

REGULAR MEETING

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting in Room 108 in the Courthouse Annex, Monday, March 7, 2011, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with Commissioner Eddie Freeman presiding. Commissioners Raymond Ray, Gwen Flowers-Taylor, and Chipper Gardner were also in attendance. Commissioner Gilreath did not attend. Also present were Deputy County Manager Virginia Beams, Attorney Stephanie Windham and Executive Secretary Glinda Robertson.

I. OPENING (CALL TO ORDER) – Chairman Eddie Freeman

II. INVOCATION – Led by Rev. Clay Padgett

III. PLEDGE TO FLAG – Led by Gwen Flowers-Taylor

IV. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITION

- a. Miller Edwards with Mauldin Jenkins presented the June 30th 2010 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

The board was given a copy of the CAFR. This report gives ten years worth of data. This is very valuable when looking for trends. Mr. Edwards stated as far as the financial results, overall the county had a pretty good year. The fund balance of the County's General Fund increased by \$375,831 during the current fiscal year. A one mil increase in property taxes contributed to this increase. He would like to see a greater amount in case there are more trying times up ahead.

According to Mr. Edwards, the county should take appropriate measures to ensure that complete documentation of all federal award procurements, including verification checks for suspension/debarment, be properly maintained. During their testing of federal award contracts, there was one instance in which the county could not provide documentation that a verification check for debarment/suspension was performed.

There was also a constitutional office reported to have excess funds. It is recommended the office review all accounts on a monthly basis and eliminate any excess balances as soon as possible.

During the audit it was also noted that certain constitutional offices do not maintain general ledgers. Good sound internal control requires that books of original entry be maintained and periodically balanced. This will create a system of checks and balances.

The county did fall short on revenues by about \$1.2 million. The county did better on budget expenditures than originally projected. Mr. Edwards gave hats off to management for doing such a good job.

- b. Brian Upson gave an update on the Senior Center.

Mr. Upson had the final report for the commissioners regarding the senior center. It identified all the criteria specified by the commissioners and senior citizens in order of importance to them. This was a comparison of the Cook's Building and the Elk's Club. The report gave points to each site under each criterion:

A. Cost of Acquisition: (20 points)

Cooks: 13.67 Elks Club: 6.33

B. Cost of Construction: (19 points)

Cooks: 10.83 Elks Club: 8.17

C. Time to Complete: (18 points)

Cooks: 9.94 Elks Club: 8.06

D. Adaptability of Existing Building(s): (14 points)

Cooks: 8.48 Elks Club: 5.52

E. Possible Future Expansion: (12 points)

Cooks: 7 Elks Club: 5

F. Parking: (8 points)

Cooks: 4.5 Elks Club: 3.5

G. Ease of Access: (9 points)

Cooks: 2 Elks Club: 7

TOTAL Cooks: 56.42 Elks Club: 43.58

The commissioners will look at the facts presented by Mr. Upson and hope to make a decision soon.

- c. Ashley Marcott, MDA rep thanked the fire department for their past efforts in raising funds for MDA.

V. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – None

VI. CITIZENS COMMENTS – None

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Speakers must state their names and addresses and direct all comments to the Board only. Speakers will be allotted 5 minutes to speak on topics pertinent to the Board's jurisdiction. No speaker will be allowed to readdress the Board without express consent from a Board member. Outbursts from the audience will not be tolerated. Common courtesy and civility are expected at all times during the meeting.

Bobby Peurifoy – 917 S. McDonough Ed.

Thanked the commissioners for the 4-way stop at County Line Rd and S. 6th St. He hopes County Line Rd. and Old Macon Rd. will be looked at next. He believes this to be a dangerous intersection. Commissioner Freeman wanted to thank the counties of Pike and Lamar for approving this as well.

VIII. MINUTES

1. Consider approval of Minutes of the following: February 21, 2011 Extraordinary Session and February 24, 2011 Zoning Meeting.

