

**After  
Agenda**

**Board of Commissioners of Spalding County  
Work Session  
Thursday, June 18, 2015  
4:30 PM  
Meeting Room 108, Courthouse Annex**

**The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held a Work Session in Room 108 in the Courthouse Annex, Thursday, June 18, 2015, beginning at 4:30 p.m. with Chairperson Rita Johnson presiding. Commissioners Bart Miller, Raymond Ray, Gwen Flowers-Taylor and Donald F. Hawbaker were present. Also present were County Manager William P. Wilson Jr., Assistant County Manager, Eric Mosley and Kathy Gibson, Executive Secretary, to record the minutes.**

- A. Call to Order** by Chairperson Rita Johnson.
- B. Invocation** led by Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor.
- C. Pledge to the Flag** led by Bart Miller.
- D. Agenda Items**
  - 1. Presentation and discussion of Senior Nutrition Program to be provided at the Senior Citizens Center.

Eric Mosley introduced Lanier Boatwright, Executive Director of Three Rivers Regional Commission, to advise their involvement, how the process began and how we got to the matter currently being considered by the Board.

Lanier Boatwright stated that the Three Rivers Regional Commission works for cities and counties, we work for the local governments, not for the general public. Three Rivers as part of a 10 county regional commission has certain requirements from the Federal and State governments one of those designations is as an Area Agent on Aging. Which brings us to the issue for consideration by the Board.

Both Federal and State funds are funneled through Three Rivers Regional Commission and our Council makes the decision on allocations of funds and services to counties on an annual basis. The role of Three Rivers Regional Commission is to contract these services to those who can provide them. Since we work for you, we feel much more comfortable contracting with the County. Traditionally, we have contracted with the Council on Aging and they have done a tremendous job; however, a lot of things have changed since we initiated the contract through the Council on Aging.

We currently contract with all of our counties for Senior Nutrition Programs because within their Senior Centers there are a lot of other services available other

than nutrition. Nutrition is important to get them there, but it provides an avenue for other activities whether it is socialization or to relay information. He stated that many of the programs they have available, they have people who provide the service for you. We have wellness coordinators, in all of the centers we are teaching Tai Chi weekly, we offer legal services and none of these are at any cost to persons age 60 and older. All of these services are provided at no cost to the County. We can ask that they contribute toward their service and this is being looked at nationally to determine what those costs might be. The more the individual contributes adds additional funds to provide more services.

We currently have Alzheimer's programs and the Gateway program that Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked about. We have 1-800 numbers that people can call that are manned with folks who can direct them to the appropriate services. We have the Georgia Cares program available which counsels folks about their Medicaid and Medicare insurance and a lot of people utilize this service either by phone or in person. The nutrition program is critical to draw people to the center so that they can see what other services are available to them.

Mr. Boatwright stated that the role of Three Rivers Regional Commission as Administrator of State and Federal Funding is to funnel it down to you to hopefully provide senior services.

Commissioner Miller expressed his concern in that the State has cut funding to many programs they sponsor and he wanted to know if Spalding County were to take on the nutrition program for the seniors what would keep the State from cutting the funding for this service. He stated that he did not want this program to become a burden for the Spalding County taxpayers.

Mr. Boatwright stated that this is not something that would become a burden of the taxpayers. He advised that Three Rivers would know a year in advance of what any cuts are going to be. He further stated that this is not a program that this has ever happened to. He advised that he has been involved with the Council on Aging for more than 30 years and they have never experienced a cut in funding for the Aging Program.

Mr. Boatwright advised that the reason this process has happened quickly is because we have been advised that all of the individuals currently running the program are planning to retire and we found out at a late date that they were all retiring. Spalding County already has a program for their seniors so it only made sense to combine the two programs into one.

Commissioner Miller stated that he has no problem with the programs being combined, he felt like they should have been combined years ago.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked out of the 10 regions covered by Three Rivers Regional Commission which region services the most seniors.

Mr. Boatwright advised that LaGrange was probably the center serving the most seniors; however, Carroll County has several centers servicing seniors so they would run a close second. There are foundation monies that go into those centers to assist in the services being provided.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then asked hypothetically if the County decided that they did not want to take this on what would happen?

Mr. Boatwright stated that they would continue negotiations with the Council on Aging, but the services would be put out to bid. He advised that they have 14 centers in the 10 county area. He stated that each county has a minimum of one center, there are two in Villa Rica, two in Troupe County, two in Cowetta County and Merriweather County has two.

Janie Clark, Chairman of the Council on Aging, advised that the situation they have with Spalding County is very unique. Most counties do not operate like Spalding County with two separate programs. Many of the surrounding counties, Troupe County and Henry County serve meals at their center, where we don't. Pike County who was also part of the Council on Aging and will be taking over their program at the end of this fiscal year which will end of June. They have taken over their senior nutrition program leaving Spalding as the only County who hasn't taken over the nutrition program.

Ms. Clark further stated that the Council on Aging feels that the nutrition program proposed by the Recreation Department is the best option for the senior citizens of Spalding County.

Mr. Boatwright added that the Council on Aging is not going away, the proposed plan will improve the quality of the meals being served to our seniors drastically.

