

# After Agenda

**Board of Commissioners of Spalding County  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, February 6, 2017  
6:00 PM  
Meeting Room 108, Courthouse Annex  
119 E. Solomon Street**

**The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting in Room 108 in the Courthouse Annex, Monday, February 6, 2017, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman Bart Miller presiding. Commissioners Rita Johnson, Raymond Ray, Gwen Flowers-Taylor and Donald Hawbaker were present. Also present were County Manager, William P. Wilson Jr., Assistant County Manager, Eric Mosley and County Attorney, Jim Fortune. County Manager, William P. Wilson, Jr. recorded the minutes.**

- I. OPENING (CALL TO ORDER)** by Chairman Bart Miller.
- II. INVOCATION** led by Commissioner Donald Hawbaker.
- III. PLEDGE TO FLAG** led by Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor.
- IV. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**
  1. Consider approval of a Proclamation celebrating the 10th Anniversary Season of Griffin Choral Arts.

Chairman Miller asked Commissioner Rita Johnson to read the Proclamation celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season of Griffin Choral Arts.

***Motion/Second by Ray/Flowers-Taylor to approve the Proclamation celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season of Griffin Choral Arts. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

Chairman Miller then asked if representatives from Griffin Choral Arts would come up to accept the proclamation.
  2. Presentation of the 2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report by Miller Edwards of Mauldin & Jenkins LLC.

Miller Edwards, of Mauldin & Jenkins LLC, stated that he would be presenting the 2016 Comprehensive Financial Report for reporting year ending June 30, 2016. He advised that the audits were issued prior to the deadline required by the State of Georgia and the GFOA.

He then stated that he would be covering the highlights of the CAFR and then welcome any questions that the Board may have regarding this report. He advised that the CAFR that is presented every year by Spalding County goes above and beyond what is required. The audit report included in the materials is considered an unmodified or clean audit report.

Mr. Miller stated that pages 4 thru 13 is a Management Discussion Analysis that is written by County Management which gives a basic overview as to why things occurred as they did, why certain amounts increased or decreased.

He added that the financial statements start on page 14 of the document he added that the Balance Sheet for the primary government is located in the first column. He stated the first column reflects approximately \$126 million of assets and deferred outflows offset by \$27 million in liabilities and deferred inflows. This gives Spalding County an equity position of about \$100 million worth of equity when you look at the overall operations.

Mr. Miller stated that the County has strong assets with a small amount of liability, the County has equity position.

Mr. Miller reviewed the Statement of Activities and Fund Balances. He advised that the balance in the Funds reflect a \$3.7 million balance in cash which is an increase from what it has been in the past, total fund balance is approximately \$4.5 million and added that the Fund Balance is about 80% cash; however, when you look at the income statement you will see that this equates to 43 days of Fund Balance.

Mr. Miller added to give this information perspective that prior to the recession in 2007, Spalding County had approximately \$11.3 million in Fund Balance, which was a good thing because that is what helped the County weather the storm that occurred over a 7-8-9 year period. He advised that he always suggests that having a fund balance equivalent to 3 months in Fund Balance.

Mr. Miller stated that there was an increase in General Fund Balance of approximately \$1.2 million a positive bottom line, there were \$39.8 million in revenues offset by \$38.3 million in expenditures and there were a few other adjustments that had to be made resulting in an increase in the General Fund Balance from \$3.3 million to \$4.5 million.

He added that under the compliance section of the CAFR discussed is what internal controls are in place to insure that you are in compliance from a general perspective. He advised that under this section they had no findings. He advised that the only thing they had were a few management points all of which involved the court system.

Mr. Wilson advised that with the implementation of the ODYSSEY software in Clerk of Court, State Court and Magistrate Court that they will have now have a general ledger through this software system which should address the management points mentioned in the audit. He further advised that the only Court currently not on the system is Probate Court and he is working with Judge Hunt on this.

**V. PRESENTATIONS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – None.**

**VI. CITIZEN COMMENT**

Speakers must sign up prior to the meeting and provide their names, addresses and topic in which they will speak on. Speakers must direct all comments to the Board only. Speakers will be allotted three (3) minutes to speak on their chosen topics and 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.

