

After Agenda

Board of Commissioners of Spalding County
Work Session
Monday, May 17, 2021
9:30 AM
Room 108, Annex Building

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held a Work Session in Room 108 of the Spalding County Annex on Monday, May 17, 2021, beginning at 9:37 a.m. with Chairman Clay Davis presiding. Commissioners Gwen Flowers-Taylor, Ryan Bowlden and Rita Johnson (who arrived at 9:41 a.m.) were present for the meeting. Commissioner James Dutton was absent from the meeting. Also present were 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 Chairman Clay Davis.

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES AND ALL OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

II. INVOCATION

Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor, District #1, delivered the Invocation.

III. PLEDGE TO FLAG

Commissioner Ryan Bowlden, District #4, led the Pledge to the Flag.

IV. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Representatives from Liberty Technology to brief the Board of Commissioners on the replacement/upgrade of servers for the County.

Commissioner Flowers Taylor asked that this item be tabled pending an audit of servers to be requested from an outside company or by the City of Griffin's I.T. Department.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Bowlden to table the presentation by Liberty Technology to brief the Board on the replacement/upgrade of the servers for Spalding County. Motion carried 3-0 (Commissioner Johnson had not arrived when this vote was taken.)

2. Rachel Conort, Citizen Engagement Specialist, has requested that she be allowed to introduce the Board to a new GoGov App that will be going on-line within the next few weeks.

Ms. Conort presented the new Spalding County App to the Board, she reviewed the contents of the App, how to upload the App to a cellphone and what access is available through the internet for the App. She reviewed how to submit a request, advised there is GIS available through the App, so when pictures are taken and a request is submitted, the location is captured at the time the picture is taken and

the request is submitted. She also advised that there is a feedback available upon completion of the request and the individual can rate the service they received.

The Board was impressed by the capability of the App and stated they looked forward to it being launched and utilizing the App. Ms. Conort advised that the App would be launched today, May 17, 2021.

3. Griffin+Spalding Archway Professional Brittany Bullock to give an update on Archway and the Joint Strategic Plan.

Brittany Bullock, Griffin-Spalding Archway Professional then reviewed for the Board what has happened with Archway to date. She advised that the Archway Executive Committee had hired a Government Facilitator, Dr. Paula Sanford, from the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, to conduct a joint strategic planning process in Summer/Fall of 2020 to review where we have been and where we are going.

Dr. Sanford created a data pool of what is going on in Spalding County. She conducted a community survey and had approximately 100 respondents. She also did one-on-one interviews with approximately 30 Spalding County leaders and stakeholders. Based on the data pool/survey results and the interviews there were five distinct priority areas that arose: Education, Economic Development, Housing and Blight, Public Education, Poverty and Charity.

Ms. Bullock then stated that she was a little confused coming into this process as to the purpose of the plan. The County has a Strategic Plan, the City has a Strategic Plan, we have a Comprehensive Plans, the School Districts are currently working on a Strategic Plan, so where does this plan fit in? She then stated that she feels that the County, the City and the School Board can look at these priority areas together and determine how the Community can support each other moving forward, so that it is not being shouldered by one single entity, but we can all work together to progress.

Ms. Bullock stated that for the five priority areas, they formed 5 Committees. Those committees were formed based on the recommendations of the Executive Committee and work was done to make sure that the committees were inclusive of all community perspectives, diversity of thought and that each committee had a County, a City and a School Board Representative.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then pointed out that there was no one on the County Participants/Representative list that is a person of color. She is not understanding how this group of people can present this community. If all the planning happens at the government level, where are regular folks in this?

Ms. Bullock then stated that each committee has 10-12 individuals and each of the communities. Each committee does have representatives that are people of color. The County representatives may not be people of color, but people of color are represented on each of these committees.

Commissioner Johnson then stated that there are people in each of these committees that are people of color.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she may be a little behind in her information as she wasn't even aware we had these committees until she saw the email. She then stated that her other question is, we've been doing this with Archway for 8 years and the Executive Committee are the same people. So, do we not have other people who could be committed to being on that Committee? She doesn't know how that works.

Ms. Bullock stated that is something that they can explore, but there are some participants who have rotated insuring that certain organizations are represented.

