



**After Agenda  
Board of Commissioners - Regular Meeting  
January 8, 2024  
6:00 PM  
Room 108, Annex Building  
119 E. Solomon Street  
Griffin, GA 30223**

**The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Monday, January 8, 2024, in Room 108 of the Spalding County Annex Building located at 119 E. Solomon Street, Griffin, Georgia beginning at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman Clay Davis presiding. Commissioners Ryan Bowlden, Rita Johnson, Gwen Flowers-Taylor, and James Dutton were present for 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)**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clay Davis.

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

**II. INVOCATION**

1. Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor, District 1, to deliver the Invocation.

The Invocation was delivered by Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor.

**III. PLEDGE TO FLAG**

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

The Pledge to the Flag was led by Commissioner Ryan Bowlden.

**IV. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN**

1. Elect Chairman of the Spalding County Board of Commissioners for Calendar Year 2024.

County Attorney, Stephanie Windham, call for a motion to elect a Chairman for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners for 2024.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to re-elect Clay W. Davis as Chairman of the Spalding County Board of Commissioners for Calendar Year 2024. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

2. Elect Vice-Chairman of the Spalding County Board of Commissioners for Calendar Year 2024.

Chairman Davis then ask for a nomination for commissioners to serve as Vice Chairman of the Spalding County Board of Commissioners for 2024.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to appoint Commissioner Ryan Bowlden as Vice Chairman of the Spalding County Board of Commissioners for Calendar Year 2024. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

## **V. APPOINTMENTS - Staff**

1. Appoint Steve Ledbetter as County Manager for Calendar Year 2024.

Chairman Davis then asked for a motion to appoint Steve Ledbetter as Spalding County – County Manager for 2024.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to reappoint Steve Ledbetter as County Manager for Calendar Year 2024. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

2. Appointment of Steve Ledbetter as County Clerk for 2024.

Chairman Davis then call for a motion to appoint Steve Ledbetter as the County Clerk for Spalding Count for Calendar Year 2024.

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to appoint Steve Ledbetter as County Clerk for Calendar Year 2024. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

3. Appointment of Kathy Gibson as Deputy County Clerk until her retirement.

Chairman Davis then called for a motion to appoint Kathy Gibson as Spalding County Deputy Clerk until her retirement in February, 2024.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to appoint Kathy Gibson as Deputy County Clerk until her retirement in February, 2024. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

4. Appoint Stephanie Windham of Beck, Owen, and Murray as County Attorney.

Chairman Davis then called for a motion to appoint Stephanie Windham of Beck, Owen and Murray as county Attorney for Calendar Year 2024.

Commissioner Dutton stated that he feels this service needs to be put out on a Request for Quote so that other law firms have a chance to provide service to the County.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Flowers-Taylor to appoint Stephanie Windham of Beck, Owen, and Murray as the County Attorney for***

**calendar year 2024. Motin failed by a 2-3 vote (Dutton/Bowlden/Davis).**

**Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to have the County issue an RFP for Legal Services and to reappoint Stephanie Windham of Beck, Owen, and Murray as County Attorney until the results of the RFP are received and a contract is signed. Motion carried by a 3/2 vote (Flowers-Taylor/Johnson).**

5. Appoint County Zoning Attorney Newton Galloway of Galloway & Lyndall.

**Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to issue an RFP for Legal Services for the Community Development-UDO and to reappoint Newton Galloway of Galloway & Lindall as County Zoning Attorney until the results of the RFP are received and a contract is signed. Motion carried by a 3/2 vote (Flowers-Taylor/Johnson).**

6. Consider Master Service Agreement with County Human Resources Attorney, John Lowery, of Mozley, Finlayson and Loggins, LLP.

**Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to issue an RFP for the Human Resource Attorney for Spalding County and to reappoint John Lowery of Mozley, Finlayson and Loggins, LLP as the Human Resource attorney until the results of the RFP are received and a contract is signed. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

## **VI. APPOINTMENTS - Citizen**

1. Consider appointment to the Board of Appeals and Adjustments Unsafe Building Abatement Code.

Two openings currently on this Board.

**Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to appoint James Robert Beyer and Victor Epps to the Board of Appeals and Adjustments Unsafe Building Abatement Code. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

2. Consider appointments to the Griffin-Spalding Area Transportation Committee.
  - a. To succeed Jerry Mckneely for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.
  - b. To succeed Frank Harris for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.

**Motion/Second by Dutton/Flowers-Taylor to reappoint Jerry Mckneely and Frank Harris to the Griffin-Spalding Area Transportation Committee for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

- c. The following serve as representatives in their roles and require BOC affirmation of reappointment for a one-year term ending 12/31/2024:
- o Harland Smith - GDOT Planner
  - o Bruce Ballard - Griffin-Spalding School Board
  - o Tommy Kennedy - Transportation Planner for Three Rivers Regional Commission
  - o Jeffery Dean - Assistant Provost and Director, UGA Griffin Campus
  - o David Luckie - Executive Director of the Development Authority
  - o Cindy Jones - President & CEO - Chamber of Commerce
  - o Harvey Booker - Development Authority

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor raised the question as to why the Board would be appointing these individuals if they are considered part of this Commission by the position they hold within the County?

***Consensus of the Board is to reaffirm the individuals on the Griffin-Spalding Transportation Committee per the post that they hold within Spalding County as stated for a one-year period ending December 31, 2023.***

3. Consider appointment to the Griffin-Spalding County Development Authority.
- a. To succeed Tom Gardner for a three-year term ending 12/31/2026. (Mr. Gardner does not seek reappointment.)

Dr. Ledbetter advised there were two individuals in the book for consideration: William Wilson and Howard Ayers to be considered as the nomination forms were received. The first Nominee to receive three votes will be appointed.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to appoint William Wilson to the Griffin-Spalding County Development Authority. Motion carried by a 4-1 vote (Dutton).***

- b. To succeed Robert Parker for a three-year term ending 12/31/2026. (Mr. Parker has expressed his desire to be reappointed for another term.)

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to reappoint Robert Parker to the Griffin Spalding County Development Authority. motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

4. Consider appointment to the Griffin-Spalding Hospital Authority.
- a. To succeed Kathryn Lindgren for a four-year term ending December 31, 2027.

Dr. Ledbetter advised there were three individuals in the book for consideration and he would read everyone's name and the Board would have to vote.

***William Thorpe failed by a 2-3 Vote (Flowers-Taylor/Bowlden /Johnson).***

***Judy Parker failed by a 2-3 Vote (Flowers-Taylor/Bowlden/Johnson).***

***Cynthia Guider was appointed by a 3-2 vote (Davis/Dutton) for a four year term ending December 31, 2027.***

5. Consider appointment to the McIntosh Trail Community Service Board.
  - a. To succeed Connie Klopfenstein for a three-year term ending 12/31/2026.  
Dr. Ledbetter advised there were two nominations in the book for this Board and he would read the nominations and the Board could vote on their choice.

***William Thorp failed by a 1-4 (Davis/Flowers-Taylor/Bowlden/Johnson).***

***Connie Klopfenstein was reappointed by a 4-1 vote (Dutton) for a three-year term ending December 31, 2026.***

6. Consider appointment to the Spalding County Board of Health
  - a. To succeed Cynthia Tidwell for a six-year term to expire December 31, 2029.  
(Ms. Tidwell would like to be reappointed).

***The Chairman asked that those in favor of reappointing Ms. Tidwell to the Spalding County Board of Health to raise their hand. Ms. Tidwell was reappointed by a unanimous vote for a six year term ending December 31, 2029.***

- b. To succeed Keith Simmons as the School Superintendent or designee on this Board. (Mr. Simmons would like to be reappointed.)

