

After Agenda

Board of Commissioners of Spalding County
Extraordinary Session
Monday, October 20, 2014
6:00 PM
119 E. Solomon St., Meeting Room 108

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held their Extraordinary Session in Room 108 of the Courthouse Annex, Monday, October 20, 2014, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman Samuel Gardner presiding. Commissioners Raymond Ray, Rita Johnson, Gwen Flowers-Taylor and Bart Miller were present. Also present were County Manager William P. Wilson Jr., Larry Lillard, Chief Appraiser, William Gay Human Resources Director, Jim Fortune, County Attorney and Kathy Gibson, Executive Secretary to record the minutes.

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

II. **INVOCATION** – led by Commissioner Johnson.

III. **PLEDGE TO FLAG** – led by Commissioner Ray.

IV. **PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS** –

1. Consider Proclamation declaring "Make a Difference Day" in Spalding County on October 25, 2014.

Motion/Second by Ray/Johnson to declare Saturday, October 25, 2014 as "Make a Difference Day" in Spalding County. Motion carried unanimously by all.

V. **PRESENTATIONS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

1. Consider approval of financial statements for the three month period ended September 30, 2014.

William Wilson, County Manager, reported for the first three months of the year General Fund Revenues are at 12%, General Fund Expenditures are at 23%, Fire District Fund Revenue is at 6%, Fire District Fund Expenditures are at 20% which is normal for this point in the budget year. Tax bills went out last week and are due December 20th.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Ray to approve the financial statements for the three month period ended September 30, 2014. Motion carried unanimously by all.

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.

Spoke regarding concerns surrounding the new airport:

Harold Distel, 1300 Rover-Zetella Road, Williamson, GA expressed his concern over the number of buildings that will need to be built and communication towers that will need to be moved to accommodate the new airport that would not be funded by the FAA.

John B. Melin, 1913 Jackson Road, Griffin, GA expressed his concerns over a statement made by a City Council member last week after their meeting regarding the runway of the airport going north of the gas lines in that area. He further stated that if the runway is placed where it is being proposed that it will cross a line installed by Atlanta Gas Light next to the power lines several years ago.

Norma Giles, 302 Elizabeth Lane, Griffin, GA stated that she is concerned that the Board of Commissioners and the County Attorney would agree to Item #10 of the proposed Memorandum of Agreement with the FFA, City of Griffin, Airport Authority and Spalding County that is being considered this evening. She express her concern as to where the funding would come from should the FAA withdraw their funding for the airport

VII. MINUTES -

1. Consider approval of the Minutes for the October 6, 2014 Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

Motion/Second by Ray/Johnson to approve the minutes for the October 6, 2014 Regular Meeting of the Spalding County Board of Commissioners. Motion carried unanimously by all.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA -

1. Consider approval on second reading an Ordinance amending the FY 2015 Budget Ordinance to provide for the 2015 tax levy.

Mr. Wilson stated that this is the second reading for the amendment, and that in order to balance the budget the county will have to appropriate funds from the LOST reserve and this amendment is required to provide for a balanced budget.

Motion/Second by Ray/Johnson to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously by all.

IX. OLD BUSINESS – None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider approval of the Memorandum of Agreement between the FAA, the City of Griffin, Spalding County and the Griffin-Spalding County Airport Authority for Replacement of the Griffin-Spalding County Airport.

Mr. Wilson advised that both the Chairman of the Airport Authority and the Airport Director are present if the Board had any questions.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked that the authority explain Item #10 of the Memorandum of Agreement to address the concerns raised by Mrs. Giles.

Dick Morrow, Chairman of the Airport Authority, stated that he would like to address several of the items of concern expressed this evening and get some of the misconception out in the open. Mr. Morrow advised that the Memorandum of Agreement with the FAA has been unanimously approved by the City of Griffin and the Airport Authority and we did discuss Item #10 at the Airport Authority meeting and with the approval from the County federal funding will become available.

Mr. Morrow stated that the runway, taxi ways and relocation of communication towers is part of a federal project, administered by GDOT and will work basically the same as the highway projects in the county that utilize federal funding. He further stated that since the airport is being funded with federal funds we have to follow their rules for construction and hiring contractors. Mr. Morrow advised that whoever bids the overall job will have to meet all of the federal and state requirements for insurance and bonding. However, the contractors will be encouraged to locally source projects to qualified contractors in this area.

Mr. Morrow advised that the FAA stated that the Memorandum of Agreement is a standard boilerplate agreement that is utilized for all of the multi-year grants that are issued by the FAA. Item #10 is part of the boilerplate and is included to insure that the entities are committed to the project. He further stated that if the FAA withdrew their funding that the airport project would have to continue, but there is no time table to be met toward completing the airport.