Motion/second by Flowers-Taylor/Ray to approve and carried by a vote of 4-0.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA – None

X. OLD BUSINESS

1. Consider second reading of Amendment to the Official Zoning Map of the following: - **Application #10-02Z:** Helen Rowe, Owner – 4251 Fayetteville Road – 3.996 acres – R-2 and AR-1 to AR-1, Conditional.

Motion/second by Ray/Flowers-Taylor to approve and carried by a vote of 4-0.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider approval of the construction of an All Abilities Playground to be located at Wyomia Tyus Olympic Park and to accept a donation from Resurgens Charitable Foundation in the amount of \$47,660.00 to partner with Caterpillar's donation in the amount of \$13,700.00. Louis Greene to address.

Mr. Greene stated he believes this playground to be the first of its kind in the State of Georgia. He gave credit to T.J. Imberger for all his hard work on this project. This playground will be designed with special needs children in mind, however anyone may use it. The decks will be wide enough for wheelchairs.

Mr. Imberger explained this playground will have visual and musical stimulation. It should be ready in late May or early June.

Dr. Kathy Scott from Resurgens Orthopaedics was present to answer any questions. Also in attendance for the presentation was Dr. David Goodman, Dr. Christopher Walsh and Dr. Antenor Velazco.

Motion/second by Gardner/Ray to approve and carried by a vote of 4-0.

2. Consider approval of the 2011 CDBG Resolution for sewer improvements. Dave Lamb to address.

This item was removed from the agenda.

3. Consider approval of a request by Nadine Graham, coordinator of the National Day of Prayer for Spalding County, to hold a program on the Spalding County Court House Veranda. The program will begin at 12:00 noon on May 5, 2011 and will only last 15-30 minutes. There will be a prayer, a guest singer, a short devotional and a closing prayer.

Motion/second by Gardner/Ray to approve and carried by a vote of 4-0.

4. Consider approval of a request to enter into a Joint Use Agreement with Southern Crescent Technical College for use of facilities. Louis Greene to address.

Mr. Greene stated this is an opportunity to partner with an important institution in the county. Southern Crescent has started two basketball teams. They do not have a gym. The county has one they can use. The county needs more meeting spaces with auditoriums and classrooms. The college has agreed the county can swap facilities with them at no charge. The Park Advisory Commission has voted to advise doing this.

Motion/second by Flowers-Taylor/Gardner to approve and carried by a vote of 4-0.

5. Consideration of Written Order and Findings to support denial of Special Exception Application 10-10S/B. Frank Harris, Jr. Owner – T-Mobile South, LLC, Agent. Newton Galloway to address.

This item will be placed on the next agenda.

6. Consider approval of writing a letter of permission to the State of Georgia asking them to grant Stepping Stones School a one-day license for a fundraising event to be held on April 30, 2011.

Sherri Nash, Director of Development with Stepping Stones was present to address. Ms. Nash had letters requested at a previous meeting from two apartment complexes giving their approval of this event. Ms. Nash stated this will be an adult only fundraising event and they are requesting to serve alcoholic beverages.

Motion/second by Ray/Gardner to approve writing letter and carried by a vote of 4-0.

7. Consider approval of writing a letter of permission to the State of Georgia asking them to grant Del Webb a one-day license for a non-profit event to be held on April 30th at Sun City.

This item was removed from the agenda at the request of a representative from Del Webb.

8. Consider approval of request for permit from AT&T. This is to install a plant to furnish telephone service to residents of Baptist Campground Rd.

Motion/second by Ray/Flowers-Taylor to approve at the expense of AT&T and carried by a vote of 4-0.

9. Discuss animal shelter.

Virginia Beams stated the shelter looks absolutely fabulous. They went in and sandblasted and painted. Jake Garner and his crew have also improved the parking lot. There has now been a request to put tile in certain areas.

Ms. Taylor stated the animal shelter has been closed for four months. She believes their operating budget should yield some funds. The costs for the tile will be around \$5,000. This should take approximately seven days to complete the work.