***Consensus of the Board was to affirm Dr. Simmons' reappointment to the Spalding County Board of Health for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.***

7. Consider appointment to the Spalding County Ethics Review Panel
  - a District #1
    - Mariam Eberhart
    - Robert Lattimer
    - Jesse Maddox

***Commissioner Flowers-Taylor confirmed the appointments as read for District 1.***

- b District #2
    - Bryan Styler
    - Eva Berlin-Sylvestre
    - Katherine Sylvestre

***Commissioner Dutton confirmed the appointments as read for District 2.***

- c District #3

- Zachery Holmes
- Tangela Booker
- Reginald Watts

***Commissioner Johnson confirmed the appointments as read for District 3.***

- d District #4
  - Lovelle Camp
  - Jackie Robertson
  - Rita Mace

***Commissioner Bowlden confirmed the appointments as read for District 4.***

- e District #5
  - Robert Beyer
    - Mike Davis
    - Deb Piccone

***Chairman Davis confirmed the appointments as read for District 5.***

- 8. Consider appointments to the Spalding County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission
  - a. To succeed Taylor Dutton for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2025 (District #2)
  - b. To fill a vacant position for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2025 (District #2)

***Commissioner Dutton reappointed Taylor Dutton to the Spalding County Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission for a two-year term ending December 31, 2025. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

***Commissioner Dutton appointed Howard Ayers to the Spalding County Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission for a two-year term ending December 31, 2025. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

- 9. Consider appointments to the Spalding County Personnel Appeals Board
  - a. To succeed James Campbell for a three-year term to expire on December 31, 2026
  - b. To succeed Stanley Washington for a three-year term to expire on December 31, 2026. (Mr. Washington has expressed his desire to remain on the Board for another term)
  - c. To succeed Lewis Patterson for a three-year term to expire on December 31, 2026. (Mr. Patterson has expressed his desire to remain on the Board for another term)

- d. To fill a Vacant position on this Board for a three-year term to expire on December 31, 2026

Dr. Ledbetter advised that Stanley Washington and Lewis Patterson have requested to remain on the Spalding County Personnel Appeals Board and their forms are in the book and have been signed. He also advise that there was one nomination in the book that had not been signed.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to reappoint Stanley Washington and Lewis Patterson to the Spalding County Personnel Appeal Board for a three-year term ending December 31, 2026. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

10. Consider appointments to the Spalding County Library Board of Trustees
  1. To succeed Virginia Church for a 4-year term to expire December 31, 2027
  2. To succeed Kay Wideman for a 4-year term to expire December 31, 2027
  3. To succeed Barbara Jo Cook for a 4-year term to expire December 31, 2027
  4. To succeed Tangela Booker-Williams for a 4-year term to expire December 31,2027
  5. To succeed Nancy Morris for a 4-year term to expire December 31, 2027

Ms. Church, Ms. Wideman, Ms. Cook and Ms. Booker-Williams have expressed their desire to remain on the Board.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Flowers-Taylor to reappoint Virginia Church, Kay Wideman, Barabara Jo Cook and Tangela Booker-Williams to the Spalding County Library Board of Trustees for a four-year term ending December 32, 2027. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Bowlden to appoint Mike Greenawalt to the Spalding County Library Board of Trustees for a four-year term ending December 31, 2027. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

11. Consider appointment to the Spalding County Water & Sewerage Facilities Authority
  - a. To succeed Clay Davis as the Community Representative on this Authority for a six-year term ending December 31, 2029.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to reappoint Clay Davis as the Community Representative to the Spalding County Water & Sewerage Facilities Authority for a six-year term ending December 31, 2029. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

- b. To succeed Jeff Brandon for a six-year term ending December 31, 2029.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Bowlden to reappoint Jeff Brandon to the Spalding County Water & Sewerage Facilities***

**Authority for a six-year term ending December 31, 2029. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

- c. To succeed Cheryl Matlock for a six-year term ending December 31, 2029

**Motion/Second by Bowlden/Dutton to appoint Cal Oxford to the Spalding County Water & Sewerage Facilities Authority for a six-year term ending December 31, 2029. Motion carried by a 3-2 vote (Flowers-Taylor/Johnson).**

Mr. Davis and Mr. Brandon have expressed their desire to continue on this Authority. Ms. Matlock has expressed a desire not to continue in service to the SCWSFA.