Debby Daniel-Bryant, 282 N. Rover Road, Griffin, Georgia spoke against Full Blown Firearm and wants to this operation shut down.

Shawn Southerland, 85 Gainer Road, Griffin, Georgia, spoke about 75 Gainer Road and 2197 N. Walkers Mill Road.

Mr. Southerland stated that he had been before the Board on an earlier occasion to discuss 85 Gainer Road and a junk truck that was parked in the front yard; however, after that appearance Code Enforcement visited the home and the truck was simply relocated from the front yard to the back yard and now the front yard is full of trash and debris along with kitchen appliances.

Mr. Southerland then stated that since this individual had been allowed to keep the junk truck in the back yard, the people who actually own the property now have a junk car parked in their back yard at 2197 N. Walkers Mill Road. Additionally, they have a 5<sup>th</sup> wheel camper on this property that is tarped and has no tag on it. He is simply asking that the code that is currently on the books be enforced.

Reese Simmons, 2771 W. Ellis Road, Griffin, Georgia, wanted to thank the Board and the Spalding County Fire Department for their response to a call at his residence. The Brush Truck out of the Norton Fire Station which was acquired recently through the SPLOST responded to the call. If it had not been for the Brush Truck, he would have suffered much more damage to his property and to neighboring properties. He wanted to thank the Fire Department for their timely response and the Board for the decision that was made to include the Brush Truck as one of the acquisitions on the SPLOST.

## VII. MINUTES -

1. Consider approval of minutes for the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting on January 9, 2017, the Spalding County Special Called Meeting-Retreat on January 20, 2017, the Zoning Public Hearing on January 26, 2017 and the Executive Session January 26, 2017.

***Motion/Second by Ray/Hawbaker to approve the minutes of the Spalding County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting on January 9, 2017, the Spalding County Special Called Meeting-Retreat on January 20, 2017, the Zoning Public Hearing on January 26, 2017 and the Executive Session January 26, 2017. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

## VIII. CONSENT AGENDA- None.

**IX. OLD BUSINESS -**

1. Lift from the table and consider appointments to the Griffin-Spalding County Animal Care & Control Advisory Board.

***Motion/Second by Ray/Hawbaker to lift from the table an appointment to the Animal Care & Control Advisory Board. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

- (a) To succeed Daryl Williams (Post #5) for a one year term ending December 31, 2017.

Chairman Miller asked Commissioner Donald Hawbaker if he had a nominee for this post appointment.

William Wilson, County Manager, advised that Commissioner Hawbaker had submitted the name of Mr. Michael O'Conner who lives at 510 Crescent Road, Griffin, Georgia for this appointment. Mr. Wilson further advised that this is a Post appointment, so there will not be a motion, as second or a vote. Mr. Wilson further advised that staff would notify Mr. O'Conner of his appointment.

2. Lift from the table and consider appointment to the Spalding County Board of Zoning Appeals.

***Motion/Second by Ray/Johnson to lift from the table an appointment to the Spalding County Board of Zoning Appeals. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

- (a) To succeed Robert Lattimore, as Post #1 appointment, for a four year term ending December 31, 2020.

Chairman Miller asked Commissioner Flowers-Taylor if she had a nominee for this post appointment.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor advised that she would like to appoint Ms. Patricia McCord to this Post position. Mr. Wilson advised that he had the information for Ms. McCord and Chad Jacobs and the members of the Board of Appeals and Ms. McCord would be notified of this appointment.

**X. NEW BUSINESS -**

1. Consider request for Outside Amplification Permit from Humberto Colin to host a Fund Raising event at 3894 Jackson Road, Griffin, Georgia on February 12, 2016 from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

***Motion/Second by Ray/Hawbaker to approve the Outside Amplification Permit from Humberto Colin to host a Fund Raising event at 3894 Jackson Road, Griffin, Georgia on February 12, 2016 from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.***

Mr. Wilson advised that the applicant was asked to be present this evening to answer any questions the Board may have regarding the Amplification

Permit; however, Mr. Colin nor his representative Mr. Haro are present.

