics Panel for District #5. He then advised that he would like to appoint Deb Piccone to the remaining seat for the term ending December 31, 2022.

V. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

1. Miller Edwards IV, Managing Partner with Mauldin and Jenkins here to present the FY 2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

Mr. Edwards, Manager Partner with Mauldin and Jenkins advised that overall things were very good this year. Right now, the County has a really strong fund balance. Spalding County has rebounded very well over the last few years. Back in 2008, 2009 and 2010 we had the recession and the County had to use a lot of its reserves at that time to get through. Over the last few years, we have seen increases to the overall fund balance and this past year there was a very large increase to the General Fund Balance.

Part of this increase was due to the County acquiring some debt this year, a capital lease relative to the lighting system through all of the facilities and improvements at the Sheriff's Office. As part of that debt the County received cash up front and that cash was placed into the General Fund and help to create an increase to the General Fund. The General Fund overall had a good year, the County received over \$48 million in regular revenues and spent approximately \$46 million and that is before the Capital Lease net proceeds that added to it. So, there was a \$2 million bump in fund balance. As discussed in the past, this is what the County needs to do to be able to prepare for any contingencies that we have to deal with in life.

Mr. Edwards reiterated that the County had a good year. The overall fund balance went up about \$6 million. Before you get too excited, before you do anything with operations this year you are going to see that fund balance come back down because there is approximately \$4 million that was injected into the fund balance by the Capital Lease, will be paid out in FY2021. He does feel that the General Fund had a really good year and he doesn't get to say that very often.

Mr. Edwards then stated that one other thing that he wanted to mention about the General Fund is that every functional area spent less than budgeted. Whether it was Public Safety, General Government or whatever it might be, every functional area spent less than budgeted. The General Fund revenues were down from budget by approximately \$1 million, but the County spent a lot less than budgeted on the different functional areas.

He then stated just to make this clear, any of the CARES monies that the County received were not included in these numbers. The Governor issued a letter back in 2020 to tell you what you would be getting. Initially, we were told it would have to be reported and there was a lot of confusion at the time about is that something that we need to record or not in FY2020. It was finally determined that every local government on June 30th did not book this money. These funds will be added to the books this year, so that will be something else to add to fund balance next year because Spalding County, like many other counties was able to apply that money to previously incurred expenses during the Spring and now it becomes a layer we can add to fund balance in the year we are now in.

Looking at the SPLOST accounts, the SPLOST has done exactly what it is expected to do. The 2016 SPLOST is designated for part of it to cover Debt Service and part to Cover Capitol Outlay. At the end of the day, you have taken in more money than you have spent and those accounts are growing, the fund balance is there and they are continuing to grow.

Mr. Edwards then stated that the County has a component unit, the Spalding County Water and Sewerage Facilities Authority, which also had a good year. It received approximately \$9.2 million in revenues and spent approximately \$7.4 million and this is a good place to be. As this system is enhanced, you are going to have to add to the reserves.

Entity wide, when you look at everything involved in the County budget is a big operation. In assets the County currently has approximately \$140 million, with overall liabilities of approximately \$50 million with an equity position of \$90 million. Mr. Edwards advised that at this time Spalding County has more liquidity than it has had in a very long time.

Mr. Edwards then advised that one of the things he had talked about over the past few years is the pension plan and having to book that liability. It went up a lot this year because of changes that were made to the plan as well as actuarial assumptions that changed. It caused the County to go from being approximately 80% funded down to 64% which is something that needs to be addressed going forward. This is something that is going to have to be address, but doesn't have to be addressed in a single year because it is a long-term liability, it is a long-term obligation. It is not something to ignore, but neither is it something to worry about right now. Additionally, you have the post-employment benefits for people who retire from the County. They receive a certain level of insurance that the County has agreed to do to assist in that gap in coverage. Right now, that liability has increased from 1.7 to 2.2 percent.

Mr. Edwards then stated that he feels the County overall had a good financial year. He then added that the Board always looks to Maulding and Jenkins to give areas of improvement and we have talked about this in the past. In past years, there have been lists of items that needed to be worked on. This past year there was only one item in the Sheriff's Office, there was a situation where there was some discrepancies they did not understand. They asked management as to the problem and once they looked into it, the determination was made that an error was made on the General Ledger that they fixed and it was taken care of, but the delay in time to figure out the problem coupled with the segregation of duties was part of the problem as well. It is important to have the right people doing these things to make sure we have good controls in place. He then stated that it is their recommendation that the Sheriff's Office have some re-engineering of their processes, so that this kind of error can be addressed and in a timely manner. This recommendation is simply ways to improve.

Mr. Edwards stated that overall the audit was clean and a lot of good news relative to the financial situation. He then opened the floor for questions.

Commission Flowers-Taylor stated that what concerns her is the retirement funding which went from 80% funded to 64% funded. She then asked if Mr. Edwards was seeing any type of trend where baby boomers are retiring in governments. Currently, Spalding County is very gray in our employee population, so we will have multiple people leaving in the next 10 years. She is just wondering if everybody is experiencing this type of change? Can it be attributed to an aging group of employees? Could this liability be even larger in five years?

Mr. Edwards then stated that there has been a trend in this country that health care is going up and the health care portion of the retirement plan is going to feel this over time. That is the nature of life, there is nothing anyone can do about it. On the pension side, we are seeing a lot of volatility there, we are seeing some plans that are being managed differently from others and some communities are having the graying affect, but one thing that he will say to all of this is that the county's actuaries have already considered all of this. When they look at this information, it is called the census information, and we have to audit the census information that is submitted by the county to the actuaries. In our audit of the information we believe the information was accurate that was relayed to them. So, then the actuaries look at all the different factors and they then make their suggestion of what that liability needs to be today and what the funding requirements need to be going forward. The whole idea, in the end, is to avoid the concerns you have expressed regarding the sudden sky rocketing of the liability. The whole idea is to see if we can manage this instead of having it manage us and properly reflect and prepare that liability from the cash flow standpoint going forward. He stated that from that standpoint the County is in good shape. The right kind of people are looking it.

