

# After Agenda

Board of Commissioners of Spalding County  
Extraordinary Session  
Monday, April 18, 2022  
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, April 18, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman Clay Davis presiding. Commissioners James Dutton, Rita Johnson, Ryan Bowlden and Gwen Flowers-Taylor were present for the meeting. Also present were County Manager, Dr. Steve Ledbetter, County Attorney, Stephanie Windham, Citizen Engagement Specialist DeAndre Smith, Citizen Engagement Specialist Amy Storey and County Clerk, Kathy Gibson 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**

Pastor Chester Milner of United Christian Fellowship Church of Griffin delivered the Invocation.

**III. PLEDGE TO FLAG**

Commissioner James Dutton, District #2, led the Pledge to the Flag.

Chairman Davis then requested a motion to amend the Agenda to include an Executive Session for consultation with the County Attorney, or other legal counsel, to discuss pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the county or any officer or employee or in which the county or any officer or employee may be directly involved as provided in O.C.G.A. §50-14-2(1).

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to amend the Agenda to include an Executive session for consultation with the County Attorney, or other legal counsel, to discuss pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the county or any officer or employee or in which the county or any officer or employee may be directly involved as provided in O.C.G.A. §50-14-2(1). Motion carried unanimously by all.***

Commissioner Dutton then requested that the agenda be amended to include an item #6 under New Business to hold a discussion regarding the Land Bank. In the January retreat we discussed methodologies and a way to approach the Land Bank Authority. He would like to amend the agenda to include a discussion on the Land Bank Authority.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to amend the agenda to include an item #6 under New Business for discussion surrounding the Land Bank Authority. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

**IV. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS – None.**

**V. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

1. Consider approval of financial statements for the nine months ended March 31, 2022.

Jinna Garrison, Administrative Services Director, stated that she would answer any questions the Board may have regarding the Financial Statements.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve the financial statements for the nine months ended March 31, 2022. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

**VI. CITIZEN COMMENT**

Speakers must sign up prior to the meeting and provide their names, addresses and the topic they wish to discuss. Speakers must direct your remarks to the Board and not to individual Commissioners or to the audience. Personal disagreements with individual Commissioners or County employees are not a matter of public concern and personal attacks will not be tolerated. The Chairman has the right to limit your comments in the interest of disposing of the County's business in an efficient and respectable manner.

Speakers will be allotted three minutes to speak on their chosen topics as they relate to matters pertinent to the jurisdiction of the Board of the Commissioners. No questions will be asked by any of the commissioners during citizen comments. Outbursts from the audience will not be tolerated. Common courtesy and civility are expected at all times during the meeting. No speaker will be permitted to speak more than three minutes or more than once unless the Board votes to suspend this rule.

Kerri Gebler, 646 MacArthur Drive, Griffin, Georgia spoke regarding the Pet Disaster Relief Trailer that the Griffin Kennel Club donated to the County in 2005, the maintenance and restocking of the trailer and the need to make sure that staff is properly trained should a disaster occur, and the trailer be needed. She asked that the matter be placed on the next agenda.

**VII. MINUTES -**

1. Consider approval of Minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting on Monday, April 4, 2022.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Bowlden to approve the Minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting on Monday, April 4, 2022. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS – None.**

**IX. NEW BUSINESS -**

1. Consider approval of the Bid submissions for the 2022 TSPLOST Resurfacing Phase I and award contract to C. W. Matthews Contracting Co. Inc., the low bidder for the project.

Bryan Upson, Paragon Consulting, 653 Laura Drive, Griffin, advised that as soon as the TSPOST was approved Paragon Consulting began pulling the information together to bid the first phase of resurfacing the voters had approved. It was advertised and we received bids back on April 5<sup>th</sup> and there were two bidders who were able to meet all of the qualifications: C.W. Matthews Contracting and E.R. Snell.

There were two alternates included in the bid, the first alternate was traditional striping which is the striping you see on most of the roads in the area and the second alternative was thermoplastic which there are examples of this type of striping in the crosswalks on East McIntosh and Hill Street. That striping shows up significantly better than regular striping.