Mr. Wilson stated that this is property located at the corner of N. Walkers Mill Road and Old Jackson Road. There is a large horse facility is on this property, it is adjacent to our fire station and there are several residences across the road from this location. Staff has a few concerns regarding the application because on one part of the application it states the event is a fund raiser; however, on the permission letter attached to the application, it states that the event is a party.

Mr. Wilson then stated that Ms. Gibson had talked with the applicant's representative Mr. Gabriel Haro and advised him that he needed to be at the meeting and he said that he would be at the meeting. The application has been reviewed by Mr. Jacobs in Community Development and by the Sheriff's Department and it meets all of the qualifications for the issuance of a permit.

***Motion carried 4-1 (Ray).***

2. Consider approval of proposed Proactive Code Enforcement Policy.

***Motion/Second by Ray/Flowers-Taylor to approve the proposed Proactive Code Enforcement Policy.***

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor expressed her concern regarding Mr. Southerland's statements regarding junk cars. She stated that she has been complaining for quite some time about junk cars and old furniture that are on front porches or in the front yards of homes in the County.

Discussion was held regarding the definition of a junk car in the current county ordinance and how the complaint would be addressed within the proposed Proactive Code Enforcement Policy.

***Motion carried unanimously by all.***

3. Consider approval on first reading an Ordinance amending the Part VI - Licensing and Regulation, Article A, Section 6-1020, Subparagraph (a) to correct an oversight in the wording of the code.

James Fortune, County Attorney, advised that at the last Board Meeting an oversight in the code that had been adopted by the Board and this amendment will correct that oversight.

***Motion/Second by Ray/Flowers-Taylor to approve on first reading an Ordinance amending the Part VI - Licensing and Regulation, Article A, Section 6-1020, Subparagraph (a) to***

***correct an oversight in the wording of the code. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

4. Consider reappointment of Commissioner Donald Hawbaker to the Atlanta Regional Commission as Spalding County's representative for a one year term ending 12/31/2017.

***Motion/Second by Ray/Johnson to reappoint Commissioner Donald Hawbaker to the Atlanta Regional Commission as Spalding County's representative for a one year term ending 12/31/2017. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

5. Consider approval of a contract with the Judicial Alternatives of Georgia ("JAG") to provide correctional services to offenders processed through the Spalding County Alternative Court.

***Motion/Second by Ray/Johnson to approve a contract with the Judicial Alternatives of Georgia ("JAG") to provide correctional services to offenders processed through the Spalding County Alternative Court.***

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked if this company had any family ties with past State Court Judge Esary.

State Court Judge, Josh Thacker, responded that JAG was a multi-state company and to his knowledge there are no ties to Judge Esary, or his family to this company. He stated that he too had heard the rumor over the years, but he had investigated the matter and there is nothing to support those claims.

***Motion carried unanimously by all.***

6. Consider amendment to the tower space rental contract with Verizon for the Williamson Road Tower location.

Commissioner Hawbaker asked for an explanation of what is behind the request for the amendment to the rental agreement.

Mr. Wilson advised that we currently have an agreement with Verizon to lease space on the tower located on Williamson Road, this is a request by Verizon to remove the current equipment and replace it with upgraded equipment to allow them to provide better service. He further advised that all of the testing has been completed to insure that the upgrade will not interfere with the county's 800 MHz

***Motion/Second by Ray/Flowers-Taylor to approve amendment to the tower space rental contract with Verizon for the Williamson Road Tower location. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

7. Consider request from the Georgia Department of Transportation for Design and Engineering funding for the Jordan Hill Road Bridge over Troublesome Creek.

***Motion/Second by Ray/Hawbaker to approve the request from the Georgia Department of Transportation for Design and Engineering funding for the Jordan Hill Road Bridge over Troublesome Creek.***

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked County Manager, William Wilson to review the request for the Board.

Mr. Wilson stated that the replacement of this bridge has been discussed for the last few years. The original design and engineering work that had been performed has become outdated. At one point, the County asked to take the project over, then last year we asked the State to take it back. During this period of time, the design and engineering work that had been completed became outdated and will have to be redone in order for the project to proceed.