2. Brett Hanes with Charles Abbott & Associates is here to introduce the new Code Enforcement Team.

Brent Hanes stated that he and the two gentlemen with him work for Charles Abbott & Associates. He started in February 2019 handling the building department, planner, inspections and so forth and the County has since allowed us to begin Code Enforcement. Mr. Hanes stated that the Code Enforcement team has "hit the ground running" and they have covered every new case that has developed, they have started case files on these items. We have also started rechecking cases that have been outstanding for quite some time.

Notable addresses 818 E. McIntosh, 1204 Brooks Road, 784 Tri-County, 4122 Old Atlanta Road at the corner of Old Atlanta and Baptist Camp. These are "problem children" that we have started dealing with. Code Enforcement is a process, we have to go out, take pictures, send notice of violation, then if they do not come into compliance we move to citation. At that point, the problem moves to the Magistrate Court.

Mr. Hanes then introduced Shay Smith who is a new hire who will be trained by Mr. Hanes and Scott Clair, who is the lead Code Enforcement Officer. He has over a decade in Code Enforcement experience. Both of these gentlemen are veterans as well.

Mr. Hanes then stated that they do have the Code Enforcement email set up it is codeenforcement@spaldingcounty.com. Anyone in the County can send an email to this address and it goes to all three of these individuals. The phone line has also been set up (770/467-4353) and has been placed on the Code Enforcement page of the website. The standard is once a call is received someone will get back to you within 24-48 hours.

Commissioner Dutton then asked if Code Enforcement was hooked in with the InSpalding app.

Mr. Wilson advised they are hooked into to the app. Once a request is received on the InSpalding App Public works will forward them to Code Enforcement.

Then a discussion surrounding violations, how the violations would be handled along with when the landowners would be cited. Also, discussion surrounding if there would be multiple violations for debris or one violation. Mr. Hanes stated that in the past it has been customary to write a violation for the entirety, when everything can be covered under one. Should they have debris along with junked vehicles and problems with the structure, that would be three separate violations. Their end goal is compliance, not citations.

Commissioner Dutton then asked how long a resident/homeowner would be given to clean up the problem before they are fined.

Mr. Hanes stated that the letters currently allow 15 days for the property to be brought into compliance. At the end of that 15 days, if we do not hear from the property owner, we will go out and do a recheck and if not in compliance a citation will be issued.

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.

David Elder, representing Faith Baptist Church, 812 E. McIntosh Road wanted to speak about the abandoned property adjacent from the church located at 818 E. McIntosh road. He stated that he was glad to hear that it was on the Code Enforcement high priority list.

Bob Beyer, 516 Orchid Lights Court, welcomed Commissioner Clay Davis as the new Commissioner for District 5. The second matter is he has seen in the Griffin Daily News regarding local legislation to change the Elections Board and how the Elections Supervisor is hired and supervised.

Sharon King, 143 Cumberland Road, encouraged the Board to go forward with Ethics Complaint against Commissioner Dutton.

Allen Mobley, 262 Mobley Road, talked about the problems his neighborhood is experiencing with the McIntosh Trails Group Home located at 331 Mobley Road. He stated that he feels for the special needs people, but in the past 12 months Sheriff's

Deputies have been called out to this location 27 times. Complaints range from members of the group home escaping, one got lost in his woods, the Sheriff's Department had to dispatch the drones to find him. His neighbor who lives across from this house continually has problems with these individuals coming to his door, knocking on the door in the middle of the night and trying to get in. The last situation was a young man escaped, got on one of his tractors and tried to crank it. Per State Law these houses can go anywhere, but he wants to go on the record, one day something may happen, there are ponds, cows and bulls on the property close to this house. He just wanted the Board to be aware there is a problem.

Vera McIntosh, 237 Begonia Court, advised that she is Chairperson of the Board of Elections and she is here tonight to speak on behalf of Marcia Ridley, Election Supervisor. During the election period 2020-2021, there were approximately 7 elections including back to back recounts and a Special election. Due to the unusual election activities and the supervisor's abnormal workload with no break, Ms. Ridley accumulated a total of 209 hours of off-set time. If she does not use this time before the end of the year, she will lose it. Ms. McIntosh is requesting that the Board consider to include said hours as Vacation Time.

Ron Hoffman, 130 Milner Avenue, stated that no one talks face-to-face anymore. Social Media has divided the country so much that we don't even make simple phone calls to give someone common courtesy and benefit of a doubt. Instead of picking up the telephone and calling someone when they read something on Social Media to find out where the person is coming from, they file an ethics complaint. Personal statements on a personal post should not be utilized in this manner.

Bonnie Moret, 1107 E. College, spoke regarding the person that Commissioner Dutton is and the good things that he has done and continues to do for this Community. Face book has become the be all, end all and do all of our society. Freedom of Speech should be just that. We are Americans and we have that right. If you don't like what is being said, don't listen, if you don't like what is on tv, turn it off. She does not believe the Ethics Complaint is valid and thanked the Commissioners for everything that they do.

VIII. MINUTES -

1. Consider approval of minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Zoning Public Hearing on January 28,2021 and the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting and Executive Session on February 1, 2021.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve the minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Zoning Public Hearing on January 28,2021 and the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting and Executive Session on February 1, 2021. Motion carried unanimously by all.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA –

1. **Approve on second reading an Amendment to UDO #A-20-10:** Article 2. Definitions – Section 202:BBB' – amend definition; Section 202: BBB', BBB2", BBB3, BBB4, BBB5 – renumbering sections; C-1 – Section 1203:A(17); C-1A – Section 1303: B(4); C-1B – Section 1403:A(82); C- 1C Section 1403A:A(79); C-2 – Section 1503:A(108); VN – Section 1703 A:B (11) & O&I – Section 1903:A(7) –

amend personal care homes.