Commissioner Johnson stated that many of the people on the Executive Committee are Board members. We have the City of Griffin represented and the School Board and Ms. Jewel Walker-Harps is there and there are several people who represent different businesses. There have been changes to the make up of this committee over the years.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that the point she is trying to make is as a Commissioner and someone who attends these meeting, she doesn't know what is going on. She's never had the opportunity to be able to serve on the Executive Committee and she has gone to these and there have been 25-40 people there. She then stated that if you sit on the Hospital Authority or the Water Authority that Board does change and so that is her question, is there a time limit, do you stay on there forever?

Commissioner Johnson stated that when Kristen Miller was here she was continually asking the Board to participate on the committees that we had and whether you decided to do it or not was a personal choice.

Stephane Windham, County Attorney, stated that Archway still has those issue work committees.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then stated that all she wanted to say is that if the leadership remains the same, then the leadership can become stagnant and if you want other Commissioners, other City Commission members or other people to be able to come into the fold you have to create an environment where they will be able to do that. The experience that she has had is that when the same people continue to make decisions for the group, you lose a lot of what the other people can contribute.

Commissioner Johnson stated that the meetings are open and anybody can come to the meetings and do what they need to do. '

Ms. Bullock stated that she has only been here since December, so she hasn't seen a lot of turnover in the committees. Commissioner Johnson mentioned the most recent one was when Will Doss was no longer the Chairman of the School Board and Zachary Holmes stepped into that role. One thing that we stress in the Executive Committee is because there are organizational representatives it is so important that the information that they hear in the Executive Committee to bring that back to their Board, their leadership and their organization so that they are part of the process.

Ms. Bullock then stated that as far as the formation of the committees there haven't been a lot of opportunities to speak in front of the County, the City or the School Board all together, but they did speak at the Land Bank Authority meeting in January where brought the committees forward and presented the community Vision Statement. After that is when we formed the committees.

Ms. Bullock stated it is something to think about in "mixing it up" with the leadership of the Executive Committee. This is not something they are oppose to.

Chairman Davis stated that the participants of the committee, at the request of Dr. Sanford, was that no elected officials be on the committees, these entities would be represented by the county employees who have been chosen for each committee.

Ms. Bullock stated that the reasoning for this is that it provided a safe space for folks to express concerns and express priorities. She stated that Dr. Sanford also wanted people on the committees who could commit resources, so that is why we made sure that we had a county, a city and a school board representative. So, when we are talking about strategies or actions items the person from each organization can then go back to their leadership and ask if it is possible and if it is aligned with the priorities of the elected officials, of the county and then bring that back into the planning sessions.

Ms. Bullock then advised the plan going forward. Each committee will meet a total of five times. The committees have already completed 3 of the 5 meetings. The first meeting was to collect background information and review data. The second meeting a SWOT analysis of strengths and weaknesses, areas of opportunity. The third meeting then addressed that based on the brainstorming during the second meeting what strategic objectives and actions have emerged. Each committee has three to five objectives at this point.

Ms. Bullock then stated that this is the time the county representatives and other members of the committees are being asked to go back to their leadership and ask if these objectives are aligned with our priorities and what we can do? Do we have the resources to make these things happen?

Ms. Bullock stated that she talked with Chairman Davis last week and there is no million dollar projects on this list. She feels that the items they have discussed are very doable, but the last round of meetings was the committees' opportunity to brainstorm and dream big. There were no limitations put on them as to how much something would cost. We did ask that they not self-edit so that they could come back and discuss. In the final two meetings, we can then talk about what is realistic, what can we actually do and make sure that we have the community buy in. Those meetings are set to last through June and into July, Dr. Sanford will write the first draft version of the plan. We have also talked about the intergovernmental retreat and we have some tentative dates of August 19-20th and at that time the plan will be presented to each Board of Commissioners and the School Board, so you can see what the committees have come up with.

Ms. Bullock stated she would be happy to provide a full list of participants so that the Board can see who has been invited to each one of the committees, but now

is the brainstorming phase, so if you see anything that you have concerns with and that you want to talk further about; or, if you have an innovative idea that you would like to share. We welcome those to be a part of the plan and a part of the discussion.

Ms. Bullock then stated that Archway has just completed another year of engineering projects for the County. Four engineering projects were complete by students at the University of Georgia, three of which worked directly with T.J. Imberger's team and the fourth happened at Southern Crescent Technical College.

The three for the County included: the modernization of a one lane bridge on South Walkers Mill Road, the Carver Road Park (Phase II), and the Mechanics' Shop redesign. These projects are available on video and she will send the links to Chairman Davis who can, in turn, share with the Board so that you can see what the students have done to create a feasibility study for some of this work in the county.