The base bid for the low bidder, C.W. Matthews was \$6,968,352.56 for regular striping. Their base bid with the thermoplastic was \$7,079,170.56. There was only \$70,000 difference in the two companies on a \$7 million bid. The bids were very tight, so we felt we received competitive bids in the process.

Staff is recommending that you go with the second alternative because we feel it will add longevity to the striping and it will show the voters that this is our coming to the table and doing the right thing. Staff recommends base bid and alternate 2 of \$7,079,170.56.

Commissioner Dutton then asked how many miles this would cover?

Dr. Ledbetter advised it would be 27.22 miles.

Commissioner Dutton then asked how much the Board had planned to spend in year 1 of the TSPLOST?

Dr. Ledbetter advised that it was a little over \$8 million that was projected for the first year.

Commissioner Dutton then stated that we talked a lot about not going over budget in a single year and when we run out of money we will stop right there. He had not anticipated being under budget. So, if we intended to spend \$8 million resurfacing roads this year, can we start with these and then move on to the next year's roads and go as far as the funding will take us?

Dr. Ledbetter stated they are already working on the next year's package. He is getting ready to discuss with Mr. Upson which roads on the 2<sup>nd</sup> year list can be put out for bid. We will be starting at the top of that list and going down, we simply need to determine where to cut off for the approximate \$1 million

that we will have as far as the delta is concerned. We just want to make sure that we don't go over. We are trying to be prudent with the way we are approaching the bid package.

Chairman Davis stated there is a predetermined list that was provided prior to the TSPLOST vote and we take that list and move down the list as we go along. We have a specific amount of money we should have to spend, and we anticipate how many roads we can get done. The plan is to do 100 miles during the period of the TSPLOST. If the revenues are less than anticipated then we will only be able to go part way through that list and we will have to stop. Since we have more money than anticipated in year one, we will go to the top of the second-year list and move them into this year. We are very dedicated to making sure that we stick with what we asked the citizens to approve and not start doing different things with it.

Chairman Davis then asked when staff anticipates we will start the resurfacing?

Dr. Ledbetter stated that if the vote is passed this evening, we are being told they will be able to start the second week of June.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then stated there is a need throughout the county for the restriping of the roads and she was wondering if there is anything being planned for the restriping of these roads. So, while we are trying to decide if we are going to take the extra money to go into the second year to pave roads, maybe we need to look at putting some strips on the roads that we have in place. She then advised that we don't currently have a program that would tell us when we need to restripe. Where are we with that? Clearly, we need to add to our plan the restriping of existing roads.

Dr. Ledbetter stated that he has asked T.J. Imberger, Director of Public Works, to step forward as we are in the process of doing some restriping through Two Rivers RC&D. We have their truck ready to go.

T.J. Imberger stated this would be the glass bead striping which is the least expensive. This is regular paint with the glass bead, the thermoplastic is actually a thicker application that is put down with heat, where the other is just sprayed. We are currently in discussions with Two Rivers to do 26 miles of regular striping with glass beads within the next 6-8 weeks.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then asked which roads would be restriped.

Mr. Imberger advised that he was not prepared for that question this evening, but he would get that information out to the Board as quickly as possible.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to approve alternate #2 with C.W. Matthews Contracting Company Inc, the low bidder for the TSPLOST repaving projects in the amount of \$7,079,170.56. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

Dr. Ledbetter stated that he wanted to share just a little more information on the TSPLOST before we leave this topic.

Mr. Imberger stated that he knows the Board and the Citizens are excited to see the TSPLOST projects moving forward. So, for this TSPLOST, we will be signing the projects to make sure that the Citizens know it is TSPLOST funding that is paying for the projects. He then revealed the sign and asked the Board to have a picture taken with it. These signs will be at every single project site during construction.

2. Consider request from the Spalding County Parks & Leisure Services Committee and the Spalding County Parks & Leisure Services staff to proceed with the purchase of an MCI J-Series Motor Coach to replace Big Blue for the Senior Center.

