

After Agenda

Board of Commissioners of Spalding County
Work Session
Monday, June 7, 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, June 7, 2021, beginning at 9:30 a.m. with Chairman Clay Davis presiding. Commissioners Rita Johnson, Gwen Flowers-Taylor (who joined the meeting at 9:41 a.m.) and James Dutton (who joined the meeting at 9:44 a.m.) were present for the meeting. Commissioner Ryan Bowlden was absent from the meeting. Also, present were County Manager, William P. Wilson, Jr., County Attorney, Stephanie Windham 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 Rita Johnson, District #3, delivered the Invocation.

III. PLEDGE TO FLAG

Chairman Clay Davis, District #5, led the Pledge to the Flag.

IV. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Herschel K. Arant, Jr., CGEMC Senior VP of Energy Supply and External Services to make a presentation on Central Georgia EMC Fiber Broadband Initiative.

Mr. Herschel Arant, Jr., Central Georgia EMC Senior Vice President of Energy Supply and External Services then reviewed for the Board the Central Georgia EMC Fiber Broadband Initiative. Mr. Arant advised the Board that the CGEMC Fiber Broadband Project is designed to follow the way of the electricity flow throughout Spalding County. It will reach 2,453 locations that currently have no broadband service and will serve over 98% of the locations that currently have no broadband. Currently, there are over 1,190 miles of power lines in Spalding County and over 1,100 poles that will have to be changed out to accommodate the broadband installation. The timing of this project is in the planning stages.

CGEMC Fiber Network is Partnering with Conexon Connect and the Rate Plans once the system is up and running will be \$50.00/month for 100 Mbps (symmetrical) service and \$80.00/month for 1 Gbps (symmetrical) service. During the initial construction phase of the project, free in-home installation will be offered.

The project for Spalding County can be moved up in the project rotation through a \$3 million payment to CGEMC for advancing engineering and pole make ready

work. Spalding County implementation would have been 4-5 years out; however, with the County's funding advance Spalding County should have broadband up and operational by the end of 2023.

2. Discuss and Finalize projects for the TSPLOST.

After discussion between the members of the Board and after receiving input from Kirby Sisk and David Johnson Co-Chairmen of the TSPLOST Committee, the following changes were to be made to the projects list for the TSPLOST.

- ✓ Reduce the Local Match for ARC/GDOT projects in Tier #1 by \$1 million, and
- ✓ Reduce the Reimbursement for project management costs; construction management costs; costs of issuance of County Bonds; Contingency by \$1 million in Tier #1 and
- ✓ Create a new \$2 million line item entitled Sidewalks, Pedestrian Connectivity and Continuity in Tier #1. For sidewalks on N. Hill Street and Futral Road or as far as the money will go.
- ✓ Move \$500,000 from Public Works in Tier #2 project list, reducing it to \$2.5 million, and
- ✓ Increase Sidewalk and pedestrian connectivity and continuity to \$1.5 million in Tier #2 project list.
- ✓ Move Beville Drive in District #2 up to year 3 on the resurfacing list from year 5. Consensus of the Board was to allow Beville Drive to be moved up on the resurfacing list.
- ✓ The first year of resurfacing, approximately \$5 million is to be bonded.

Commissioner Dutton wanted to make sure that everyone agrees that the TSPLOST is going to be a money driven program. If the money ends and all of the projects are not complete, then the projects end when the money ends. The costs of materials are going up and what may be sufficient, at this point in time to complete projects; however, it may not be enough at the time the project is started, but the money is going to be the driver in completing these projects.

Mr. Wilson then reviewed the language of the ballot for the Board and Mr. Johnson asked for a copy of the wording for the ballot so they could stress to the TSPLOST Committee and to the public what the wording will be for them to look for on the ballot.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor expressed her concern regarding purchasing equipment in Public Works all at one time. She would like for some type of scheduled for replacement of equipment be established for Public Works so that we are replacing a large number of items at one time for them to all potentially wear out at the same time. We need to replace what needs to be replaced periodically.

3. Chairman Davis has requested an update on the American Recovery Act and what this funding can be used for.

Mr. Wilson stated that salaries for essential workers were reimbursable under the CARES funding, but that is not the case under the American Recovery Act Funding so we are looking at Sewer Projects, we are looking at Broadband and getting reimbursed from the School Board for half of that would make that money available for other projects, but we are still seeking guidance. We are getting information weekly from ACCG and GMA that provide additional information on how this funding can be spent. At this time, transportation is a no.

He then advised that the improvements at the jail that NORESCO proposed at the last meeting regarding the HVAC and the plumbing at the Jail, would qualify for that ARA funding which is approximately \$2 million and he would recommend that we use the ARA money instead of trying to come up with costs savings, because they were only able to come up with 25% costs savings so far. Staff feels that the maximum they are going to get on this project is a 35% savings over 15 years and this needs to go ahead and be done. It is an approved project under ARA.

Mr. Wilson stated that to date we have received \$6.24 million from the Federal Government and we have until December 21 of 2024 to spend it. There are still a lot of ifs out there.

Chairman Davis stated that it is his hope that with the President currently meeting so much resistance with his infrastructure bill that they will eventually allow some infrastructure into ARA funding.

4. Chairman Davis has requested 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 Dutton/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 11:19 a.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.

Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to close the Executive Session at 11:45 a.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second by Johnson/Dutton to adjourn the meeting at 11:46 a.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.