4. Establish a T-SPLOST Action Plan to include:

- Committee Members

Chairman Davis advised this discussion is to make sure that everyone is agreeable and we are moving forward in one direction. He feels everyone knows his thoughts on the Committee Membership. We are talking about past participants of the leadership Griffin-Spalding who are not excluded because they work for the county or the city. Having Cindy Jones get these past participants together and then us talk with them to see if they would be willing to participate and it will also be open to any citizens in the county who wish to participate. Chairman Davis then stated that his intent is to get a "head nod" today and then ask Ms. Jones to find a date and pull these individuals together and whoever wants to come to the meeting.

Chairman Davis advised this will give these individuals an opportunity to learn how things happen inside of our government. There have been a number of people from his district who have stated that when that committee is formed they want to participate. If someone has a better idea on how to start this we will do it, but at this time he would like to start at this point.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then asked what the timeline would be on this and if the county would be putting out something to the public to make them aware of the committee for a T-SPLOST and where and when the meeting will be for those who are interested in being part of the committee.

Chairman Davis stated that with the approval of the Board this evening he would reach out to Ms. Jones and ask that she try to set something up for 3-weeks from today. If that is possible, then we can go back to Ms. Conort and ask that she get the word out.

Ms. Windham stated that she has asked Ms. Jones and was advised that many of the participants of the Griffin Leadership Development program

are employees of either the city or the county and will not be able to help.

Chairman Davis stated this is a starting point, if she can get however many people that she can get and then we can get the community to come in, but the heart and soul he is hoping will be the start point will be those who participated in the Leadership Griffin-Spalding.

Commissioner Johnson stated that she knows of one participant in the Leadership Program who has expressed an interest and she will get with Ms. Jones on that.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that we need to make sure that we have people on this committee who will be able to go out and fund raise as the county nor the city can fund this committee. You need people with experience who know this community and know how to go out and collect money. We need someone to volunteer that has experience in this area.

Chairman Davis advised that he would contact Ms. Jones and ask for a response within 3 weeks so that we can get this out there and ask citizens in the community to participate.

- Co-Chairs?

Chairman Davis stated that we are trying to find two co-chairs to be able to do this. He has suggested some names to see if the Board thought they were okay.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that there are a couple of people, who if they volunteer have helped us pass SPLOSTs in the past successfully. They may not want to be co-chair, but they would be a valuable asset. She would like to see something back in 2-weeks and if we don't have a good response it will give us a week to go out and solicit other people to bring people in. There are a couple of people on the Water Authority who would probably be good, but haven't said anything about it. She feels they would help, if they were asked.

Ms. Irizarry stated that she wanted to bring to the Board's attention the calendar as we do have to have the referendum resolution signed by June, so we are up against the clock.

Chairman Davis stated that changing the timeline to two weeks shouldn't be a problem. The co-chairs for this committee are important as they will be the ones to do the critical representation of the TSPLOST.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then asked what the resolution would entail. Does it simply stated that we are going to call for a Transportation SPLOST and not list the projects.

Ms. Irizarry advised it is the actual wording on the referendum.

Commissioner Davis then stated that it is his understanding that the IGA and the ballot wording would truly be Road Resurfacing, it does not have to get

down to the specific roads.

- Projects

Ms. Irizarry stated that we have received an updated road listing and Mr. Upson is here if the Board has any questions.

Chairman Davis stated that the difference between the last list and this list is when we came out with the original list, we had the list and we also had Mr. Imberger's items in it. He has said that we are interested in resurfacing and that is our number one priority, so what we are doing is taking that equipment out and putting that \$500,000 each year into resurfacing.

Commission Flowers-Taylor then stated that she has a concern about that because as she looks back at Mr. Imberger's SPLOST List she realized there is one piece of equipment that she is concerned about and there are sidewalks for interconnectivity for Intersections 2 and 3 are in that list. She feels we cannot discount everything on his list. Because we have talked about doing sidewalks every time we talk about doing a Transportation SPLOST. She feels we need to go back and look at that, because we haven't completed the intersections with sidewalks between 2 and 3 and there may be some other projects where we have roadways where we may also need to put sidewalks. She would like for us not to completely discount that request, she feels we need to review it again.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that the piece of equipment they use to remove trees from the roadway when they fall down, is dead. They want to spend \$10-12,000 to try to fix it, but when the storms come through and there is no way to get through on a road because a tree is laying in it, the people are going to expect us to be able to move that tree. She wants us to look at the request from Public works. She wants us to make sure that we are going to be prepared. We need to at least consider those projects that we already have on the books that we need to complete.