Motion/Second by Davis/Dutton to Approve on second reading an Amendment to UDO #A-20-10: Article 2. Definitions – Section 202:BBB’ – amend definition; Section 202: BBB’, BBB”, BBB3, BBB4, BBB5 – renumbering sections; C-1 – Section 1203:A(17); C-1A – Section 1303: B(4); C-1B – Section 1403:A(82); C- 1C Section 1403A:A(79); C-2 – Section 1503:A(108); VN – Section 1703 A:B (11) & O&I – Section 1903:A(7) – amend personal care homes. Motion carried unanimously by all.

X. OLD BUSINESS -

1. Election of Chairman of the Spalding County Board of Commissioners for Calendar Year 2021.

This vote was suspended until we had all five members of the Board and since is our first meeting all together, the floor is now open for nominations.

Mr. Wilson then advised that the County Attorney usually handles the election of the Chairman.

Stephanie Windham, County Attorney, asked the Board if there were any nominations for Chair.

Commissioner Johnson stated that she would like to nominate Commissioner Clay Davis for the position as Spalding County Chairman.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Flowers-Taylor to elect Commissioner Clay Davis as Chairman of the Spalding County Board of Commissioners for Calendar Year 2021. Motion carried 3-2 (Dutton/Bowlden).

2. Election of Vice-Chairman of the Spalding County Board of Commissioners for Calendar Year 2021.

Commissioner Bowlden nominated Commissioner Dutton as Vice-Chairman for Calendar Year 2021.

Motion/Second by Bowlden/ Flowers-Taylor to elect Commissioner James Dutton as Vice-Chairman of the Spalding County Board of Commissioners for Calendar Year 2021. Motion carried unanimously by all.

3. Consider appointment to the Griffin-Spalding County Hospital Authority. Chairman or designee to succeed Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021.

Chairman Davis stated that he would like to be on the Hospital Authority.

4. Consider appointment to the Three Rivers Regional Commission Board of Directors. Chairman or designee to succeed Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor for a one-year term ending 12/31/2021.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated she would like to continue on this Board if the Chairman did not wish to be on the Board.

Chairman Davis stated that he is not sure he knows what the Three Rivers Regional Commission.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then asked Chairman Davis if he would like to attend the next meeting with her and make a decision on this appointment after the meeting.

5. Consider appointment to the West Central Georgia Workforce Investment Board to succeed Chairperson Gwen Flowers-Taylor for a term to expire 12/31/2021.

Mr. Wilson advised that this appointment must be the Chairman of the Board.

Chairman Davis stated he would be serving on this Board.

6. Consider appointment to the Two Rivers R C & D Council. Chairman or designee to succeed Commissioner Donald Hawbaker for a one-year term to expire 12/31/2021.

Chairman Davis appointed James Dutton to the Two Rivers RC & D Council for a one-year term to expire on 12/31/2021.

7. Consider appointment to the Spalding County Board of Health: Chairman or designee to succeed Commissioner James R. Dutton for a one-year term to expire December 31, 2021.

Chairman Davis stated that he would like to serve on this Board.

8. Consider appointments to the Spalding County Water & Sewerage Facilities Authority. Chairman or designee to succeed Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021.

Chairman Davis stated that he wanted to make sure that everyone understands. He is also on that Board and his position as Commissioner is a temporary position that the Governor appointed him to and he will remain on that Board as a County at Large representative

Chairman Davis then reappointed Commissioner Flowers-Taylor to the Spalding County Water and Sewerage Facilities Authority for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021.

9. Consider appointment to the Griffin-Spalding County Area Transportation Committee. Chairman or designee to succeed Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021.

Chairman Davis reappointed Commissioner Flowers-Taylor for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021.

10. Consider appointment to the Griffin-Spalding County Development Authority. To succeed Commissioner James Dutton as the Chairman's designee for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021.

Chairperson Davis reappointed Commissioner Dutton to the Griffin-Spalding Development Authority for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021.

Chairman Davis then asked Commissioner Dutton to take Commissioner Bowlden to a couple of these meetings so that he can be familiar with this Authority and how it works as part of his transition to the Board.

11. Consider appointment to the Griffin Main Street Advisory Board. Chairman or designee to succeed Commissioner Rita Johnson for a one-year term to expire December 31, 2021.

Chairman Davis appointed Commissioner Dutton for a one-year term to expire December-31, 2021.

12. Consider appointment to the Griffin Downtown Council. Chairman or designee to succeed Commissioner James R. Dutton for a one-year term to expire December 31, 2021.

Chairman Davis appointed Commissioner Johnson for a one-year term to expire December 31, 2021.

13. Consider appointments to the Griffin-Spalding Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Chairman or designee to succeed Commissioner Rita Johnson for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021.

Chairman Davis reappointed Commissioner Rita Johnson for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021.

14. Consider appointments to the Spalding County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission. Chair or designee to replace Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021.

Chairman Davis reappointed Commissioner Flowers-Taylor for a one-year term to ending December 31, 2021.

- To replace David Dodd, District #2 appointment for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2022.

Commissioner Dutton asked that this appointment be tabled until the next meeting.

- To replace David Johnson, District #2 appointment for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2022.

Commissioner Dutton reappointed David Johnson for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2022.

- To replace Joseph Kurey, District #5, for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2022.

Chairman Davis reappointed Joseph Kurey for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2022.

- To replace Byron Pearce, District #5, for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2022.

Chairman Davis reappointed Byron Pearce for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2022.

15. Consider appointment to the Atlanta Regional Commission to succeed Commissioner Donald Hawbaker for a one-year term ending December 31, 2021.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor advised that she is currently serving in this capacity.

Chairman Davis asked that Commissioner Flowers-Taylor continue in this appointment, but that she invited Commissioner Bowlden to the next few meetings to see if this is something that he would like to transition into once he gets his feet on the ground.

16. Lift from the table a request to authorize payment for legal services from Dexter Wimbish to the Board of Elections on November 4, 2020.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to lift from the table a request to authorize payment for legal services from Dexter Wimbish to the Board of Elections on November 4, 2020. Motion carried unanimously by all.