Mr. Imberger stated that since the passing of the TSPLOST, we have been in search of a coach bus. Our journey has taken us all over the southeast. We have been through a number of different types of buses and spoken with a number of the large used coach bus outlets throughout the southeast, including one vendor from Oklahoma who had a bus available, but we were uncomfortable about purchasing it without seeing it. We then took a trip to Tennessee and there were approximately 200 coaches at one facility. We had some of the seniors with us and we had the chairman of the advisory board, himself, Kelly Carmichael and Derrick Watts, our main coach driver. Mr. Watts is in the coach bus travel business, and he owns three MCI's. MCI is the most popular coach in the market today.

Mr. Imberger then stated that both he and Mr. Watts spent a considerable amount of time looking for used coaches. We were finding coaches that were in the 200-300,000 mile range and that were well over \$400,000. The issue with a used coach is you do not have a warranty. Over the years we have had our share of experiences with a motorcoach that is broken down in the shop waiting for parts. That is frustrating and our Senior Group has been frustrated by the cancellation of trips.

Mr. Imberger then advised that they decided to look in a different direction. MCI is a major motorcoach manufacturer that most of the tour groups use. We spoke with the regional salesperson who is out of Texas and asked for the price of a new coach. That new coach with negotiated options would be \$550,000. We presented this to the Advisory Commission. A new coach would have a 5-year engine and transmission warranty along with a 30-month overall warranty.

Mr. Imberger stated that since the bonds were sold at a premium, the request from the Advisory Commission is for the Board to consider the purchase of this coach and that part of the extra funds from the sale of the bonds be utilized to make up the difference in the amount approved in the TSPLOST and the actual cost of the new coach.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that one of the issues from the travel club was that the steps into the bus be a reasonable height so that they

wouldn't have deal with high steps to get into the bus. They also wanted overhead bins that would close so that your items wouldn't be shifting during the trip, with electrical outlets and USB ports at every seat. Basically, everything is new, so anything that happens to this bus will be because we did it, not a previous owner/operator. She feels that if we are setting the bar, we need to stop purchasing used stuff that somebody else has already utilized. She feels this is a wonderful investment and we won't have to worry about doing anything to it for at least three years.

Mr. Imberger stated that staff has negotiated and obtained the maximum warranty that the manufacturer has available and that is included in this price.

Chairman Davis then asked Dr. Ledbetter to talk about the difference in the funding to be utilized.

Dr. Ledbetter stated that under the TSPLOST Project the amount of \$400,000 was set aside for the cost of a Big Blue replacement. The majority of the funds would come from the agreed upon amount in the TSPLOST. We were able to sell our bonds at a premium, so staff's recommendation would be to use some of the premium to pay the difference between the \$400,000 and \$550,000 so we would not be violating the budget constraints that we put into our TSPLOST.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then asked if the Board approves the purchase when will the bus be delivered?

Mr. Imberger stated that even though the supply chain is pretty bad right now, this particular coach is at the plant being built right now as part of a larger order for another tour operator who has agreed they would release this one so that we can have it. We should receive it in July if the Board approves the purchase this evening.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Flowers-Taylor to approve the purchase of an MCI motorcoach to replace Big Blue for the Senior Center in the amount of \$550,000. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

3. Consider request from Commissioner James Dutton to appoint Chris Edwards as Spalding County's representative on the Public Defender's Council.

Commissioner Dutton then stated that there is Public Defender for the State of Georgia for each Superior Court and that Public Defender is in charge of all of the offices within the Circuit. When the Public Defender retires, which ours did in March of this year, the State has to appoint a new Public Defender. The State considers what the local Board recommends. That local Board consists of one person appointed by the State, one person appointed by the Judges in the Circuit and then one person appointed by the Commissions of the Counties within the Circuit. This Board is only called into action when a Public Defender leaves and a new Public Defender has to be appointed. The

person appointed to this Board needs to be familiar with all four of the Counties within the Circuit. The person who has been recommended and has been attending these meetings is the former Superior Court Judge Chris Edwards, who is now retired.