GDOT utilized federal funds for the initial design and engineering work that was completed and since the project was not completed within a certain period of time the plans are no longer valid. We had hoped that when we asked that GDOT take the project over, they would be able to get additional money from the federal government for redesign and engineering; however, that did not happen.

He then stated that in order for this project to proceed, Spalding County will have to pay \$200,000 for the design, engineering and all of the additional studies to be redone for this bridge so that we can move on with construction. The cost of the bridge will then be 100% paid for by the State and Federal Governments. The only thing required of the County will be this \$200,000 investment and we have to acquire the right-of-way.

Mr. Wilson stated that staff recommends approval because without it this project will be “dead in the water” and it is recommended that the \$200,000 come from the 2015 SPLOST.

***Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Ray to amend the motion to include that funding be earmarked from the 2015 SPLOST road and bridge funds.***

***Motion carried unanimously by all.***

8. Consider request from the Spalding County Fire Department to apply for various grants during 2017 as indicated in the attachment. There are a number of grants available through the year and this will allow the Fire Department to apply for these grants.

***Motion/Second by Ray/Flowers-Taylor to approve a request from the Spalding County Fire Department to apply for various grants during 2017.***

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked for the grants that require a match, where would the matching funds come from?

Mr. Wilson stated that we budgeted \$50,000 this year for grant matching funds. If the match is below \$50,000 they will go ahead and apply for the grant, if it is above \$50,000 for the match then they will come back to the Board before they apply. This match is budgeted in the Fire District Fund.

***Motion carried unanimously by all.***

9. Consider approval of FY 2018 Budget Calendar.

Mr. Wilson stated that he would like to review the FY2018 Budget Calendar before the motion. He then reviewed the dates on the Budget Calendar with the Board. He noted that on the proposed calendar the dates reflected are due approximately a month earlier than in previous years.

Consensus of the Board is to move the May 2, 3, 4 meetings to May 3, 4, 5, 2017.

***Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Ray to approve the FY2018 Budget Calendar as amended. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

10. Consider cancellation of the May 1, 2017 Board of Commissioner's Regular Meeting.

***Motion/Second by Ray/Johnson to approve cancellation of the May 1, 2017 Board of Commissioner's Regular Meeting.***

Commissioner Hawbaker inquired regarding the Zoning Public Hearing scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup> as most of the members of the Board will be leaving that day going to the ACCG Annual Conference.

Mr. Wilson suggested that the Zoning Public Hearing be moved to the April

17<sup>th</sup>, the date of the Board of Commissioners Extraordinary Session.

Mr. Wilson asked that the agenda be amended to include moving the Zoning Public Hearing to April 17<sup>th</sup>.

***Commissioner Ray rescinded his motion and Commissioner Johnson rescinded her second.***

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to amend the agenda to include a change in the date of the Zoning Public Hearing from April 27<sup>th</sup> to April 17<sup>th</sup> and add that to item #10. Motion carried unanimously by all***

***Motion/Second by Ray/Flowers-Taylor to approve cancellation of the May 1, 2017 Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting and to move the Zoning Public Hearing to April 17<sup>th</sup>. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

11. Consider request to declare approximately 5.064 acres of County property adjacent to the Public Works Department as surplus and authorize the County Manager and County Attorney to prepare the notifications and documentation to authorize the sale on the Courthouse steps.

Mr. Fortune advised that the Landrum Family Limited Partnership is requesting that we declare the 5.064 acres as surplus and place this property up for sale as they are interested in acquiring the property. The procedure that we will have to follow is to:

- Declare the property as surplus as it currently serves no useful public purpose.
- Pass a resolution declaring the property as surplus and that it be sold.
- Recommendation of the Tax Assessor's Office is that we start the bidding for the property at \$84,000. Which means if we do not receive a bid for \$84,000 we do not sell the property.

Mr. Landrum has already provided a check in the amount of \$84,000 made payable to Spalding County as evidence that they intend to bid on this property. Additionally, he is having a plat prepared that will accurately describe the 5.064 acres, which will have to be in our legal ad and will have to be advertised once.