Mr. Mosley added that the Council on Aging will be available and will provide an opportunity for the County to qualify for grants that we wouldn't normally qualify for and he feels like they will be beside the County throughout the process. They have been very helpful in figuring out the process and Kelly has been working with them on the numbers and Don Garvin has been out to the current site to see what can be salvaged from that location to use in the new location. They have been working diligently to determine how we can efficiently and effectively work to get the most for our dollars.

Commissioner Hawbaker asked if the grants that are currently being used by the Council on Aging for this program will be transferrable.

Mr. Mosley advised that the State and Federal funding would continue to filter through the Regional Commission to the County and Mr. Wilson assisted in setting up a meeting with the Hospital Authority and they indicated that they are more than willing to continue their support of this program. The deadline to apply for that grant is the middle of August and Chairman Ray is actually on that

board. He further stated that he had met with Hospital Authority Executive Director, Yvonne Lanford, and she was very excited about the possibility of having the County take over this program and currently they provide the program with \$23,750 annually. She further indicated that after a year, they may be able to assist in finding additional funding for this program.

Mr. Mosley stated that it is the hope that once we have the program up and running and show the public and our citizens that this is a successful program that funding sources will increase in the future.

Mr. Mosley then reviewed the presentation with the Board that was presented at the Extraordinary Session on Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. He stated that the current program is ran by the Council on Aging out of the current facility behind the Health Department and serves approximately 75 meals through the Meals on Wheels program and they serve approximately 20 congregate meals daily at that location. Those meals are being prepared in a large facility, Golden Cuisine, in Americus, Georgia and are being shipped to the location and then loaded and delivered to the residents in Spalding County.

Mr. Mosley stated that it is anticipated that the congregate meals will increase significantly due to the seniors who attend the other programs at the senior center having access to lunch at the center. This is something the seniors have been asking for since the facility opened and it is felt that the meals served would increase significantly and our membership at the center is expected to increase also.

Mr. Mosley advised that the current recommendation of donation is \$4.00 per person which currently brings in approximately \$7,000 in donations from folks who utilize that facility. Those funds are invested back into the program to provide additional meals for citizens. Mr. Mosley then reviewed the funding available for this project and the sources of the funding. This project will have it's independent budget and all funding for this project will be placed in the budget designated for this project.

Commissioner Hawbaker asked who would be eligible for the program.

Mr. Mosley advised that currently the program is available to any citizen of Spalding County that is 60 years or older. He advised that this program it is not based on income, it is an age based program.

Kelly Leger, Superintendent of Recreation, stated that it is really not a free program, it is based on a suggested donation from those who qualify (60 and over) and who fill out the necessary paperwork for reimbursement through Three Rivers Regional Commission. For those residents 50-59 there will be a charge of \$5.00 per meal this would mean that everyone who comes to the senior center would be able to eat.

Mr. Mosley then advised that in order to establish this program at the senior center it will be necessary to make some capital improvements at the center. He then outlined for the Board the suggested improvements and equipment that would be required to run this program at the current senior center. He also outlined the staff that will be required to run this program and the projected costs for the improvements and staffing.

Mr. Mosley stated that one item that has been discussed is the room divider for the current banquet room. It has been suggested that initially seven foot room dividers be purchased to cordon off the area that will be utilized to serve meals from the other activities that are going on in the area.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that this solution will simply block the area from view, the noise from the diners will bleed over to the other area and vice versa. If there is an aerobics class going on in the other part of the room, it could be quite loud. She suggested that in the long run it would be better to go ahead and purchase the floor to ceiling room dividers which would be a permanent fix for the area. She stated that she feels that the temporary fix suggested will not be sufficient and will only result in the need to purchase the floor to ceiling dividers in the future and we should go ahead and spend the money up front.

Mr. Mosley assured the Board that the salaries and benefits for the additional staff required to run this program will be covered by the funding provided by the State and Federal government, grants and local funding that run the current program so there should be no expense to the county for the additional workers.

Commissioner Ray stated that currently we are looking at a capital expenditure of approximately \$120,000 to get this program off the ground. We are currently looking at requesting a SPLOST in November and there is a possibility that we as a Board can adopt a resolution to pay that amount of money when the SPLOST is passed out of SPLOST proceeds to pay for the capital expenditures; therefore, we will not have to take the funds out of the Capital Expenditure Project. He stated that doing so may allow the possibility of bringing more voters to the polls to vote for the SPLOST. This would show that the funds are being used to assist our citizens instead of the M&O (Maintenance and Operating) funds.

Mr. Wilson advised that his recommendation is that the funding be taken out of the Capital Projects General fund. He stated that there is approximately \$155,000 in this fund at the current time. He further advised that he would not only recommend the funding be taken from the Capital Projects General Fund to get the project going but if it is the wishes of the Board to go in the direction suggested by Commissioner Ray, he will have a Resolution prepared and ready for consideration at the June 25 Special Called meeting. He stated that he has already talked with King and Spalding and there is a Reimbursement Resolution that can be utilized for these types of expenditures.

Consensus of the Board was to move forward with the nutrition program at the Senior Center and to adopt a reimbursement resolution for any funds expended for reimbursement from the 2015 SPLOST.

**E. Adjournment**

***Motion/Second by Miller/Ray to adjourn at 5:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.***