Commissioner Dutton expressed his concern that the Board of Elections has access to the County Attorney for their meetings. The County Attorney has been attending these meetings, yet the Board asked the County Attorney on this occasion to leave the meeting as Ms. Ridley had hired a private attorney to represent the Board of Elections without any request being made to the County.

Discussion then surrounded if the Board of Elections was expecting the County to pay this additional expense, or if it the Board of Elections could reallocate funding in their budget to cover this expense. Mr. Wilson advised that the Board of Elections does have the funds available to pay the expense; however, since the hiring of the attorney was against County Policy, he wanted to make sure that the Board was aware of the breach in policy, prior to the payment of the invoice.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Flowers-Taylor to go back to the Board of Elections and have them reallocate funding from their budget to pay the attorney and to remind them they have access to the County Attorney at no cost to them and this type of violation of policy should not happen again. Motion carried 4-1 (Dutton).

17. Set a date to conduct a Public Hearing on an Ethics Complaint filed against Commissioner James R. Dutton.

Mr. Wilson stated that the County Attorney has advised that we need to consider this request under the rules that were in effect at the time the complaint was filed.

Ms. Windham explained that the wording of the Agenda Item is incorrect, when the complaint is against one of the Members of the Board of Commissioners, it is not setting a date to conduct a public hearing, it is to determine if you will be selecting an Ethic Review Panel. The process is that the complaint must allege a Prima Facie violation of the Code of Ethics. The remaining commissioners review the allegations and three agree that the Complaint on its face shows a violation of the Ethics Ordinance, then an independent review board should be convened. So today you would be determining if the complaint warrants further review, if yes then you would set the time and the date to select the Review Board. After that, the Review Board would hear the complaint and the defenses and that would be a Public Hearing. The Review Board would then send a report to the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Commissioners would determine discipline. Today is to determine if the complaint warrants further review and if the answer is "yes" then to set a time to select the Review Board.

Chairman Davis stated that this makes a big difference as he was no prepared to make such a determination at this meeting. He then asked the Board if they had reviewed the complaint against Commissioner Dutton and if they felt there was Prima Facie violation.

Commissioner Davis then polled the Board regarding the Prima Facie, there are just four voting as Commissioner Dutton will not be allowed to vote on this matter and the question is: "Is there a Prima Facie violation committed by Commissioner Dutton?" Those who believes there is a Prima Facie violation in what has been presented to the Board please raise your hand: Commissioners Flowers-Taylor and Johnson raised their hands. Those who believe there is not a Prima Facie violation please raise your hand: Commissioners Bowlden and Davis raised their hands. The vote was 2/2, the determination is there is no Prima Facie violation to present to the Ethics Review Board.

XI. NEW BUSINESS -

1. Consider approval of final plat for Roberts Run minor subdivision located on West Ellis Road.

Mr. Wilson advised that all departments have reviewed this request and recommend approval.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Bowlden to approve the final plat for Roberts Run minor subdivision located on West Ellis Road. Motion carried unanimously by all.

2. Consider approval of Master Agreement for Professional Services with Keystone Aerial Surveys for new Aerial Photography for our GIS System.

Mr. Wilson stated that this is a joint City-County project, the last time this was done was in 2017. We are currently set to do this aerial photography the last week of February and it will improve the GIS system for both the City and the County and we split the cost 50/50. We budgeted our half and the City budgeted their half.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve a of Master Agreement for Professional Services with Keystone Aerial Surveys for new Aerial Photography for our GIS System.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then inquired as to the need for an updated GIS?

Mr. Wilson advised that everything in Planning and Zoning will have new aerials so that we can see development that has occurred. All of the new roads, new business and new home, etc. We are including contours for drainage, we are having the elevations delineated every two feet. Right now, they are delineated ever 10 feet. This helps to be more accurate on the drainage. These aerials are not only used by GIS they are used by the Tax Assessors Office, Tax Commissioner's Office, Board of Commissioners and Community Development as well

Motion carried unanimously by all.

3. Consider approval of a resolution adopting the 2020 CIE & CWP for Spalding County.

Mr. Wilson stated that Deborah Bell brought to the Board the CIE & CWP which had the details. The process is the documents must be sent to Three Rivers for review then they will send it to DCA. DCA has advised that it meets all the specifications and now we have to formally transmit it with a resolution to the State

so that they can approve it.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to approve a resolution adopting the 2020 CIE & CWP for Spalding County. Motion carried unanimously by all.

4. Consider approval of utilizing carryover funding from the prior years' CSBG Program for the FY 2021 program in the amount of \$65,920.81.

Mr. Wilson stated that the Three Rivers Regional Commission administers our CSBG program. We took the carryover funding and divided it by three for the three projects under this program making giving each program an additional \$21,000± added to each project for FY2021.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve the carryover funding from the prior years' CSBG Program for the FY 2021 program in the amount of \$65,920.81. Motion carried unanimously by all.

5. Consider revision of the CSBG CARES Budget.

Mr. Wilson stated that this is CARES funding for CSBG. The reason for the budget amendment is there was an amount allotted for Rental Payments and an amount allotted for Mortgage Payments. There has been a much larger demand for Rental assistance than there has been for Mortgage assistance. This revision will move funds from the Mortgage Payments to the Rental Payments so the funding will better accommodate the demand.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to approve the revision of the CSBG CARES Budget as requested by the CARES Resource Allocation Team.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that this money came through the Three Rivers Regional Commission, this was money that was allotted to the State of Georgia and the State then divided it up and sent it to each region. There was a list of about 16 things that could be chosen to assist people. Maybe in some other communities helping people to pay they house note would be an issue, but there isn't a large population in this community that owns their home or hold a mortgage. In the City of Griffin, 70% of the population are renters, so we have a disproportionate number of people demographically who are asking for money. As they were seeing the demand, they have asked for the adjustment to make sure there is more money available to the community.

Motion carried unanimously by all.

6. Consider approval of Amended and Restated Interlocal Cooperation Agreement to Establish and Maintain the Griffin-Spalding Land Bank Authority.

Mr. Wilson stated that the County Attorney would address this agenda item.

