



**After Agenda  
Board of Commissioners - Work Session  
October 20, 2022  
3:00 PM  
Room 108, Annex Building**

**The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held a Special Called Meeting to conduct a Work Session on Thursday, October 20, 2022, in Room 108 of the Spalding County Annex Building, beginning at 3:00 p.m. with Chairman Clay Davis presiding. Commissioners Ryan Bowlden, Rita Johnson and Gwen Flowers-Taylor (via Zoom) were present for the meeting. Commissioner James Dutton was absent from the meeting. Also present were County Manager, Dr. Steve Ledbetter, County Attorney, Stephanie Windham and County Clerk, Kathy Gibson to record the minutes.**

**I. OPENING (CALL TO ORDER)** led by Chairman Clay Davis.

**PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES AND ALL OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.**

**II. INVOCATION**

1. Dr. Steve Ledbetter, County Manager delivered the Invocation.

**III. PLEDGE TO FLAG**

1. Commissioner Ryan Bowlden, District #4 will lead the Pledge to the Flag.

**IV. AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Discuss Service Delivery Strategy outstanding items.

Dr. Ledbetter advised that he and Ms. Windham would walk through the list of items that the City of Griffin expressed concerns about. He provided a list of items to the Board. The list was delivered to our offices on Thursday of last week and he and Ms. Windham have been working on this list almost daily for the last week. They have been working on this document with the Cities involved for over a year now.

**Archivist** – the changes requested have been made to this item as requested.

**Transportation Planner** – there were some structural issues with the form and that has been resolved.

**New Airport** – There were also some structural issues with that form and they have been resolved.

**Animal Control and Shelter** – The City has asked that the Animal Control function and Shelter be separated, but after conversations with Board members individually, it is staff's belief that the Board would like to retain this

form as it is written, and that Animal Control remain a County Service. Dr. Ledbetter stated that through his conversations with Commissioner Flowers-Taylor it was his understand that the form needs to be titled as Animal Care, Management and Control. Which is how the title is currently listed on this document.

Ms. Windham advised that we have submitted a draft IGA for Animal Control and the Animal Shelter countywide. She feels it makes more sense. One entity is the only way that we can truly regulate the officers that are acting in the capacity of Animal Control Officers and the animals that are left at the shelter would be for us to take on both of these roles. As a countywide service, she doesn't believe that it would be something that we should charge per animal for. She feels that it should just be a countywide service and we would handle animal control and the animal shelter for the entire county.

Commissioner Johnson then asked if this would require more staff for the county to perform the function?

Dr. Ledbetter stated that the city currently has two animal control officers and if the county decides and the City agrees to this structure, those officers would be given the opportunity to move over to the County in support of our Animal Control operations.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor joined the meeting via Zoom at 3:07 p.m.

Chairman Davis stated that part of the issue has been the City bringing sick animals to our facility.

Dr. Ledbetter advised that moving this service to a countywide service would eliminate that responsibility from anyone except the county. It wasn't to exclude or detract from anyone working for animal control, it is simply that we have been in a position where we have gone back and forth with the negotiation.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then added that she would like to see the County take over the Animal Control and Animal Shelter services at no charge to the city.

Ms. Windham then stated that this is the only way that we can efficiently and effectively provide this service as we can't cover every contingency in an IGA.

Chairman Davis stated that this is the way the County would like to handle it. How does the city feel about this?

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she had talked with Commissioner Ward with the City. Commissioner Ward told Commissioner Flowers-Taylor that one of her concerns was that they have these employees who would lose their jobs and she was concerned if we would be able to take them on. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she does understand this; however, if we do take on these employees, they will have to be given the opportunity to

become certified and meet the requirements that our Animal Control Officers meet.

Ms. Windham stated that she has mentioned to Drew Whalen, Jessica O'Connor and others at the city that she feels it would be best for the County to provide this service countywide.

Consensus of the Board is that Animal Control and the Animal Shelter be a countywide function.

**Code Enforcement** – City of Griffin agreed that Box E of Section should be checked as the County provides services to Sunnyside and Orchard Hill. They also agreed that there should be “Yes” in the box in Section 2. However, they have asked that “Fines” and “Court Fees” from the City of Griffin be removed from Section 3 as this would be double taxation equating to the amount of Code Enforcement budget provided for in the County General Fund would need to be addressed through a special service district of LOST distribution.

Dr. Ledbetter stated that there are some areas of discussion under this topic, but as far as the service level document Form 2 and the adjoining IGA's they are fine, so we are moving forward.

**Courts** was listed as a service on the SDS. Dr. Ledbetter stated he had performed an extensive search of Douglas, DeKalb, Clayton, Rockdale and Coweta Counties and their court services are not in their SDS and he will not be adding this item to the document.

**State Court/Municipal Court** has been resolved and completely updated inside of the SDS. It stated State Court/Municipal and it simply should have stated Municipal Court.