Commissioner Davis then stated that his intent is at the next meeting to finalize the projects for the TSPLOST. So, if you have things that you want changed we need to know prior to that meeting. Also, we are going to ask the City for the streets they plan to resurface with the TSPLOST funding so that we can get a complete picture of the resurfacing to be funded by the TSPLOST and give the Commissioners who have most of their streets inside the City a complete picture of what streets will be resurfaced in total. The people don't care who funds the resurfacing, this will give those Commissioners the opportunity to say "x" number of miles will be resurfaced in your district.

Commissioner Davis advised that the next meeting is June 7th and we will be voting at that meeting on this. He is a big believer in the list that we paid to get done.

Brian Upson provided a list of roads for the Board and advised that the list is broken down by district and is color coded by the years that the indicated roads would be paved. The breakdown shows how many roads are in the district and how many roads as a percent of the district versus the county,

how many miles would be resurfaced in the TSPLOST and then what percentage of each district's roads would be resurfaced. He stated that the percentage comes out remarkably close: District 1 – 20%, District 2 – 21%, District 3 – 21%, District 4 – 23% and District 5 – 17%. He went on to say that by adding the extra money it evened the percentages out as far as what percentage of miles in your district is going to get paved.

Chairman Davis stated that this is the starting point and on June 7th we are going to vote on whatever is here. If we want to add the equipment and sidewalks, then we have to discuss that among ourselves.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then asked for the list from T.J. Imberger, it should be simple enough for us to look at that list and determine the projects.

Chairman Davis asked that everyone review the lists and be ready to come back and make a decision, if you plan to ask for changes, please notify everyone so that we are not walking in here to a surprise and having to table the item. He wants at the end of the meeting on June 7th to have the list.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then advised that she wanted to talk about the line item for GDOT and ARC. She doesn't understand that as she has been here for 16 years and we have not spend \$5 million on GDOT or ARC projects.

Mr. Upson stated that we haven't spent that amount recently; however, we do have the SR155 project coming up and that is going to require a substantial amount of match and he feels that is why it has been included in the project list.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that we don't even know if GDOT is going to do SR155.

Mr. Upson stated that we aren't certain at this time, but if we don't have the funds available when they propose funding, they won't fund it. What has happened with ARC and GDOT is if you can't prove that you can provide a match for the funds, they will not put it in the TIP which is the allotment for funding.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she lives in the City and she understands why the City of Griffin does not want big trucks coming through downtown. But we didn't go to them and ask for this change, they came to us about it. So, as far as she is concerned this is not a County project, because if we commit ourselves to this fully without sharing the expense, then we are going to be stuck with doing this. It's not an advantage to us for that traffic to go out to 16. So, before we make a commitment to spend \$5 million to go there, she feels it is important for us to know how committed the City is to this project.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor said she can't speak for the City, but they are looking at us wondering where the \$1.5 million is that we were suppose to be putting aside. Do we have it or don't we? Nobody can tell us, so at the front end that should certainly be one of the things, if we don't already have the money we will need to put it aside. But before we commit any money to the

SR155 Relocation, she feels we need to have some kind of commitment from the City on the front side, that whatever the match is you're going pay for it, it they put this on the TIP then the State is going to be looking toward the county to pay whatever expenses go along with widening the road, moving utilities and why? We haven't got anything to do with the traffic coming down SR155 through town.

Commissioner Davis then asked Ms. Irizarry to put together a letter to the City of Griffin articulating our position on this project. Money is important to all of us, the changes to SR155 is something that the City requested, etc. Let's get it on the record.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that going forward she would be more comfortable knowing there is a written commitment because, if not, we can take that money and redesignate it to other projects.

Ms. Irizarry stated that she wanted to confirm that she needs to prepare a letter to the City of Griffin regarding this project and obtain their willingness to split the costs and find out the breakdown for what we anticipate to be the cost share, as well as send an updated list to the Board regarding what Mr. Upson sent this morning as well as the equipment request.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then asked if Ms. Irizarry could find out if we have the \$1.5 million set aside like Dr. Keller seems to feel we are suppose to have set aside.