12. Consider appointments to the Two Rivers RC&D Council
  - a. To succeed Danny Meadows as the alternate member of this Council for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024. Mr. Meadows has expressed his desire for reappointment.

**Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to reappoint Danny Meadows as the alternate member on the Two Rivers RC&D Council for a one-year term ending December 31, 2025. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

13. Consider appointment to the Griffin-Spalding Land Bank Authority
  - a. To succeed Pansy Copeland for her unexpired term scheduled to end December 31, 2024.

**Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to appoint Cora Flowers to the Griffin-Spalding Land Bank Authority for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

## **VII. APPOINTMENTS - Chairman or Designee and Staff**

1. Consider appointment to the Griffin-Spalding Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.
  - a. Chairman or designee to succeed Commissioner Rita Johnson for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.

**Chairman Davis reappointed Rita Johnson to the Griffin-Spalding Chamber of Commerce for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.**

- b. To succeed Citizen Engagement Specialist, DeAndre Smith, for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.



***Chairman Davis reappointed DeAndre Smith to the Griffin-Spalding Chamber of Commerce for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.***

2. Consider appointment to the Griffin Downtown Council.
  - a. Chairman or designee to succeed Commissioner James Dutton for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.

***Chairman Davis reappointed Commissioner James Dutton to the Griffin Downtown Council for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.***

3. Consider appointment to the Griffin Main Street Advisory Board.
  - a. Chairman or designee to succeed Commissioner Rita Johnson for a one-year term to expire December 31, 2024.

***Chairman Davis reappointed Rita Johnson to the Griffin Main Street Advisory Board for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.***

4. Consider appointments to the Griffin-Spalding Area Transportation Committee
  - a. Chairman or designee to succeed Commissioner Ryan Bowlden for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.

***Chairman Davis appointed David Johnson to the Griffin-Spalding Area Transportation Committee for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.***

- b. Chairman or designee to succeed Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024

***Chairman Davis reappointed Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor to the Griffin-Spalding Area Transportation Committee for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.***

- c. To succeed Sheriff Darrell Dix for the Sheriff's Department for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.

***Chairman Davis reappointed Sheriff Darrell Dix to the Griffin-Spalding Area Transportation Committee as the representative of the Spalding County Sheriff's Office for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.***

- d. To succeed Steve Ledbetter for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.

***Chairman Davis reappointed Steve Ledbetter to the Griffin-Spalding Area Transportation Committee for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.***

- e. To succeed Deputy Chief Glenn Polk for the Spalding County Fire Department for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.

***Chairman Davis reappointed Chief Glenn Polk to the Griffin-Spalding County Area Transportation Committee as the representative of the Spalding County Fire Department for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.***

- f. To succeed Charles Reese, for Spalding County, for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.

***Chairman Davis appointed T.J. Imberger to the Griffin-Spalding Area Transportation Committee to represent the roads department for Spalding County for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.***

5. Consider appointment to the Griffin-Spalding County Development Authority for the Chairman or designee.
  - a. To succeed Commissioner James R. Dutton for a period of one-year ending December 31, 2024

***Chairman Davis reappointed Commissioner James R. Dutton to the Griffin- Spalding Development Authority for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.***

6. Consider appointment to the Griffin-Spalding Hospital Authority for Chairman or designee.
  - a. To succeed Clay Davis for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.

***Chairman Davis stated that he wished to remain on the Griffin-Spalding Hospital Authority for another year with his term ending December 31, 2024.***

7. Consider appointment to the McIntosh Trail Community Service Board.
  - a. To succeed Clay Davis for a one-year term ending 12/31/2024.

***Chairman Davis stated that he would like to remain on the McIntosh Trail Community Service Board for another year with his term ending December 31, 2024.***

8. Consider appointment to the Spalding County Board of Health.
  - a. To succeed Clay Davis for a one-year term as the Chairman or designee for this Board.