Commissioner Dutton stated that in speaking with the other Counties, they're amenable to appointing him. He knows all four counties and has worked with all of the lawyers in the Public Defenders Office. No one has voted yet, Spalding will be the first to take a vote. Effectively, the only real task of this Board is to advise the State on who to appoint to be the new Public Defender.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to submit as Spalding County's appointee Chief Judge Chris Edwards for the third slot for County representative on the Public Defender's Council. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

4. Consider approval of a resolution revising the Joint Butts-Spalding Development Authority Intergovernmental Agreement to include property at River Park which commercial/industrial property is located in both Spalding and Butts Counties.

Stephanie Windham, County Attorney, stated that the formation of the Joint Butts-Spalding County Development Authority was for the purpose of the Dollar General Warehouse. This would amend that Resolution and Intergovernmental Agreement to include the property that is known as River Park. That commercial development has property that is located in both counties as well. The majority of it is in Butts County and Butts County will be providing all of the water and sewer to the Development and the bulk of the infrastructure. There are 2-3 buildings where at least a portion of the buildings are located in Spalding County.

Ms. Windham stated that the Board has previously approved a Resolution for this, and our Resolution was not acceptable to the Butts County Commission, and they have gone back to the drawing board. Dr. Ledbetter has held multiple conversations with the County Manager of Butts County and Bob White the Executive Director of their Development Authority has been in touch with David Luckie, our Executive Director. Additionally, Ms. Windham has had multiple conversations with the County Attorney for Butts County, and this is the result of all of this interaction. The permitting will be done by the County that has 50+% of square footage to be built in that County.

Commissioner Johnson stated this is the revised version of the one that we signed for Dollar General.

Ms. Windham stated this is the same general idea. The Joint Development Authority still exists, it just includes the property that is known as the Dollar General Warehouse, and it adds into that agreement the River Park property. You are revising the existing Resolution, there will be just the one Butts-Spalding Development Authority.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then asked what kind of responsibility are we taking on with this addition?

Dr. Ledbetter advised that the responsibility Spalding County is taking on with this addition is Butts County is asking for Spalding County to contribute \$550,000 toward the purchase of a fire truck since the fire services would be provided primarily by Butts County. The ingress and egress to the facility is on the Butts County side and they are asking for us to contribute for that service. It is his understanding that they are building a new fire station inside River Park to support this. We will continue to have mutual aid with Butts County in support of the facility, but since they will be performing the majority of the services with the ingress and egress on their side of the County, it does seem fair that they would do that level of service for those buildings inside of Spalding County. We did not abate any of the Fire District Tax, so we will continue to receive those funds coming in.

Dr. Ledbetter then asked the Board to have a talk with David Luckie about any additional taxes that may have been abated for that service to come in. We have learned that they are looking to move forward with this project very quickly in fact and they have signed agreements to move the projects forward on the Spalding County side of the line should we move forward with this IGA.

Chairman Davis then asked about impact fees?

Dr. Ledbetter advised that there are impact fees coming to Spalding County for all three buildings. We will receive 40% of the impact fees for the one building that is partially inside of Spalding County and for the other two buildings in Spalding County we will receive all of those impact fees.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to approve the Resolution revising the Joint Butts-Spalding Development Authority Intergovernmental Agreement to include property at River Park which commercial/industrial property is located in both Spalding and Butts Counties. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

5. Consider request from the Spalding County Fire Department to update the Board on the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Chief Glenn Polk thanked the Board for approval of the Resolution for the update to the Hazard Mitigation Plan, which we have to do every 5 years. With the help of the Board, Orchard Hill, Sunny Side and Griffin we have received word that the Hazard Mitigation Plan has been approved by FEMA and our plan is good through 2027. This means that should we be affected by any natural disaster; we will be eligible for reimbursement.

Dr. Ledbetter then stated that he wanted to recognize Chief Polk for all of the work he is doing in response to the Hazard Mitigation Plan and for his work on the grants he has written. He continues to be a spotlight for our community. He is pushing really hard for grants, and he appreciates all of the work that he and his time has done for us over the last year.