Mr. Morrow stated that the terminal and other buildings are not federally funded; however, as soon as the Memorandum of Agreement is signed, the current airport will go up for sale. Funds from the sale of the airport land and buildings will have to be reinvested into the new airport, so this money will be reinvested into the new terminal and hangers.

Mr. Morrow stated that there are a couple of towers in the survey area and a possible third one. Once the engineering for the airport layout is complete and it is determined which towers may be in the way then we will address

what towers may have to be moved and that will be funded by the FAA and money to move the towers is included in their estimates.

Mr. Morrow then stated that there is a gas line and a power line on the proposed site that have been identified and the cost of moving these items have been included. The site has been inspected and it is pretty well defined as to what is there and what needs to be done pending final engineering.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Flowers-Taylor to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the FAA, the City of Griffin, Spalding County and the Griffin-Spalding County Airport Authority for replacement of the Griffin-Spalding County Airport. Motion carried 4-1 (Gardner).

2. Consider request of the Spalding County Sheriff's Office to allow the Sheriff's Junior Deputy Program to utilize 837 Memorial Drive from November 17th - 22nd for storage and distribution of fruit for their annual fruit box fundraiser.

Mr. Wilson stated that the Junior Deputy Program has requested the use of the old Premier Beauty location for their annual fruit box fundraiser. They had originally requested the old Ceramic Building; however, that is now being utilized by the Hall of Fame. They are requesting the use of this building for the storage and distribution of the fruit for this fundraiser.

Motion/Second by Ray/Miller to approve the use of 837 Memorial Drive by the Junior Deputy Program for the storage and distribution of fruit for their annual fund drive from November 17 – 22nd, 2014.

Commissioner Flowers- Taylor state that she would like learn more about this program and asked that the Sheriff's Department advise how they choose Junior Deputies and what they do over the course of the year.

Motion carried unanimously by all.

3. Consider approval of a contract with S.A.F.E., Inc. to provide Veterinary Services for the Animal Shelter to comply with the Spay/Neuter before adoption ordinance.

Mr. Wilson advised that we did have a contract that had been arranged by the ACCAB board with Budget Vet; however, Budget Vet was unable to fulfill the terms of the contract. S.A.F.E., Inc. has been working with the Animal Shelter in their place, the contract has been reviewed and revised by the County Attorney. These are the same rates as the previous contract with Budget Vet.

Motion/Second by Ray/Johnson to approve contract with S.A.F.E., Inc. to provide Veterinary Services for the Animal Shelter to comply with the Spay/Neuter before adoption ordinance. Motion carried unanimously by all.

4. Consider eliminating the Tobacco Surcharge for County Employees scheduled to go into effect on January 1, 2015.

Bill Gay, Human Resources Director, advised that the request before the board is to consider eliminating the tobacco surcharge for employees scheduled to be implemented on January 1, 2015. This had been recommended as part of the wellness incentive program this year to encourage employees to stop using tobacco products. Unfortunately, the surcharge has been viewed by many of the employees as a punitive action rather than a wellness objective.

Mr. Gay stated that instead of the surcharge the Human Resources Department would like to devote more time to having tobacco cessation classes that are offered by the American Cancer Society and there is also a program offered called Fresh Start which is designed to assist employees with tobacco cessation. Additionally, there are resources available through Blue Cross and Blue Shield that employees can utilize. Mr. Gay further stated that if these items are offered as incentives that it would probably be viewed more favorably by the employees.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that although she appreciates Mr. Gay's concerns regarding the perception of the employees, she feels that when the board made this decision the employees were offered six months to get into a smoking cessation program and prove they would work toward stopping tobacco usage. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor further stated that the rates for medical insurance are eating up a huge portion of the budget every year. Additionally, all employees who are on an employers' insurance whether it is inside or outside of the county has to meet certain requirements in order to be insured.

Mr. Gay then advised that prior to the tobacco surcharge initiative, all wellness initiatives had been rolled out on a voluntary basis, this option was mandatory. The biometric screening and health risk assessments were rolled out over a number of years on a voluntary basis, before becoming a mandatory requirement.

Commissioner Miller stated that obesity is as bad as smoking and you have just as many health risks over the long term if you are overweight as you would with smoking tobacco. Commission Miller stated that he feels the employees of the county need to be educated on the facts surrounding tobacco and that if the training were done by an employee, it would probably be better accepted and the employees would be more receptive than if it were done by someone in a supervisory capacity.

Commissioner Ray added that he had heard from employees who smoke and dip state that they feel they are being singled out. They are aware that it is their choice to smoke; however, the obese people that work for the county choose to eat and they are not being singled out as a group. Obesity can lead to diabetes and heart disease and the smokers want to know why they are being singled out and other important health factors are being ignored.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that if the employee is actively seeking help in smoking cessation, if they are on the patch or if they are in a program then the surcharge should not be implemented; however, if they are doing nothing than the surcharge should apply.