***Chairman Davis stated that he would like to remain on the Spalding County Board of Health for another year with his term ending December 31, 2024.***

9. Consider appointment to Spalding County Collaborative Authority for Families & Children, Inc.
  - a. To succeed Irma Lewis for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024. Ms. Lewis retired from the Spalding County Sheriff's Department and Nicole McCray assumed her position and serves on this Authority. Ms. McCray requests to represent Law Enforcement on the Authority.

***Chairman Davis appointed Nicole McCray as the Sheriff's Department representative on the Spalding County Collaborative Authority for Families & Children, Inc. for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.***

- b. To succeed Rita Johnson for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024, as the Chairman or designee.

***Chairman Davis appointed Don Taylor to the Spalding County Collaborative Authority for Families & Children, Inc. for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.***

10. Consider appointments to the Spalding County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission.
  - a. To succeed Gwen Flowers-Taylor as the Chairman or Designee appointment for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.

***Chairman Davis reappointed Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor to the Spalding County Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.***

11. Consider appointment to the Spalding County Water & Sewerage Facilities Authority.
  - a. To succeed Gwen Flowers-Taylor as the Chairman or designee appointment to this Authority.

***Chairman Davis reappointed Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor to the Spalding County Water & Sewerage Facilities Authority for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.***

12. Consider appointment to the Three Rivers Regional Commission Board of Directors to fill the Chairman or designee position for Spalding County for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.
  - a. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor serves as the designee for this Board.

***Chairman Davis reappointed Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor to the Three Rivers Regional Commission for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.***

13. Consider appointments to the Two Rivers RC&D Council.
  - a. To succeed James Dutton as the Chairman or designee to this Council.

***Chairman Davis reappointed Commissioner James R. Dutton to the Two Rivers RC&D Council for a one-year term ending December 31, 2023.***

14. Consider appointment to the West Central Workforce Investment Board
  - a. This individual must be the Chief Elected Official for Spalding County which is the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners.

***Chairman Davis he would remain on the West Central Workforce Investment Board as the Chief Elected Officer for Spalding County for one-year ending December 31, 2024.***

15. Consider reappointment of Glenn Polk as Emergency Management Director for Spalding County.
  - a. Chief Polk has held this position since 2018.

***Chairman Davis named Chief Glenn Polk as the Emergency Management Director for Spalding County.***

16. Appoint two Commissioners to the Spalding County Water and Sewerage Facilities Authority's Sewer Utility Steering Committee. These individuals would play a pivotal role in establishing the Sewer Utility.

***Chairman Davis appointed Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor and Vice Chairman Ryan Bowlden to represent the Board of Commissioners on the Spalding County Water and Sewer Utility Steering Committee.***

## **VIII. 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.

Dr. Ledbetter advised there were two people signed up to speak:

Roy McClain, representing the Spalding County Board of Elections asked to move funding within their budget.

Mike Middlebrooks, 1108 Maple Drive, Griffin, GA spoke about Code Enforcement and the need to get someone into these positions.

## **IX. MINUTES**

1. Consider approval of the Minutes from the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Work Session and Regular Meetings on December 4, 2023.

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Flowers-Taylor to approve the Minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Work Session and Regular Meetings on December 4, 2024. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

***Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to add two additional items to the Agenda under New Business. An Item #5 to discuss the need to replace a fire truck that was totaled in an accident last month and an Item #6 to discuss the request from the Board of Elections. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

## **X. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Consider on second reading an ordinance prohibiting overnight parking in parks.
2. Consider Resolution to stagger the terms for the members of the Board of Assessors.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then asked that the Resolution to stagger term of office for the Tax Assessors be reviewed.