Ms. Windham advised that they have met and reviewed this document and the City will be voting on it at their next meeting. This was discussed during the Zoom work shop where we had representatives from the Board of Education, the City of Griffin, Spalding County and the Land Bank Authority. The only thing that we haven't been able to include at this time is the staggered terms. We talked about the addition of a fifth member and if the Board is in agreement to do this, then there is nothing else in the contract that was questionable. Ms. Windham then stated that she nor Jessica O'Connor had been able to figure a way to stagger these terms, it is very difficult to do when you are not starting fresh and the enabling legislation sets out how the initial terms should be. Should we be able to figure out a way to stagger the terms that everyone can agree to, then we can amend the contract later. At this

time, we are asking for approval of the Contract adding one board member.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then asked what the requirement would be to look at the possibility of getting the enabling legislation changed? This is something that wasn't addressed in the beginning.

Ms. Windham stated that the Land Bank is statutory under Georgia Code and the Legislature decided that it should be a four-member board, so when it was set up originally, it was set up as a four member board. She stated there should be a way to stagger the terms.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor the stated that by resolution we can change the number of members on the board and add a person, but we can't change the term by resolution?

Ms. Windham stated that is correct.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Bowden to approve the Amended and Restated Interlocal Cooperation Agreement to Establish and Maintain the Griffin-Spalding Land Bank Authority. Motion carried unanimously by all.

7. Lift from the table and consider appointments to the Griffin-Spalding Land Bank Authority:

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to lift from the table and consider appointments to the Griffin-Spalding Land Bank Authority. Motion carried unanimously by all.

- a) To succeed Joseph "Brett" Hanes for a four-year term ending December 31, 2024.

Mr. Wilson stated that Mr. Hanes does wish to continue to serve.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to appoint Joseph "Brett" Hanes to the Griffin-Spalding Land Bank Authority for a four-year term ending December 31, 2021. Motion carried unanimously by all.

- b) To succeed Jim Smith as the Board of Education Representative on the Authority.

Mr. Wilson then advised that the Board has now approved a new fifth appointee, and according to the Agreement we just signed it was agreed that we would wait on the Board of Education to make a recommendation to the City and County for the fifth member.

Mr. Wilson then stated that we have in the book Mr. Newton Galloway, and staff recommends that you reappoint Newton Galloway from the County for a four-year term.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to appoint Newton Galloway to the Griffin-Spalding Land Bank Authority for a four-year term ending December 31, 2024. Motion carried unanimously by all.

8. Consider declaring surplus vehicles from the Public Works Department and authorizing sale utilizing Ritchie Brothers Auctioneers for disposal.

Mr. Wilson stated there are several cars and a couple of trucks that we need to surplus. Most of them are inoperable and we are recommending Richie Brothers Auctioneers, which is a division of GovDeals. When we did this before, we received much more from the sale of the surplus than ever before and we were able to purchase two vehicles for the Public Works Department with that money. Staff recommends declaring these vehicles surplus and authorizing GovDeals/Richie Brothers to conduct this sale and that any funds resulting from the sale be used to

purchase new vehicles for Public Works.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to surplus vehicles from the Public Works Department and authorize the sale of the surplus vehicles by Ritchie Brothers Auctioneers.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that with regard to purchasing a new vehicle with the proceeds. Gas prices are going up and she would like to start looking at purchasing either electric vehicles or a hybrid. She would also like to look at this during the budget planning when looking at new vehicles being brought into the fleet.

Motion carried unanimously by all.

9. Establish dates and times for work sessions to review meeting agendas.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she had requested that this be placed on the agenda because we as a Board have a lot of projects that are underway and we don't get to address them except every two weeks. We have talked a little bit about an upcoming SPLOST, but we do have some other things that we are working on and we have a hard time coming up with a date that we can all meet. At one time we had held workshops on the Monday before one of the Board meetings once a month. We usually have multiple things that were discussed at the work session. If we didn't have anything, then we didn't have to have it, but it helped to get caught up on the things that we needed to accomplish. She wanted to bring this to the Board to see if anyone would be interested in that again. We have commercial zoning, the mill overlay and I-16 corridor we need to have time to review these items and develop a plan. She is asking the Board to consider addition a workshop on a meeting day one time a month.

After discussion, it was decided that the fourth Thursday of each month at 3:00 p.m. prior to the Zoning Public Hearing would be a good time to hold this workshop for an initial period of 3 months, then re-evaluate to see if this needs to continue. The first workshop being Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to establish the fourth Thursday of each month at 3:00 p.m., prior to the Zoning Public Hearing, for a workshop. To be re-evaluated by the Board after 3 months. Motion carried unanimously by all.

10. Consider termination of lease agreement with The Griffin-Spalding Historical Society for the Camp Stephens property.

Mr. Wilson stated that several months ago it came to the attention of the Board that Camp Stephens was named after a confederate soldier who owned slaves and maybe taxpayer money should not be utilized to keep up this memorial. So, Mr. Wilson was asked to contact the Griffin-Spalding Historical Society to see if they would consider changing the name. He then advised that after numerous attempts to contact the Griffin-Spalding Historical Society regarding the Camp Stephens property he had been unable to get a return call.

Commissioner Dutton advised that he did not feel that terminating a long-standing agreement would be the way to address the issue, he asked if the matter could be tabled for 60 days to give he and Mr. Wilson an opportunity to contact the Griffin-Spalding Historical Society and invite someone to come and talk with the Board.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to table the request to terminate a lease agreement with the Griffin-Spalding Historical Society for the Camp Stephens property for a period of 60 days. Motion

carried unanimously by all.

11. Discussion of City of Griffin's response to County's request regarding City Park and City Pool and provide direction to staff on how to proceed.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that when the 2016 SPLOST passed it was with the understanding that there would be a pool constructed with a retractable roof and a major selling point was there would be a fun splash park associated with the projects and the funds generated by the splash park would help to offset the cost of the facilities. Since that time, the aquatic center has gone from a six-lane pool with a retractable roof to an eight-lane pool. It has also gone from one pool to two pools, because one needs to be for warming up. In that process, the fun/splash park has been removed from the equation. We don't have that money yet, we don't even have the money for an aquatic center at this time. She just wants to say, if we don't deliver what we told people we would deliver when we did the SPLOST, we can never expect them to trust us to pass another SPLOST.