- The Legal Ad will need to run not less than 15 nor more than 60 days prior to the sale.
- The sale will take place on the first Tuesday of the month as designated in the ad between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on the Courthouse steps. Open bidding, highest and best bidder for cash.

Mr. Fortune then advised if this is the intent of the Board, the first thing that has to be done is adoption of the Resolution declaring the property as surplus

so that it can be sold under provisions in OCGA §36-9-3.

***Motion/Second by Hawbaker/Ray to approve the resolution to declare approximately 5.064 acres of County property adjacent to the Public Works Department as surplus and authorize the County Manager and County Attorney to prepare the notifications and documentation to authorize the sale on the Courthouse steps.***

Mr. Wilson then advised that Mr. Landrum is aware that he may have to go up on his bid; however, he wanted to make sure that the Board was confident in his desire to acquire this property.

***Motion carried unanimously by all.***

12. Consider recommendation from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board for the creation of a Spring NFL Youth Flag Football program.

Mr. Wilson stated that Robbie Milner from the Spalding County Leisure Services Department is here to answer any questions the Board may have regarding this request. He advised that only one staff person will be required to oversee the program, the coaches have agreed to run the camp, it is \$30.00 per participant and it is anticipated 100 participants at a cost of approximately \$20,000.

Mr. Wilson then stated that staff recommendation, as he advised at the retreat in January, is any expansion of programs, facilities or services should be submitted in the Department's annual budget request and should not be considered at any other times to allow for proper evaluation and possible funding.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked what the \$30.00 per participant would cover.

Mr. Milner advised that \$25.00 of the registration fee would go for the jerseys and a flag belt for each player participating in the league, we are partnering with USA Football which is sponsored by the NFL and the remaining \$5.00 would be for the insurance with the league that we are partnering with which is USA Football. Mr. Milner advised that this program will be more like a training camp and not an actual league.

Mr. Milner further stated that this program is more of a skill development type program where they will be teaching the youth more fundamentals of the game before the season starts in the fall. The plan is to use the volunteer coaches to facilitate the skill and drill aspects of the game. It will be a 2 hour day for 4-6 Saturdays. The goal is to develop skills and bring some fun to the game for those kids who may not have had an opportunity to be introduced to the game.

For those who are currently involved in the program, the goal will be to better educate them on the function of the different positions both defensively and offensively.

Mr. Milner advised that the camp will be offered to ages 5-12, which is the age group that is served during the fall league. Currently flag football is offered to the 5-6 year olds; however, the older youth sometimes get so involved with the tackle aspect of the game that they never really learn the fundamentals of the game.

Mr. Milner stated that he currently has approximately 6 coaches who have volunteered for this program. He stated that there would be six stations set up, each station would provide a different learning aspect of the game and the children would be rotated between the stations for the first hour of each day, then they would be divided into age groups to play flag football for the remainder of the time.

Mr. Milner stated that the coaches would be responsible for monitoring the games, there would be no officials, so the only cost to the County would be for the fields to be lined at least one time at the beginning of the program. He then stated that registration for the program would start on March 13<sup>th</sup> with an anticipated start date of April 15<sup>th</sup>.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Hawbaker to approve the creation of a Spring NFL Youth Flag Football program as recommended by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

13. Consider recommendation from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee for improvements to the Park @ 6th.

Mr. Wilson stated that at their meeting on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016, the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board made a motion to have shade structures and other structures provided at the Park @ 6<sup>th</sup>. T.J. Imberger, Superintendent of Parks and Public Grounds, has provided a list of costs for this project. The proposal includes shade structures, trash cans, benches and a water fountain for a total of \$67,963.63 which is not budgeted in FY2017 operating budget.

Mr. Wilson then reiterated that the staff recommendation is the same as in item #12, any expansion of programs, facilities or services should be submitted in the Department's annual budget request and should not be considered at any other times to allow for proper evaluation and possible funding. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then asked Mr. Imberger what the source of the funding would be for this project.

Mr. Imberger advised that Commissioner Flowers-Taylor had indicated the

possibility of being able to utilize Hotel/Motel Tax funds for the project as this could be a tourism destination.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then asked Mr. Imberger to advise why this request is being made.