Ms. Windham reviewed the changes to be made to the By Laws for the Board of Assessors.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve the Resolution to stagger the terms for the members of the Board of Assessors. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

3. Consider approval of the streetlight district for Greyson Parc
4. Consider RPF# 20252028-A to Three Rivers Area Agency on Aging for Senior Nutrition Program Services

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve Items 1, 3, and 4 on the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

## **XI. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Lift from the Table and Appoint members to the Spalding County Board of Tax Assessors Consider expiring terms of Dick Morrow and Thomas Brad Wideman. New appointments are for six-year terms.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to lift from the table the appointment of members to the Spalding County Board of Tax Assessors. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

To replace Dick Morrow. Mr. Morrow has expressed his desire to remain on this Board.

Dr. Ledbetter then presented Joe Bailey to the Board for consideration. Mr. Bailey was approved by a 4-1 vote (Johnson).

Dr. Ledbetter then presented Dick Morrow to the board for consideration, the appointment failed due to a 2-3 vote (Dutton/Davis/Bowlden).

***Mr. Joe Bailey was appointed to the Spalding County Board of Tax Assessors Post #3 for a period of five-years ending December 31, 2028.***

Dr. Ledbetter presented Thomas “Brad” Wideman to the Board for consideration and the appointment failed due to a 2-3 vote (Flowers-Taylor/Dutton/Johnson).

Dr. Ledbetter then presented Byron Pierce to the Board for consideration. Mr. Pierce was approved by a unanimous vote.

***Mr. Byron Pierce was appointed to the Spalding County Board of Tax Assessors Post #2 for a four-year term to expire on December 31, 2027.***

## **XII. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Consider approval of a request from the Griffin-Spalding Hospital Authority to provide funding for the following projects for FY2024:
  - Spalding County Board of Health (Flu Shots) - \$22,000.00
  - Spalding County Senior Nutrition Program (Meals on Wheels) - \$54,0000.00

In order for the Hospital Authority to grant this funding the City Commission and the County Commission must give their approval.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to approve the request from the Griffin-Spalding Hospital Authority to provide grant funding to the Spalding County Board of Health in the amount of \$22,000 for Flu Shots and to the Spalding County Senior Nutrition***

**Program in the amount of \$54,000 for Meals on Wheels as projects in 2024. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

2. Consider request from the Spalding County Water and Sewerage Facilities Authority to removed Spalding County as Trustee on the Trust Indenture with Minerva Spring Lake, L.P. and appoint the Spalding County Water and Sewerage Facilities Authority as the Trustee on the Trust Indenture.

**Motion/Second by Dutton/Johnson to approve the request from the Spalding County Water and Sewerage Facilities Authority to removed Spalding County as Trustee on the Trust Indenture with Minerva Spring Lake, L.P. and appoint the Spalding County Water and Sewerage Facilities Authority as the Trustee on the Trust Indenture. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

3. Consider a moratorium for building permits and rezonings within former Sunnyside City Limits.

**Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to approve a moratorium for building permits and rezoning within the former City of Sunny Side City limits for 120 days. Motion carried by 4-0 vote (Commissioner Dutton recused himself from the vote.)**

4. Consider approving a Resolution to set election qualifying fees for each county office that will be elected via general primary, general elections, or nonpartisan elections in 2024.

**Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to approve a Resolution to set election qualifying fees for each county office that will be elected via general primary, general elections, or nonpartisan elections in 2024. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

5. Discuss the need to replace a fire truck that was totaled in an accident last month.

**Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to approve up to \$935,000 through direct purchase or Lease Purchase program for a new fire engine. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

6. Discuss the request from the Board of Elections to move \$8,000 from one designation within their budget to allow for a raise for the Elections Supervisor.