She then stated that when the City responded to our projections of what we would need to do at City Park. Basically, they sent a letter back clearly stating they wanted to talk about the SDS, they didn't want to do anything with the LOST or the SPLOST until after we did SDS, which essentially came down to "no, we don't want to do anything with City Park." But the letter did say that they were interested in talking with the County about a Fun Park or Splash Park and the Pool. She then talked with Mr. Smith and his perception of what was sent, and our perception were two different things so she asked Mr. Smith to send another letter stating exactly what the City would like to partner with County to accomplish.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she is only one vote, but she has been on the Board long enough to know that if you lose the confidence of the voters and not deliver what it is that you said you are going to deliver, they are not that forgiving. So, we need to figure out how we are going to do this.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then added that the letter that was handed out to each member of the Board this evening is an effort to explain to us what the City is interested in doing with the County and we are to look at this and see if this is something we want to have discussions about. If we're not interested, then it's dead.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then reference an email that Mr. Wilson presented to the Board stating that the pool cannot be closed down, but the pool was closed last year. She would like to know, from reading this document if a splash pad facility would meet the criteria of what the swimming pool recreation was supposed to be that the City of Griffin received the funding for. She then stated it is incumbent on the Board to find out, if we have this document, then we get to get a legal opinion on whether or not we are going to be taking on something that is already in violation of the rules. This is not a "we can wait until next month" issue if we are thinking about this, this is very important. Not that it is something that we can use for leverage, but we want to make sure everything is clear on our end before we engage in anything that might violate a contract that they made in 1971.

Mr. Wilson stated that this is a United States Department of Interior Land and Water Conservation Fund Project Agreement. It is an outdoor recreation grant and aid grant that helped the City build the pool in 1971 which can be interpreted to say that they cannot shut it down without replacing it.

Ms. Windham stated that they would review the grant documents and send out a memo as to what can be done.

Mr. Wilson advised that this would probably be a good topic for the first workshop on February 25th. He then stated that the Board had authorized Paragon to study Cowan Road and the Lakes at Green Valley as possible locations for the Aquatic Center. Mr. Upson is in the process of finalizing the numbers for both and those will be presented at the March 1 meeting. So, if you can be in agreement on the 25th then be ready for the meeting on March 1 everything should come together around the same time.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she feels it would be very prudent for one of the members of the Board to be communicating with Ms. Irizarry and Mr. Wilson as they are talking through this so that Commissioner can get a feel of what they think we as a Board will accept. That Commissioner could also speak from a different perspective, other than management speaking. She feels this is one of those things that we can't keep putting it off.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then stated that she knows that her grandson is going to have a place to go swim, but the swim team doesn't have any place to swim and the rest of the kids in the community that depend on having a place to swim don't have a place to swim. So, she feels that the Board should make an effort to provide something, or if not provide something to come up with something definitive that will do what we said we were going to do and make the commitment to go ahead to do it.

Commissioner Johnson stated she would like for this to be a topic for the meeting on the 25th and she would like to look at all of the options. She would also like to invite Park and Rec and Leisure Services to the meeting. Particularly, Mr. Imberger so that we can look at everything. Mr. Imberger has taken her to several areas and discussed possible locations for the Fun Park and she liked it. She feels that now is the time to work it out. She is ready to make this decision and move on. It needs to be made.

Chairman Davis then asked if everyone is okay with the first workshop on February 25th being about the pool? He then asked Commissioner Johnson if she could be the person that could discuss the pool with the City and find out what is going on with that.

Commissioner Johnson stated that she could be that person.

Chairman Davis stated that he feels this is more of a numbers issue than anything else and once we know what the numbers look like, we will know what to do.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then stated that she would like to, as a board, prepare a resolution for the Hospital Authority requesting funding in a specific amount to go toward the Aquatic Center. The reason she is saying that is we have a snapshot from Paragon on the construction costs for the pool, no matter where it is placed. So, we already know that the funds needed exceed the amount allocated in the SPLOST, so we need to decide if we are going to ask them for funding. We can't start construction if we don't have the money to complete the project. If we are going to ask them for money, it would be appropriate to start asking now, so they can prepare looking down the road on any contribution they can make.

Mr. Wilson stated this would be added as an agenda item on February 25th as well.

Commissioner Dutton then stated that the City Park pool is a huge monetary obligation, it is in terrible condition and it is because the City hasn't properly maintained it. They have decided that they are not going to open the pool this year, then they are trying to put it off on the County as if we're not opening the pool this

year. They own the pool and they have decided that they are not going to open the pool. So, to try to put it on the County that it is our fault that the swim team doesn't have a place. He stated that he wishes we could open the Aquatic Center sooner, but as the money goes, is how the construction will follow. As the money is accumulated for that project it can be spent because it was written as a pay as you go project. The City reallocating their money away from the pool, so that the pool doesn't get opened is somehow the County's fault, this has no basis on reality. The City of Griffin decided to close the pool and we have an opportunity to build an Aquatic Center, that he hopes to break ground soon rather than later. For the City to say that County has somehow closed their pool and so the County has prevented people from swimming in a pool that the County doesn't own, that the County has no control over and has nothing to do with is not reality.