6. Discussion on the Land Bank Authority, hiring the KBA Group to review the Authority and make recommendations and the need to withhold funding for the Land Bank Authority from January thru June to support the funding of the consulting group.

Dr. Ledbetter stated that in January of 2022 at our retreat, staff presented information to the Board for our Land Bank Authority. It has never been our intent to defund our Land Bank, it has been our intent to promote and support our Land Bank. Through efforts with the City of Griffin, the Board gave us leave to work with a consulting firm, KBA Group in Atlanta, to help define and work with our Land Bank to support them moving forward. To that end, Dr. Ledbetter asked the Board to consider approving that request to include withholding the funds for the Land Bank from January thru July, the remainder of this fiscal year as discussed at the retreat to support the funding of the consulting firm.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then asked if the Board of Commissioners would have the opportunity to hear what the findings and recommendations of this group are. Not knowing how a Land Bank is supposed to work has made it challenging for the Board. She feels that in order to support the Land Bank it is important for the Board of Commissioners to know how it is supposed to work.

Dr. Ledbetter advised that it has always been the intention of both he and City Manager O'Connor to bring to the respective Boards what we have heard from the consultant so that you can hear what they have to say and ask them questions to challenge their positions so that we can get clarity and understanding for how to move this Authority forward.

Ms. Windham stated that the Board may have gotten an email from the consultant today because she received one at 5:45 p.m.

Chairman Davis stated that he received an email from KBA Group wanting to sit down and talk with him.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to follow through with the decision to withhold funding for the Land Bank Authority from January thru July 2020 and use those funds to pay for the consultant who is going to reorganize the Land Bank Authority. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

## **X. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER**

- ✓ Each month, I review the latest numbers reported for broadband access within our community. Last week, the information revealed that the website [Broadbandnow.com/Georgia](https://broadbandnow.com/Georgia) reported Spalding County has a 97.2% coverage rate for our county. The total number of unserved residents according to this website is 1,876 residents. (<https://broadbandnow.com/Georgia>).

Additionally, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs indicates the county is served at 93% with a total unserved number of 2,452 residents. (<https://broadband.georgia.gov/2021-georgia-broadband-availability-map>)

The unserved areas according to the Georgia DCA website include three areas: the Eastern side of the county that adjoins Spalding and Butts County; the City of Orchard Hill; and the Williamson/Brooks area.

So, we do have news to report, our subcontractor is working to bring the City of Orchard Hill online. The initial backbone of the system is installed, and I'm being told that we are weeks, not months, away from bringing the City of Orchard Hill online. Additionally, this morning Mike Windham and I received an email from the City of Griffin:

*We have a potential industrial customer in Lakes of Green Valley that is adamant about having a wireless backup solution in addition to City fiber. Is the county's ISP radio system capable of providing a backup link to the Lakes of Green Valley?*

Thank you to the Board of Commissioners for their approval to construct a wireless system in late 2021. It is proving to be the right decision.

✓ **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE**

What is the Comprehensive Plan? It's a plan that plays a critical role in the day-to-day decisions and long-term quality of life in Spalding. It guides the county's rezoning, informs decisions related to infrastructure, private development, and other county investments. The Comprehensive Plan is updated every five years.

The Comprehensive Plan Update will result in an updated, community-driven roadmap for the county's future growth and development. The planning process includes the Cities of Sunny Side and Orchard Hill and close coordination with the City of Griffin, who has its own Comprehensive Plan.

Our Next Event will be an Action Planning Workshop and will be

April 27, 2022  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
Spalding County Senior Center  
885 Memorial Dr.  
Griffin, GA 30223

Finally, we are working to hold a Saturday morning public hearing event. Our Citizen Engagement Specialist, DeAndre Smith, is working to finalize the details of this event and we will share more information within the next few days for date, time, and location.

✓ **Aquatic Center – Bid Opening – Scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup>**

✓ **County Manager's Scorecard**

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you my scorecard. I would like to share it with our community showing how I continue to track performance from our January BoC retreat.