**Motion/Second by Dutton/Bowlden to reaffirm the Elections Board can do what they need to do within the budget allotted to them. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

### **XIII. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER**

- ✓ A powerful storm system is expected to impact all of north and central Georgia tonight through Tuesday night and into Wednesday morning. Heavy rain, strong to severe thunderstorms and high wind. Please stay safe and please sign up for CivicReady if you haven't already done so.
- ✓ 2023 Tornado Community Update. On Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, at the Kiwanis Club of Griffin, our community is hosting an event in remembrance of the January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023, tornados.
- ✓ We have the Preliminary Draft report from Maulding & Jenkins on the FY2023 Audit. Staff is reviewing the material and will make the document available as soon as the final report is received. The document indicates we are in a very good financial position.
- ✓ The Aquatic Center contractor will begin filling the pool this week and the Pool Management Company will begin their responsibilities within the next two weeks.
- ✓ Director Imberger is working with Paragon on the next phase of our TSPLOST resurfacing work.
- ✓ The Board of Commissioners Retreat is scheduled for January 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> in LaGrange. If you have not spoken with the facilitator, please let Dr. Ledbetter know and we will get you scheduled.
- ✓ Spalding County has issued an RFP for our Financial Software package, expect to hear more at the end of next month. We will issue the RFP for our Master Pak Plan by the end of the month.
- ✓ There will be approximately 300+ representatives from the GRPA in our community this week representing many communities across the state. They are attending GRPA training and President's Council meetings in our community. Thank you to TJ Imberger for your leadership in this association.

### **XIV. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS**

#### **Rita Johnson**

- Stated she had the opportunity to go home after the work session and when the Board gets home, they will find they have suit papers delivered to them today. This just brings home that had the RFP's been done 90 days ago, we could have awarded the contract today, that would have been one thing, but not having something in place puts the County in legal jeopardy possibly.

#### **Ryan Bowlden**



- Thanked the Board for electing him as Vice Chairman for 2024. This has been a great learning experience and although we may have our differences from time to time, he has learned a lot from each and every one on the Board.
- Last week was a sad time for the community and he hates that it takes such a sad event to bring the community together. He wishes that people would show support for law enforcement and public safety all the time.
- He was glad to hear that the FY2023 Audit findings by Maulding and Jenkins indicate that we are in good financial position.

### **Gwen Flowers-Taylor**

- Stated that she was going home to put the CivicReady app on her phone. She didn't realize we were so close to that time of the year we had the tornado last year. She is glad they are doing the recognition, but it makes her anxious that we are having reports of a storm tonight that could potentially put us in the way of a tornado.
- We all have a responsibility to come back and ask where the RFP paperwork is. Let's all try to make sure we can push that agenda forward.
- Named a member of staff that she would like to see put in for an ACCG Award of Excellence.
- She is looking forward to the upcoming year with all of the opportunities to move economic development forward.

### **James Dutton**

- The leadership that our County has is second to none. He is talking about our amazing County Manager, our Sheriff and all of those who have won awards for being the best in the State.
- This County took a beating last year, not only economically or with the tornados, it just seemed something one day after another. Yet, our County rises to the occasion every time and we will continue.
- There is not enough we can do to support our Sheriff, his Deputies, and the family of the one who we lost.
- Next Monday is Martin Luther King Day, are we doing a parade? Is there a plan? There should be something happening.
- The numbers for fire trucks, \$317,000 in 2017, \$600,000 in 2021, \$750,000 in 2022 and \$935,000, three times what it was six years ago and a 40-month lead time. Things have got to change. This isn't a county issue. This a fundamental problem with the build back better strategy. Something needs to happen globally, if this trend continues next year the cost of the same fire truck will be over \$1M.

## **Clay Davis**

- Thanked Commission Dutton for his time as the Vice Chairman of the Board of Commissioners.
- He wants to foster diversity of thought. He feels that is why we have been elected to this Board. Each one of us brings different things to the Board and we have to listen to be able to do that. Diversity of thought is always exciting, we all don't have to agree, but we all work together for what we feel is the best for our citizens. It is important that we talk.
- He thanked everyone who volunteered and turned their name in for appointment. We would love to have everyone who wants to participate be selected. There are still some positions open if you are interested in trying to help your government, we would love to have you.
- He then commented on the RFP procedure talked about earlier this evening. We reduced the millage rate; money is tight, and we are working hard work within the limits that have been set. The RFP procedure is important. It doesn't matter to the organization, if we are spending money, we need to be looking at how we get the best return on our investment.

## **XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.**

## **XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Dutton to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***