Motion/second by Flowers-Taylor/Gardner to approve up to \$5,000 to come out of Commissioner's Contingency Fund if the Animal Shelter does not have the monies in their budget to put in tile floor at the animal shelter and carried by a vote of 4-0.

10. Consider approval of user fees for the 800 MHZ system. Virginia Beams to address this as well as give an update of the status of the system.

Mike Windham the system coordinator was present to update. Mr. Windham stated the county has deployed 95% of the 1200 radios. The final 5% is contingent on spending the last of the change order money that was left from a year or so ago. As of tonight, re-banding will be completed.

There are over 700 portables, 250 mobiles and 185 data radios. Mr. Windham stated the system is all working pretty well. This includes the Sheriff's Department and the City of Griffin Police Department.

Ms. Taylor stated when the EMS people try and use radios in the hospital, they are not communicating from floor to floor inside the building. She asked when this would be fixed. Mr. Windham stated this is a problem in general for these types of systems. Large volumes of steel and concrete withhold the signal. Amplifiers can assist with this problem. There is an amplifier on the emergency room, however; at this time they are not installed on other floors.

Ms. Beams stated the agreement says that 95% coverage outdoors and 90% indoors is what was guaranteed in the contract. Ms. Taylor asked Sheriff Dee Stewart if there had been any problems with the radios at the Sheriff's Department inside the jail and the courthouse. He stated to his knowledge there have not been any issues. He stated that so far everyone likes the system.

Ms. Taylor stated the hospital is not getting what they need. She asked if it will be incumbent upon the county to improve this coverage service to the hospital. Mr. Ray asked what type of accountability is the county doing to maintain the radios in the system. He further asked how they are being controlled as far as distribution. Mr. Windham stated he has issued the radios to the department heads. At that point they are accountable. Ms. Beams stated she and Mr. Windham are in the process of drafting policies and procedures that will account for this.

When asked, Mr. Windham stated the range of the radios outside of the county is south to Thomaston. It goes to Lovejoy to the north of the county. The coverage is only guaranteed inside the boundaries of the county. The ability is also there to talk to other entities outside of Spalding County.

Ms. Beams addressed the issue of user fees. She stated the county needs to do something along the lines of what Motorola used to do concerning charging user fees. Her recommendation is that the county should go to all the entities using the system as well as the county departments and charge a \$16.00 per unit user fee monthly. This would be an annual income stream of just over \$211,000. There may be other entities that come on board and this would increase the annual income from the fees.

In order to come up with the \$16.00 Ms. Beams considered past conversations between Steve Mackie and the former Assistant to the County Manager which discussed a range between \$15 and \$20 per unit. She believes that \$16.00 per unit would bring in an income stream that would allow for keeping up most of the annual costs of the system. Ms. Beams further stated all department heads are expecting this.

Ms. Beams will ask Mr. Fortune about drafting contracts for these user fees.

When asked by Mr. Freeman, Mike Windham stated the system was formally accepted by the county last May. Harris had a two year per equipment warranty and one year for parts and labor. The warranty begins at the time of a radio's useful life. The warranty expires on the equipment in a little less than a year and a half.

No Discussion of the future acquisition of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(4);

Yes Discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a county officer or employee as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(6);

No Other (*describe the exemption to the open meetings law*):
_____ as provided in _____ (*insert the citation to the legal authority exempting the topic*).

This the 7th day of March 7, 2011.

Spalding County Board of Commissioners

Sworn to and subscribed

Before me this 7th day of March 2011.

Chipper Gardner

Raymond Ray

Glinda P. Robertson
Notary Public

Eddie Freeman

Gwen Flowers-Taylor

My commission expires:

Feb 23, 2014

Motion/second by Ray/Gardner to come out of closed session at 7:50 p.m. and carried by a vote of 4-0.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/second by Ray/Gardner to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. and carried by a vote of 4-0.

Chairman

Interim County Manager

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