Mr. Upson stated that at this time it is unknown what the match may be because it is unknown as to how much the project scope is until they do the study. He feels if we can get a commitment or request a commitment that they share half of the local match, whatever that may be. That will get them on board for the future.

Chairman Davis stated we need that commitment, they came to us and said we want to do this and we said okay and fronted for them, but now they need to step up and support the project.

Mr. Upson stated the County has to make the request because it is in the County, but it doesn't mean that it is completely your project.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that if we are suppose to have \$1.5 million to match the City's \$1.5 million, then we definitely should do that, but any other agreement going forward, we need to have in writing.

- Excess Collections priorities

We are going to spend the money that we are anticipating receiving; however, this is the excess funds. He would like for us to prepare a prioritized list of what those excess funds should be used for. We need to go through with the referendum, we need to get this right.

- IGA/Ballot wording

The IGA and ballot wording is transportation and infrastructure.

5. Discuss possible timelines for road improvements.

Chairman Davis stated that he wanted to make sure that everyone understands that this Fall we are going to do 6 miles of LMIG resurfacing. Then next year in the Fall time frame we will be doing 20+ miles of resurfacing. So, when we start talking to people about the facts, this year 6 miles, next year with the TSPLOST 20+ miles and it goes approximately 20 miles per year every year after.

6. Discussion of precise patching for targeted areas of County Roads in lieu of resurfacing the entire roadway.

Commissioner Davis stated that Mr. Imberger came to him and gave him a presentation on this subject. The road he talked about was 6 miles long, and it really had 50 feet in one area that needed to be done, 50 feet in a second area that needed to be done and 100 feet in an area that needed to be done, otherwise the road was fine. So, he said there is no need to do 6 miles of resurfacing, we need to simply patch those three locations and we will save a lot of money. Precision patching those locations as identified will take care of that road.

Commissioner Davis advised that he told Mr. Imberger he felt that would be a good option and Mr. Imberger is currently looking at roadways that this type of precision patching can be done on. Precision patching includes cutting the road from one side to the other, go all the way down to the base and replace that portion of the road completely. There is a number of places Chairman Davis drives on where this has been done, there is a difference in color, but the road is flat and the remainder of the road didn't have to be resurfaced.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she would like to see the Public Works Department maximize the asphalt as there have been times when they have over ordered the amount of asphalt and it has gone to waste. We need to figure a way to do this where we are not throwing away taxpayer dollars by over ordering asphalt.

7. Update on the American Recovery Act.

Ms. Irizarry advised that Chairman Davis has signed off on receiving these funds, so we are at that point. Treasury has released the interim final rule, it is a 151 page document and staff is still reviewing it. It does seem that infrastructure only includes water, sewer, broadband and stormwater. There has been specific questions about roads and at this time, they are excluded. She would like to continue to review this and ACCG continues to update us on these items. There is additional allocations for COVID, Loss of Revenue and Human Resources, but the items above are the items under infrastructure.

8. Update on HB 769 and changes at the Board of Elections Department.

Ms. Windham stated there really isn't much of an update. The Board had given her authority to do an emergency petition in superior court; however, she learned that they were fast tracking the two Democratic Party nominees and she didn't want to spend the County's money if it wasn't going to be necessary. Thanks to a

telephone call from Commissioner Flowers-Taylor we are actually having an emergency meeting tomorrow and will have a quorum because we will have four. We will still be missing the fifth member, but we will have four and be able to conduct business.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then advised that in the past there was a 40-hour training the members of the Board of Elections had to attend. She feels it is important for them to find out what the laws are surrounding the elections process for themselves. We need to find out where that training is and get them in it as soon as possible.

Ms. Windham stated at their on-boarding they are given the Elections Code, but there is going to be some significant changes to that and you can't read all that.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked Ms. Windham to try to find out about the training a all of them need to attend.

9. Review and discussion of the FY 2022 Budget Process.

Chairman Davis stated that this is an opportunity in case there is anything regarding how it was done. If there were questions, comments or concerns or the way it took place. One of the things that Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked about and we are going to do, is be able to access information on the different departments and pull pieces we have questions about and you can receive just that section.

Commissioner Johnson said that the changes that were made to the budget does not translate to significant changes with the people we will hire and the other things that were done. Ms. Irizarry sated that the changes made by the Board would not result in significant changes for the budget.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then asked if there were any other major projects other than the one for the Sheriff's Office with Noresco that will be coming up?