XII. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER

- ✓ Earlier this week Mr. Wilson sent everyone a notice that Norfolk Southern is going to be doing some safety upgrades. Actually, it is GDOT that will be doing some safety upgrades. The first will be at Experiment Street and School Street in front of the old Dundee Mills Headquarters. They will be putting new flashing lights and gates at this crossing. At Baptist Camp, they will be redoing the crossing. Then at Kilgore Road they will be redoing the crossing. All of this is scheduled for next week, we have notified all emergency services, the hospital, EMS, the Sheriff's Office, E-911, Fire Department, the School System, etc. so that everyone is aware of these upgrades. We think they will do them one at a time; however, we have had zero communication with the railroad, we have had communication with GDOT and the company that is putting out the detour signs for the railroad, but we have had no communication with the railroad.
- ✓ Ms. Conort has contacted each of you and set up a time for a video to be done on each commissioner.
- ✓ Mr. Wilson sent out a notice this morning that long time E-911 employee Cheri Taylor passed away. Ms. Taylor has been with the County since the planning stages of 911. She came to work for Spalding County in February 1990 and has been with us for 31 years. She will be missed.
- ✓ Mr. Adnon Alghita purchased three lots on Osceola Street. This was a street that although it showed on the plat submitted for the mill village, the road was never cut, there were three lots that were plated, but the road was never cut and the County never accepted the road. The Board decided in 2017 to formally abandon the road and Mr. Alghita was notified of the abandonment. Mr. Alghita is now requesting that the County either pay him for the three lots that he purchased and cannot use or swap County property for something that he purchased sight unseen.
Mr. Wilson stated that he has told Mr. Alghita a number of times that the Board is not interested in that. He then asked if that is the consensus of the Board. Mr. Wilson stated he has suggest that Mr. Alghita donate the lots to the Land Bank Authority and take the loss and he had some explicative to that suggestion. He stated that the Commissioners are going to buy these properties, they are going to pay me for these. He stated "no sir, he doesn't believe the Board is going to do that."
Mr. Wilson stated he would send him a letter and let him know that the Board of Commissioners are not interested in this property.
Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that Mr. Wilson might want to include that we are not in the business of swapping property and that there is an organization that may do that and it is called the Griffin-Spalding Land Bank.

- ✓ Mr. Wilson then stated that he had sent the Board information on legislation regarding electing a Chief Appraiser. HB352, he asked that the Board review the information and let him know how they would like to respond.
 - ✓ Zoning 101, we have heard from Commissioners Bowlden, Johnson and Davis that March 18th works the best, is anyone else interested? He knows that Stephanie Windham and Debbie Bell want to attend, but he needs to know if any of the other Commissioners would like to attend? This covers the Zoning Ordinance, it's history in Spalding County, etc. Commissioner Dutton advised he would try to make it and Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she would be there,
 - ✓ Commissioner Flowers-Taylor had mentioned at the last meeting the possibility of using some of the CARES Funding for hazard pay. We received approximately \$2.2 million in CARES Funding. We have spent approximately \$550,000 on items to address COVID (masks, COVID "cages", Courtrooms, temperature monitors, etc.). For all full time County Employees to receive a one-time separate check gross check in the amount of \$1,200 and part time employees in the amount of \$600 would cost approximately \$753,000. We have the money if you would like to do this, we can do it. That would mean we will have spent approximately \$1.3 million of the \$2.2 million. The remaining funds could go toward increasing our fund balance or whatever the Board directs. If you are interested, we can present it formally at the next agenda, or you can amend the agenda tonight to approve it.
- Commissioner Johnson then asked the Board if there is anyone opposed to this? She feels it is a remarkable idea for the moral of our employees. Is there a reason we can't do it tonight?

Commissioner Dutton stated he would like to see more information on the actual numbers before voting to spend \$753,000. He feels we owe it to everybody to think about this.

Chairperson Davis stated he is for doing it, it is just a matter of how much. The State just amended their Hazard Pay for employees to \$1,000.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated she agrees that we need to look at it, it would be a boost to the fund balance, but the employees have been out working every day and the only thing we have done is say "thank-you."

Mr. Wilson stated that many communities did this before the end of the year. He wanted to wait to find out exactly how much money we had committed prior to bringing it to the Board.

Chairperson Davis stated that Mr. Wilson needs to bring back concrete numbers on what we are talking about and we will make a decision.

Mr. Wilson stated that he would get more detailed number and it will be placed on the next agenda, March 1.

XIII. REPORT OF ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER

- The quarterly State Inspection was done at the Animal Shelter and we passed. It was a "drop-in" inspection and everything went well.
- Fire will be hosting a traffic incident management meeting for the County Region of Spalding, Butts and Lamar on February 23rd.
- EMA will be doing a preliminary damage assessment course with GEMA on February 23rd.
- On February 24th, EMA begin the first of five planning sessions for the pre-disaster hazard mitigation plan. It will be at the senior Center.
- The bi-weekly COVID testing has been rescheduled from tomorrow due to the

inclement weather coming in and has been rescheduled for February 23rd from 9-11 a.m.

- The COVID vaccine drive thru is scheduled for this Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Mr. Wilson the advised that the School Board and the UGA campus have delayed openings until 10 a.m. tomorrow due to possible inclement weather. The City and the County will not have delayed opening.

XIV. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

Ryan Bowlden stated that he had a lot of stuff he wanted to talk about tonight, but he just wants to apologize to the citizens of Spalding County for the behavior displayed this evening. These people know they are better than that and he stopped there. He hopes that these individuals will apologize as well.

Gwen Flowers-Taylor stated that she would like to apologize to the public for shouting on the dias. She is very sensitive to individuals who cannot see themselves in 360°, she knows that she cannot do that, but if someone tells her something that she can't see, she needs to pay attention to the fact that someone sees me in a different way. She feels bad that a new Commissioner has to come in and call us out, then she thanked him for his courage.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then stated that she does apologize to the Board for her outburst, but it is important for her to be aware that while she is a very strong person there are many people who will be offended, as she was, who would not have the courage to say what she said. She's not saying that what she said was justified, she actually feels that what she said was mean, but she felt like the situation called for it. Would she do it again? She then stated that she probably would not do it in the same way. The result for her would be the same.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then stated that she wanted to thank the people who did the COVID 19 testing last week. It was blistering cold and raining, the attitude of the people who were out there working was uplifting and it looked really good to the community. It looks like the different departments are working together to make that happen seamlessly. She heard several people complimenting the way it was handled.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated she wanted to talk about the legislation regarding the Assessors Office. She has a real concern whenever there is legislation that goes before the General Assembly that nobody has bothered to talk with us about. When it comes to legislation that puts more of a tax burden on the citizens of Spalding County and takes a burden off the State is very easy when you are sitting up in the Georgia General Assembly to raise you hand and not know that every time that you give an exemption the bill is still here in the County. We still have to make sure there is lights on in the jail, we have to make sure that parks are open and that the buildings are open. She doesn't like the idea that we need something different in our Tax Assessors office without asking us. And if it isn't broke, don't fix it! She would like for Mr. Wilson to provide more information so that a response can be sent up to the legislative group.