Mr. Imberger stated that the request is a result of the Archways visit to Carrollton, his office was asked to take a look at what had been done there. The main reason this request is being made is so that the park can be utilized for activities during the daytime hours. The sun shades will accommodate usage on days when it is sunny and hot. The request also includes picnic tables, a water fountain and trash receptacles. These changes would make the park more amenable for usage by downtown businesses and individuals at lunchtime use.

Commissioner Johnson then asked if the funds were available in the Hotel/Motel tax for this proposed expenditure.

Mr. Wilson advised that prior to GSBTA, all of the money in the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund was used for tourism. In FY2017 we budgeted GSBTA's portion, which is 5% to go to GSBTA and the remaining 3% we are allowed to put into the General Fund. He then stated that he believes what Commissioner Flowers-Taylor is wanted to use is the ±\$200,000 that is in the "prior to GSBTA fund" which is the same fund that we used to construct the park.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that the reason this request had not been made as part of the budget process for FY2017 is because the Archway meeting in Carrollton had not taken place at that time and the possibility of pocket parks also developed after the budget process. She further stated that the improvements suggested should make the Park @ 6<sup>th</sup> more usable for the community. Currently you can't be out there when it is raining, and you can't use the Park when it is too hot.

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to approve the recommendation of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee for improvements to the Park @ 6<sup>th</sup> as presented at the meeting and to utilize the pre GSBTA Hotel/Motel Tax Funds in the amount not to exceed \$68,000 for these improvements.***

Chairman Miller expressed his concern over the durability of the shade fabric that is proposed. He stated that he wanted to make sure that this wasn't something that was going to have to be replaced every two to three years. Mr. Imberger advised that he would get the warranty information on the material used and forward it to Mr. Wilson.

***Motion carried 4-1 (Ray).***

## **XI. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER**

- Clarification on Robert Parker's seat on the Griffin-Spalding Development Authority. We had incorrectly listed Mr. Parker's appointment expiration date as December 31, 2016 and therefore, we advised the Board that we needed two appointments. That was incorrect and we have made the changes and he apologized for the error.
- He congratulated the City of Griffin on being named a Live, Work and Play Community and they are in this month's Georgia Trend magazine.
- He commended the Fire Department on their 2016 Annual Report, there is a copy in each Commissioners' box and it is being converted to pdf and it will be placed on the website.
- He then stated that the estimated SPLOST collections were to be \$700,000 per month. Over the first five months we averaged approximately \$703,000 per month. He advised that he was extremely happy to announce that the collections for December were over \$871,000, he reminded everyone that this is an anomaly because it is December and that is the highest it has been in several years of SPLOST collections.

He stated that even though it is a great sign for the economy, the County cannot count on this amount coming in every month for the remaining period of time. The SPLOST will continue for the full 72 months because of the intergovernmental agreement so if the collections continue, we will have additional funds available to use on SPLOST projects. He advised that he would keep the Board up-to-date on the SPLOST monthly collections.

## **XII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS**

### **Commissioner Donald Hawbaker**

- He wanted congratulate Daa'ood Amin for being designated as General Griffin by the Griffin Chamber of Commerce for calendar year 2017. He added that he felt that Mr. Amin deserved the designation because of his commitment to Spalding County and his promotion of the County.
- He was discouraged by the need for Mr. Sutherland to appear before the Board again. He advised that Mr. Sutherland lives in the district that he represents and he had no idea that his concerns were not being addressed. He requested a report from Code Enforcement on what action has been taken during the span of time that Mr. Sutherland addressed. He wants to make sure that we are doing everything that the law allows to be done in addressing these issues.
- He stated that the Board accomplished a lot at the Commissioner Retreat on January 20<sup>th</sup>.
- He added that he enjoyed the amount of time that he was able to spend with his fellow commissioners along with colleagues from the City of Griffin, the School

System and the Development Authority at the Archway Retreat.

- He stated that one of the items he brought up at the Commissioner Retreat was that he would like to see changes currently allowing businesses that are “grandfathered” under older regulations, and no longer conducting business at the location, not be allowed to renew a business license. He advised that there was one of these located in the district that he represents, he has been told that the person/entity has three different business licenses that they continue to update in order to stay grandfathered under the older regulations and is not having to meet current regulations. He would like for the Board to take a look at these grandfathering provisions.