Ms. Irizarry stated that she did send an email out on Friday regarding this. All of the Board of Commissioners' concerns regarding the vehicles or equipment being purchased through the GMA Lease Pool, breakdown of vehicles and equipment to be purchased outright, breakdown of computers to be purchased and breakdown of capital projects and recommended new positions.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then asked Ms. Garrison if we know we are going to be purchasing vehicles through the Lease Pool, do we have to separate those out by department? To her, it seems to be buried in the budget and she can't see where it is.

Ms. Garrison advised that these expenditures are separated out because we have to charge the expense to each department. We're suppose to be costing out every expense that we can to the individual departments according to GASB (Governmental Accounting Standards Bond). That is the reason it is done this way.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she was completely flabbergasted by

the amount of pages attached to the budget agenda. She asked that next year the information be there, but what is given to the Board to review is basically what we will be looking at.

Ms. Garrison advised that what the Board is being given has been the same since she has been involved with the budget. The difference is you are looking at it electronically through NovusAgenda opposed to having a notebook which also contain all of those documents.

Commissioner Davis stated the key issue is to start thinking now about how you want the budget presented. If there is summary items you would like to see in a certain way we need to relay that to staff so that can be taken into consideration when the budget agenda is being put together. We need to have summary information relaying for example that we are going from 52 vehicles to 75 vehicles. How many computers will be purchased. The key thing for him is that we are going to have a line item for Roads forever.

10. Review of updated cost projections for Heritage Park Gym and funding possibilities.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she would like for Commissioner Johnson to share the misunderstanding that happened at the groundbreaking last week.

Commissioner Johnson stated that she noticed that many of the people at Fairmont assumed that the groundbreaking included the gymnasium on Facebook and there were pictures of the gymnasium on there and people were very excited about the fact that we were renovating the gymnasium. Luckily, there were also people on that stream that could have thrown us under the bus but didn't. Which makes this discussion we are about to have important because we now have the funding for this and we're going to talk about that. We want the community to know that maybe the groundbreaking was a little misleading, but we are going to do what we were supposed to do as commissioners and make it right.

Chairman Davis stated that we are doing the Heritage Park Gym and funding perspectives. When we considered the Heritage Park Gym it was based on cost figures from December 2019. Those costs figures are now a few years old and the lumber prices and everything else have massively changed so we went back out and asked what the cost of the job would be at this time. We were already short on the \$3.2 million estimate, the new cost estimate came in at \$4.2 million to be able to get it right, so we had to find another million dollars to be able to do this project. We have worked tirelessly to be able to find that funding and we have the funding. We have the money for the gym. He asked that tonight we add to the agenda a Task Order Form from Paragon Consulting which basically says the money has been spent.

Mr. Upson stated that the architect would be the same architect that redesigned the Rosenwald School.

Commissioner Johnson stated that she had the opportunity to sit down with Mr. Wilson on Thursday and he explained to her where the funding came from and

she wanted to thank Jinna Garrison, Michelle Irizarry and William Wilson for all the work they have done on this because it took a lot of time to find the money.

Chairman Davis stated that this is a big deal for our community and he appreciates all the work that went into getting that done.

Chairman Davis then stated that we have about \$13 million coming in from the American Recovery Act. We're planning right now on spending approximately \$3 million for broadband. One of our three priorities. Our priorities are Roads, Broadband and Cleaning up the roadways through Code Enforcement.

Commissioner Johnson the asked if we would be splitting the cost of broadband with the Board of Education?

Chairman Davis stated we have asked the Board of Education and at this time they have not said that they wouldn't split the cost, but they haven't agreed to do so either.

Chairman Davis then stated that leaves the county with \$10 million, if anybody has a \$10 million proposal that will absolutely change the way Spalding County is, we are interested in that. This is one of the extremely few times we will have this much money and he is looking for that big idea. We have plenty of needs for this money, but this is one time that we are going to have \$10 million come in and if somebody thinks of a \$10 million idea that will entirely change the situation, we have in the county we would be interested in hearing it.

11. Chairman Davis requests an Executive Session to discuss or deliberate on the Appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a county officer or employee as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(6).

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to enter into Executive Session to discuss or deliberate on the Appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a county officer or employee as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(6) at 11:26 a.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to close the Executive Session at 12:15 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Bowlden to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.