Ms. Windham then advised that she does have some talking points for HB 352 that she will share with the Board.

Rita Johnson welcomed Clay Davis as the fifth district commissioner and stated as Chairman she trusts his leadership. There is a sense of cohesiveness that you have that

will bring individuals together to work with one another. That what she wants from him as he has the personality and the leadership behind him to do this.

She does like the idea of having the once a month work sessions. While we are doing this, when there are lawsuits brought against the County, the Commissioners need to be abreast of what is going on. We need to have an idea of where the County stands in the suits that are being brought against the County and she would like to incorporate some of that into those meetings as well so we can be aware of what is happening.

She is looking forward to this year, we have gotten off to a rocky start this evening, but she has not doubt that we will turn this thing around. We have some tough decisions to make and we will make those decisions. We are not always going to agree on everything, that is part of it, but respect is required of all of us.

James Dutton stated that he wants everyone to judge him by his actions. He wants everyone to look at what he does and judge him by what you have seen him do. He wants you to look at the years he spent as a felony public defender in this County. He wants you to look when just this last year, when he attended and spoke at a Black Lives Matter rally that happened here in Spalding County. Where were the other Commissioners during the rally? They weren't there, he was there speaking on behalf of those that were upset at what was going on. He marched on Juneteenth last year with his family, in solidarity with the message that was being put out on that day. Where were the other Commissioners? Look at him from 360, look at what he does. Look at what he stands for. Look at the actions that he has taken, you will at no point, ever find racism in that. He wants to be judged by his actions, not our misperceptions. He has worked tirelessly to get Heritage Park as complete as possible. He wants that to be a jewel of this County. He wants the Aquatic Center to be a jewel of this County. He feels there is room for a splash pad and there is certainly a chance for us to make that happen.

We talked a little this evening about the Pension Fund and it's future funding and how the percentage has increased dramatically. He feels the County needs to take steps now, if we put it off to the future it is going to be a much bigger problem. If we start addressing it now, it is a much smaller problem that we can deal with over time. He would like to ask staff to look at this and figure out a way that this problem isn't just put off, because it will get worse. If we can have interest work on our side, then we can make a very small problem out of this and solve it for the people who have come to work for us and we have committed to the pension plans. It is unfair to them to ignore a potential problem.

He then stated there is local legislation on the State level. That is State legislation, local legislation means that it is State Legislation for one local area, specifically in this case it has something to do with the Board of Elections. The Board of Commissioners have nothing to do with that, we can't affect that. We have no voting power over that, we don't interact with that. That is 100% our State Representatives and the State Senator and then the Governor will have to sign it. We have nothing to do with it. If you have a problem with this legislation feel free to call Karen Mathiak or David Knight or the other members of the legislation because they are the ones to vote on it.

He then stated he hopes Commissioner Johnson's foot feels better and she is up and about soon.

He then congratulated the new Chair. He stated he is looking for to what this next year brings.

Clay Davis stated he hopes this is not an example of what meetings are going to be with his leadership. It was less than two weeks ago that Governor Kemp appointed him to be

a temporary commissioner. Totally changed what was going on in his life. He is excited about this opportunity. He is excited about having the opportunity to serve the citizens of Spalding County. He is excited to Chair this Board. He has spent 25 years of military service trying to save and help our County and he hopes to utilize these same skills and apply them to our County.

Chairman Davis stated there were a number of people who wanted to talk about the Prima Facie issue and he wanted to make sure everyone understands where he was coming from on his vote. His reading of the ordinance was very specific when it said: "On official duty." Commissioner Dutton was not on official duty when he was writing his comments. Consequently, this was a legal "yes" or "no" question and the answer in his determination was "no." We had to take the rules in the ordinance and abide by them. For those of you who say we need to change the Ordinance, he agrees. We have the drafts in our mailboxes to review and we will be able to do that to determine if we will keep the same ordinance or make changes. Whether he believes what Commissioner Dutton said in the post is not the issue, the issue was simply did he do it on official time.

Chairman Davis then stated that the Country's number 1 issue right now is the pandemic. He believes in the next few months we will start to have vaccines available. The herd immunity will need to be at 75%, he doesn't feel we will get anywhere near 75% of the people who have taken the vaccine or have an immunity to it. We need to start getting out right now and talking to people about taking the vaccine. There are a number of people he has talked to who do not believe the vaccine is safe. We have got to get this community behind getting the vaccine. We tried to census and we tried to get to 70%. We worked hard for months and months to get 70% count for the census and we need to work even harder on getting people to take the vaccines. That is not a Public Health issue, their job is to administer the vaccine. Our job as commissioners is to educate the public about what is going on. To lead the public into this. We need to be able to find the places where we need to go in and, if necessary, take the vaccines to them, because they don't have a car. He would like for everyone to start thinking about this and pass the word to your friends, family and people that you meet about getting the vaccine. We have people in Spalding County dying because of this. We have to take action to do something about it. We talk about pools and things like that, but COVID is killing people and we need to do something about it. That starts in leadership and that starts with every person out there.

Once again, he thanked the Board for choosing him to be Chairman. If you see that He is not doing things that need to be done let him know and if you don't want to talk with him directly because you may feel it is too confrontational, that is what we have a vice chairman for. Go to him and he will come talk to me. He believes this Board has got to spend more time together. We don't know each other as well as we need to and although he is very big on diversity of thought, we also have to be able to merge into a unified body to be able to do what we need to do and our citizens should demand that of us.

XV. CLOSED SESSION.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m.
Motion carried unanimously by all.***