### **Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor**

- She stated that she feels that there was some really good work done at the Archway Retreat, but one of the things discussed that they really didn't address was crime. She thought it was unusual that the Chief of Police nor the Sheriff were at the Retreat. Some of the items that were talked about hinged on the cooperation of law enforcement. She stated that they should be included as part of the intergovernmental group during future discussions.
- She doesn't feel that the process of appointments is efficient. She feels that nominations for a Board or Committee shouldn't be seat specific unless it is a post position, the nominations should be considered as to the date they were received and if there are a certain number of seats to be filled then you simply take the nominations as received and they are voted on in that order. She feels this would simplify the whole process and she would like for that to be “looked at”.
- She asked Mr. Wilson about the 800 MHz radios that the County uses. She stated that she understands that it costs approximately \$850 to repair one and thousands of dollars to replace one. What are we doing about that? Where is that funding coming from? Isn't it time for a new kind of radio?

Mr. Wilson stated that there are standard minimum and maximum charges and several departments are currently looking at replacing some of the radios because some of them were purchased in 2005-2006. He stated there is new technology available and radios are smaller. He further stated that we are looking at all brands of radios not just Harris.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked if the replacement would be a General Fund budgeted line item or would funding for replacement radios come from another source.

Mr. Wilson advised that it is a by budget line item depending on whether it is the Fire District Fund, E911 Fund or General Fund depending on what department is involved and replacement of the radios would be included in their operational budget.

She asked Mr. Wilson to check with the Sheriff's Department because she was told that there were areas in that Department that the radios would not pick up

the signal.

- She stated that she feels that the goals that have been set for Archway Program have been very successful and she is proud that the Board has been able to work with other governmental entities without fighting and we recognize that through collaboration we can get a lot more accomplished.

### **Commissioner Raymond Ray**

- He wanted congratulate the Fire Department, they had the recruitment class and graduated on Friday night and they did an excellent job.
- He felt that the Archways Retreat was a good collaboration.
- He thanked the Sheriff for the Press Releases that have been issued by his Department. It affords the opportunity for the Board to know what is going on before we see it in the paper.

### **Commissioner Rita Johnson**

- She felt that the Commissioners Retreat was a good meeting and she felt we were able to accomplish a lot at that meeting. She also stated it was good to see the Sheriff at the Retreat and for him to give his insight on some of the things that he would like to see happen within his department.
- She enjoyed the discussion on Tax Abatement, she feels the Board will need to pay close attention as this will impact the community.
- She also felt that the Archway Retreat was successful and it was good to have everyone there. She feels that the initiatives are moving ahead and is looking forward to see where we are in six months.

### **Chairman Bart Miller**

- Chairman Miller commented on Code Enforcement. He stated he feels they are doing a good job; however, he continues to receive complaints regarding trash on private property, no one is currently living there and the property is being used as a dumping ground on Vineyard and Patterson Roads.
- He wanted to thank the Warden for arranging the garbage to be picked up along Williamson Road. He stated that he didn't know what could be done to address people throwing garbage out on the side of the roads or dumping in vacant lots or at homes that were not being lived in, but he feels that something needs to be done.

Mr. Wilson advised that he had failed to report on a completed SPLOST project and he wanted to let the Board know that the 800 MHz tower relocation from SR 155 to N. Walkers Mill Road is now complete and we are now saving \$7,000+ per month and not having to pay rent on the tower. He wanted to thank the voters for

approving the SPLOST and he wanted to thank Eric Mosley and Mike Windham for the great job they did in overseeing this project.

**XIII. CLOSED SESSION**

County Manager requests an Executive Session for discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary actions 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 Ray/Johnson to enter into Executive Session for discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary actions 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 8:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

***Motion/Second by Ray/Johnson to close Executive Session at 9:04 p.m. Vote: Motion carried unanimously by all.***

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Ray to hold a workshop regarding Compensation on February 20, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.***

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion/Second by Flowers-Taylor/Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.***