✓ **EcoPole**

***Gov. Kemp: Ecopol to Establish Manufacturing Plant, North American Headquarters in Spalding County (Press Release from the Governor's Office)***

Atlanta, GA – Governor Brian P. Kemp today announced that sustainability-focused Ecopol, a European leader in the production of biodegradable PVA film, will invest more than \$38 million and create 130 new jobs at the company's first North American facility in Spalding County.

“Georgia’s world-class connectivity to markets continues to draw in businesses from around the world,” said Governor Kemp. “I am excited for Ecopol to bring new opportunities to hardworking Georgians in Spalding County. I want to congratulate the teams in Spalding County who made this project possible by planning ahead and investing in future sites, and I look forward to seeing how Ecopol’s new facility will energize the local economy.”

Italy-based Ecopol was established in 2009 with the goal of helping to safeguard the unique landscape of Tuscany by reducing the utilization of plastics and carbon emissions. The company manufactures water-soluble and biodegradable film used to wrap everyday products such as detergents, agrochemicals, cosmetics, and other consumer goods.

“Our goal was to identify a suitable property with nearby interstate and international airport access, a favorable utility environment, a talented regional labor force, and an economic development team that would be supportive of this strategic project now and in the future,” said Mauro Carbone, CEO of Ecopol, highlighting what the company was looking for in a new community. “With the assistance of our location consultant, we performed a thorough analysis of numerous properties and communities in the southeastern U.S., and we are confident that we found a great home in The Lakes at Green Valley eco-industrial park in Griffin, Georgia.”

The Lakes at Green Valley eco-industrial park promotes clean, environmentally friendly manufacturing. Construction within The Lakes requires all projects to achieve a certain “eco” rating from the Griffin-Spalding Development Authority, which provides a standard rating system for environmentally sustainable construction. Ecopol will be hiring for positions in production, maintenance, management, and administration prior to the completion of construction. Interested applicants can learn more about the company at [www.ecopol.com](http://www.ecopol.com).

“Environmental sustainability was a key objective in the development of the Lakes at Green Valley,” said Chuck Copeland, Chair, Griffin-Spalding

Development Authority. “We are very happy to welcome another international company to our park whose product and processes align with that vision.”

Project Manager Kasey Smith represented the Georgia Department of Economic Development’s (GDEcD) Global Commerce team on this competitive project in partnership with the Griffin-Spalding Development Authority, Metro Atlanta Chamber, Georgia Quick Start, and Georgia Power.

“Ecopol is an exciting addition to Georgia’s community of innovative companies dedicated to keeping unnecessary waste out of landfills, waterways, and the ocean using sustainable technology and solutions,” said GDEcD Commissioner Pat Wilson. “The quality of our teams and their commitment to working with companies has made Georgia an attractive location for exciting and impactful projects like Ecopol, and we look forward to them joining the more than 90 Italian companies already in Georgia.”

Georgia is home to a large and active Italian business community, and Italy has maintained a consular presence in Georgia since 1899. In 2021, exports from Georgia to Italy increased more than 18% over the previous year (\$557 million total exports in 2021). Commissioner Wilson led an economic development mission to Italy most recently in September 2020. The State of Georgia has maintained continuous representation in Europe since 1973.

- ✓ The **Griffin-Spalding Transportation Plan** is complete for the needs assessment and our consulting firm working on this project will be conducting a public meeting this Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, from 6-7:00 p.m. for anyone who wishes to participate. It will be a zoom call and the information can be found on the app and on the Social Media site.

- ✓ **Quarry’s Edge Ribbon Cutting**

The Ribbon Cutting will be Saturday, April 23, 2022.

- ✓ **Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Calendar.** We are looking at a June 6<sup>th</sup> Budget Hearing as part of our Regular Meeting and in order to get there we will continue with the Public Hearings for the Budget.