Motion/Second by Miller/Flowers-Taylor to table elimination of the Tobacco Surcharge for County Employees scheduled to go into effect on January 1, 2015.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor rescinded her second.

Commissioner Ray asked for an update on the wellness program and the programs offered within the wellness program. How many employees are currently participating in the wellness program? We need to get people involved in the wellness programs being offered and supervisors need to make sure that their people are participating.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked how many employees are participating in the Virgin Health Miles program and other programs being offered by the county.

Mr. Gay stated that there are currently 95 employees enrolled in the Virgin Health Miles. These people have a pedometer and they are uploading their steps.

Mr. Wilson stated that Blue Cross and Blue Shield has given the county the results of the biometric screenings that were done during open enrollment. We can have them down to present the results of that screening and advise what programs are available through Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

Motion/Second by Miller/Flowers-Taylor to table elimination of the Tobacco Surcharge for County Employees scheduled to go into effect on January 1, 2015. Motion carried 4-1 (Gardner).

5. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor would like to discuss CUVA (Conservation Use Valuation Assessment) and how it relates to the zoning of properties.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that at the last Zoning Public Hearing the board was made aware of citizens being told that in order for the Conservation Use to be available to a property it had to be zoned agricultural. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor further stated that several people had requested rezoning because of this requirement.

Larry Lillard, Chief Appraiser, stated that some of his staff had told people they would have to be zoned agricultural in order to qualify for the CUVA. Mr. Lillard further stated that he takes full responsibility for his staff and that the staff involved were under the impression that they were doing the right thing.

Mr. Lillard advised that he has informed his staff that it is not their responsibility to advise anyone with regard to the CUVA, they are simply to take the application, review it for completeness and assist them only if it is needed, gather all of the documentation together and place it on the agenda for the Board of Assessors. Bottom line is that whether a property is approved or disapproved for the CUVA it is determined by the Board of Assessors.

Mr. Lillard then passed out a blank CUVA application and reviewed sections of the application. Mr. Lillard pointed out that not only does the tax assessors have to address a zoning issue, but deed restrictions and covenant restrictions on property being considered under this application. If any of those items are in place with a property that would violate and of these items they are usually considered in the approval or denial of those applications. He repeated that his staff had overstepped their boundaries in the past, but they will not do it again.

Commissioner Miller asked what happened to the citizens that were denied CUVA in 2013.

Mr. Lillard advised that if the CUVA was denied then the application automatically went to the Board of Equalization for consideration. The Board of Equalization would review the application and either make a recommendation to the Board of Assessors to either reconsider their decision to approve it, or they would uphold the decision of the Board of Assessors to deny it. If the applicant disagreed with the Board of Equalization ruling they could appeal that ruling to the Superior Court. If they did not file a timely appeal the denial stands for that tax year.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked if an information sheet could be pulled together on the requirement for the CUVA and what is expected of the home owner applying for this consideration. Something that would give people a better understanding of the requirements for CUVA consideration and make it easier for the property owner to understand.

6. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor requests a workshop to address changes to the FLUM (Future Land Use Map) and Overlay Zones.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that the land use for the western part of the county has not developed in the direction that was planned and hoped for when the FLUM was enacted and it is time to take a hard look at the FLUM. Years ago, we felt that the area in western Spalding County out in the Carver Road area would be denser than it has become. The trend in the area appears to be where people are purchasing larger plots of property and the trend seems to be going in a different direction from the plan. She stated that she feels that we really need to reassess our FLUM and redefine where we want density to grow. We need to determine if there are overlay zones that need to be created because of increased density in terms of village nodes and shopping areas and commercial zones.

Mr. Wilson suggested that she bring this matter up during the Zoning Meeting on Thursday night, and see what type of work that Planning and Development and Mr. Galloway would have to do to prepare for this.

7. Commissioners Ray and Johnson request a workshop to review the Financial Policies concerning RFP Policy and Procedures and a review of the Managed IT Services RFP issued in July, 2014.

Consensus of the Board is to have a work session on the Financial Policies and Procedures and a review of the Managed IT Services RFP immediately following the 800 MHz work session on Monday, November 3rd, 2014.

8. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor would like to discuss departmental dress codes and the County-Wide dress code in Article V Section 16 of the Spalding County Personnel Ordinance.

Consensus of the board was to conduct a work session on November 10, at 1:00p.m. and that all of the department heads who have dress code policies be present and prepared to discuss the policies in place for their department.

9. Consider cancellation of the Board of Commissioners Extraordinary Sessions on November 17 and December 15 due to the holiday season and people travelling during this period of time.

Motion/Second by Johnson/Ray to approve cancellation of the Board of Commissioners Extraordinary Sessions on November 17 and December 15 due to the holiday season and people travelling during this period of time. Motion carried unanimously by all.