**Public Defender** – Dr. Ledbetter advised that the requirements under the Public Defender have been satisfied. Dr. Ledbetter then stated that one of the things that we do need from the City on this is the justification for the amendment to the SDS, so he and Ms. Windham will continue to work on this.

**GIS** – has been resolved as Section 6 discussed Solid Waste and that has been removed.

**Planning, Zoning & Building Inspections** – Dr. Ledbetter stated that this is a LOST discussion, so we will move that to a future discussion as the requirements are currently satisfied in SDS booklet. There are some items to address such as the City of Griffin's Zoning parcels and Future Land Use Map for attachment to the document as appendices. Dr. Ledbetter will continue working to get those items added.

**800 MHz** – City of Griffin indicates that Form 2 is okay, but they are not willing to agree to retroactive payments since 2018. They will agree to retroactive payments beginning July 1 of this year and agree to all other terms

within the IGA. There was some consternation among the board members about the City's unwillingness to pay retroactively.

Commissioner Johnson asked if there was any communication in writing regarding this item. There was some discussion when Mr. Wilson was here about our seeking the reimbursement and she thought Kenny Smith had signed they would agree to it?

Ms. Windham stated that she recalled that we were told that an agreement had been reached, but she doesn't believe the agreement had ever been ratified by either board and the position of Ms. O'Connor is they can't justify back payments as they don't know how many radios were involved between 2018 and July 1, 2022, and they don't have any way of knowing. Ms. Windham did advise that there is still potential for negotiation, and she asked if there was anything in the middle, they would be willing to pay.

Commissioner Johnson stated that is a big gap between 2018 and 2022. There has to be some wiggle room in there.

Ms. Windham stated that she feels confident if the city had radios in June 2022, it would be safe to assume they had them in January 2022.

Commissioner Johnson stated that she feels there should be some middle ground in the negotiation. We should be able to negotiate and figure out what is due the County for this service. There has to be some way to negotiate this.

Ms. Windham stated that at this time she has not gotten a response to if they have a hard line in the sand as far as the July 2022 date.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then advised that in her discussions with Commissioner Ward, she was asked if this is something that the city could be allowed to pay over a period of time. She stated that she would not be opposed to that.

Dr. Ledbetter stated that he too feels it would not be right to impose a penalty and not give them time to make payment against that penalty. The remainder of the contracts do state that if we don't make payment to them, or they don't make payment to us there is some wiggle room or grace periods.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then stated that this is clearly one of those times where the city has been receiving the services and they need to pay for them.

Consensus of the Board was to go back to 2020, establish a number for the radios that were non-emergency radios and issue a bill in that amount of \$30.79 per user device per month.

Chairman Davis then stated that we would give the city the number of radios we show that are involved and present them with a bill for that number of radios and allow them to pay over an established period of time.

**Fiber Optic Line to 911** – This item has been settled, so there is no questions or concerns regarding this item.

**Information Technology** – The information will be updated to reflect that the County is a countywide provider for unincorporated areas of the county and the city is providing these services for the Sheriff's Office for the OSSI CAD services countywide.

**Leases for Parks and Recreation** – Ms. Windham then advised that the leases that were provided to her by Ms. O'Connor included an IGA that set out what the County was doing with Volunteer Park and with City Park. She believes that IGA is fine, she doesn't have any issues with that agreement and just changing the dates on it to reflect a new agreement going forward.

Ms. Windham then stated that Ms. O'Connor had also provided a lease agreement for Fairmont and some other properties where the city actually owns the property, and the county is performing the recreation services at those locations.

Ms. Windham advised that she doesn't believe that a lease is appropriate for the Fairmont property as we own that property as tenants in common with the city, so we each own a ½ interest. The IGA that Ms. Windham prepared for this property is very simple and says that we will provide recreation services at that facility. That is our intent. If we ever stop providing recreation services at that facility, then everything at the location would be owned as tenants in common. Any equipment that can't be moved would be the County's as we paid for it. However, upgrades that have been made by the County to the gym and other locations on the property, those improvements are both the city and the county, they are not just Spalding County.

Ms. Windham then advised that this property was conveyed to both entities in 1965 by the Griffin-Spalding County Board of Education. Ms. Windham further stated that she had pulled the deed because she wanted to make sure there was no reversionary language in it stating that if we didn't use it for a particular purpose that it would go back to the School System and there was no language in the paperwork reverting the property back to the School System. She stated that she believes the intent for this property was that it would be a park.

Dr. Ledbetter then stated that we have concluded all of the items that needed to be addressed. We feel that these items have been addressed from the staff's position, but we would welcome any additional comments, thoughts, or direction that the Board would like to give us.

Dr. Ledbetter then covered all of the Form 2 documents in the SDS at the request of the County Attorney. He advised if anyone has any questions or would like to discuss an item, just let us know and we will discuss further. He then presented the remaining topics in the SDS. After some minor discussion and clarification of some of the items the Board was satisfied with the document as presented.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Bowlden to adjourn the meeting at 4:10 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.***