**XI. REPORT OF ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER – None.**

**XII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Rita Johnson –**

- The Development Authority will be hosting a Ribbon Cutting for Renai on Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Congratulations to David Luckie and Steve Ledbetter who are in the April edition of the Local Trend Magazine this month.
- Local legislators met with us almost a year ago and in that conversation, they mentioned a potential 988 system for Mental Health. How can we get an update on this?

Chairman Davis stated he would send something around on an opportunity to listen

to a political appointee from DBHDD talk about 988. They are responsible for it and it is a webinar and you will be able to find out how it is supposed to work. 988 is a form of 911 for a Mental Health crisis.

- Kerry Gebler brought up the Emergency Relief Trailer. What do we need to do regarding this item. Are we still a part of that. We need to get something figured out because she wants it on the agenda for the next meeting.

**Ryan Bowlden** – Wanted to tell the Sheriff thank you. He received a phone call yesterday about the four-wheelers getting impounded. Thank you for protecting the roads, these kids are trying to have a good time being on the road with no helmet, no seat belts and tearing up the road. In this area where they were at, you can't believe the amount of calls I get about four wheelers. Thank you Sheriff.

**Gwen Flowers-Taylor** – No comment this evening.

**James Dutton** –

- He wanted to follow up on the Emergency Relief Trailer and if there is training that the Federal Government has on how to handle pets in this type of situation, why not get that training.
- Condolences to our friend and colleague and her family. He knows what it is like to have to go through at this time.
- Last week there was a post on FaceBook wanting to know why the County isn't funding fiber. Why did they decide not to fund fiber? In order to waylay that rumor, he put out a post advising where the County is at in this initiative. He explained that Central Georgia EMC approached the County with a proposal that if we donate \$3 million, they will move us up on the schedule to get fiber.

Thinking we had no other option, we brought representatives in and listened to their pitch. During this "pitch" they advised that their company receives no money from Federal, State or Local governments. All of this has to come from the County. Commissioner Dutton then looked up the Central Georgia EMC website and, on the homepage, it stated that they had just received \$1.5 billion from the Federal Government. When they were confronted, they advised it was their holding company that had received the money. They are a wholly owned subsidiary of that company.

He posted this out, still not knowing what got the rumor started and luckily a constituent sent him an email with the email from Central Georgia EMC attached to it, that he has subsequently forwarded to the Board for their review. It states that the County Commissioners voted to not give them \$3 million that would be required to build out the fiber. So, you need to take it up with them as to why we're not building out the fiber.

This is just not okay, he is so upset, he immediately upon receiving the email called the Governor's Office and the Governor's team in Atlanta contacted Central Georgia EMC and asked why they were extorting funds from the local governments. They are referring this to the Attorney General's Office. This is not okay. I'm not the Attorney General so I can't categorically state that this is criminal activity, but that is surely how they are looking at it. That is surely how they are investigating this in the Governor's Office. This is not okay behavior.

To send out an email that somehow us not bribing you for \$3 million is our choice for them not to put in fiber. They received \$1.5 billion and came in here and lied about it. This is not okay. The Governor's Office is also fired up about this and they are not going to let this extortion happen. These people have been given money to do this

work.

**Clay Davis –**

- Thanked the Sheriff for addressing a problem on Easter for him as well.
- He thanked Commissioner Dutton for the time he sat in as Chairman. You did a great job and he truly appreciates it.
- He wants to set up a workshop soon. We have 2-3 issues we need to look into, and he has asked the County Manager to come up with a date.
- Reminder – ACCG is coming up. This will be a good time for us to get educated and get to see some of our counterparts.

**XIII. CLOSED SESSION**

Executive Session for consultation with the County Attorney, or other legal counsel, to discuss pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the county or any officer or employee or in which the county or any officer or employee may be directly involved as provided in O.C.G.A. §50-14-2(1).

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to enter into an Executive Session to consult with the County Attorney, or other legal counsel, to discuss pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the county or any officer or employee or in which the county or any officer or employee may be directly involved as provided in O.C.G.A. §50-14-2(1) at 7: 30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.***

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to close the Executive Session at 7:47 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Flowers-Taylor to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.***