XI. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER

- ECG/MEAG Power Economic Development Bus Tour will be in Griffin on November 5th. The purpose of the tour is to showcase our community assets to the GDECD project managers. They will be visiting The Lakes at Green Valley and the UGA campus. Lunch will be at the Chamber at 12:30, any of the commissioners who wish to participate need to contact Kim Grist in David Luckie's office.
- Lt. General Curt Raubun of the Georgia Military College will hold a Q&A with the business community leaders on November 8, 2014 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. on the Griffin campus to discuss educational opportunities for the Griffin Community.

GMC is actively engaged in building 2 campuses a year across the State of Georgia.

UGA is hoping to get a large local turnout to show Gen. Raubun that our community would appreciate having a campus for GMC here. The General

is serious about opening campuses and needs to know Griffin/Spalding is supportive.

- Press Release – Recycling Center - Southeastern Paper Recyclers has notified Spalding County that they will no longer be servicing the Spalding County area. However, the County will continue to collect and recycle phonebooks, newspapers and magazines the only change will be where you will deposit these recyclables.

Effective immediately all phonebooks, newspapers and magazines are to be placed in the co-mingled containers at the recycling centers.

- We had 1565 voters the first week of early voting. Early voting is 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and this week we will have Saturday voting from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Zoning Public Hearing, Thursday, October 23rd at 6:00 p.m.
- SPLOST Town Hall Meeting at UGA on Thursday night, October 23rd at 7:00 p.m.
- Funeral Arrangements for Artemus Hood. Longtime member of the Board of Elections member passed away on Thursday, October 16th. Visitation will be Monday from 6-8 p.m. at Mt. Zion Baptist Church. Services will be Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. at Mt. Zion Baptist Church. Donations can be made to in the name of Artemus Hood to the Georgia Transplant Foundation or Mt. Zion Baptist Church.
- Bennie Owens, long time member of the Spalding County Water and Sewerage Facilities Authority passed away and his funeral was Saturday, October 18
- GRPA Conference – Jekyll Island Awards Banquet, November 6th, 2014.
- TOPPAN USA, Inc. will be having their ground breaking ceremony on Monday, November 17 @ 11:00 a.m.
- Jacquelyn Suzanne King, daughter of Ross King, executive director of ACCG. The memorial service was held on October 15th and Mr. Wilson attended to represent the County.
- Assistant County Manager job description has been finalized and sent off for ranking then it will be advertised and filled.
- We are waiting on the Warden's job description ranking to be returned and then the Warden position will be advertised.
- Larry Lillard will be leaving us at the end of the year and we are accepting applications for the Chief Appraiser position.

XII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Miller asked if the No Thru Truck zone designation for Vaughn Road applied to a resident of Vaughn Road who owns a dump truck and drives it to their home at night.

Mr. Fortune advised that the No Thru Truck designation applied to all trucks if the truck is not making a delivery on that road they are not supposed to be on the road. At the time the matter was considered the intention was not to cause a hardship to anyone who lived on Vaughn Road, so we might wish to amend that section to make that provision.

Commissioner Miller asked that the matter be brought back up for discussion at the next meeting. He stated that he would notify all of the truck drivers that live on Vaughn Road so that they can be present.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor – No comment.

Commissioner Johnson – No comment.

Commissioner Ray stated the death of Artemus Hood is sad and a loss to the community. His presence will be missed, he was always a gentleman, but he never was one to sidestep an issue. If he thought something was wrong, he did something about it.

Commissioner Ray stated he would like to give an “Atta Boy” to the Public Works Department, for their response to complaints received. Commissioner Ray reported that he had received two separate phone calls giving “Atta Boys” to the Public Works Department for the good job they are doing.

Commissioner Ray stated that the Intergovernmental Retreat was an excellent opportunity for the City, the County, the School System and business leaders within our community to come together. Commissioner Ray further advised that the group was able to start a collaborative leadership involving all three government entities and businesses across town. This collaboration will allow for us better plan and openly discuss matters concerning the community and hopefully save the county money by working together.

Commissioner Ray requested that an item be added to the agenda for the next meeting for consideration of a contribution of \$20,000.00 to the “Archway Program” and asked that the City and the School System join us to provide working capital to continue the collaborative leadership effort.

Commissioner Gardner stated that he would like to echo Commissioner Ray’s sentiments on Artemus Hood and Bennie Owens. Both of these gentlemen did a lot of hard work, volunteering for the citizens of this community and they will be missed.

Commissioner Gardner thanked Larry Lillard and his staff for the work that they do for Spalding County and he wished Mr. Lillard and his wife the very best

in their retirement.

XIII. CLOSED SESSION – None.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second by Ray/Johnson to adjourn at 7:44 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.