

MINUTES

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held their Extraordinary Meeting in Room 108 in the Courthouse Annex, Monday, March 17, 2014, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman Samuel Gardner presiding. Commissioners Gwen Flowers-Taylor, Raymond Ray, Rita Johnson, and Bart Miller were present. Also present were County Manager William P. Wilson Jr., Attorney Jim Fortune and Kathy Gibson, Executive Secretary, to record the minutes.

- I. **OPENING (CALL TO ORDER)** – Chairman Samuel Gardner.
- II. **INVOCATION** – led by Chairman Samuel Gardner.
- III. **PLEDGE TO FLAG** – led by Commissioner Rita Johnson.
- IV. **PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS** – None.
- V. **PRESENTATIONS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Consider approval of financial statements for the eight month period ended February 28, 2014.

William Wilson, County Manager, advised that the financial statements covered the eight month period ending February 28, 2014 for FY 2014 and that he was available to answer any questions the Board may have regarding the financial statements.

Motion/Second by Ray/Johnson to approve financial statements for the eight month period ended February 28, 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.

No one signed up for Citizen Comments.

VII. MINUTES

Consider approval of the minutes for the March 3, 2014 Special Called Meeting, the March 3, 2014 Executive Session and the March 3, 2014 Regular Meeting.

Motion/Second by Ray/Miller to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2014 Special Called Meeting, the March 3, 2014 Executive Session and the March 3, 2014 Regular Meeting. Motion carried unanimous by all.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA – None.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

1. Consider appointment to the Spalding County Animal Care and Control Advisory Board to succeed Kelly Palmatier (Post #3) for a one year term ending December 31, 2014.

Commissioner Johnson appointed Pat McDaniel of 1603 Beville Drive, Griffin, Georgia to the Spalding County Animal Care and Control Advisory Board to succeed Kelly Palmatier (Post #3) for a one year term ending December 31, 2014. This is a post appointment and does not need ratification by the Board.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked if there was another Post opening for this Board because there was an interested citizen from her district who she would like to be considered for the post.

Mr. Wilson advised that there was an opening for Post #2 on the Board.

Commissioner Ray requested that the agenda be amended to include an appointment for Post #2 to the Animal Care and Control Advisory Board for a one year term ending December 31, 2014.

Motion/Second by Ray/Flowers-Taylor to amend the agenda to include an appointment to the Animal Care and Control Advisory Board (Post #2) for a one year term ending December 31, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Ray appointed Donna Grant of 1 Whitten Avenue, Griffin, Georgia to the Spalding County Animal Care and Control Advisory Board (Post #2) for a one year term ending December 31, 2014. This is a post appointment and does not need ratification by the Board.

X. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider Approval of Resolution to cover Emergency Management Team Members under the County's workers' compensation insurance.

Mr. Wilson advised that The Spalding County Fire department had requested that the Emergency Management Team Members be covered under the County's Workers' Compensation Insurance. These are volunteers who statutorily can be covered at an approximate cost of \$400.00. However, earlier today the Fire Chief asked that the Resolution be tabled until more information could be collected. He stated that one of the Commissioners raised the question of providing coverage for citizens who volunteer in other areas and departments of the County.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she had talked with the Fire Chief earlier today and he had assured her that at no time would the members of this group be required to do anything that would put them in harm's way. This group is responsible for collecting information and distribution of Emergency provisions to victims of events (such as the tornado last year). Commissioner Flowers-Taylor raised the question regarding volunteers of the County that work at other locations like the Senior Center and Parks and Recreation. She wanted to know how the County could

delineate who would be insured or who would not be insured. She felt that the County needed to cover all volunteers the same, or not to offer the coverage at all.

Mr. Wilson stated that there is a statute to cover the very small group of volunteers on the Emergency Management Team and that he would get the Commissioners a copy of the statute. Mr. Wilson asked that the matter be tabled until the requested information could be collected and disseminated.

Motion/Second by Ray/Flowers-Taylor to table the request for a Resolution to cover the Emergency Management Team Members under the county's workers compensation insurance. Motion carried unanimously by all.

2. Consider approval of Memorandum of Understanding between A. D. Smith Community Services, Inc., the Spalding County Board of Commissioners and the Spalding County Collaborative Authority for Families and Children, Inc. to provide for administration and operation of the USDA Summer Food Service Program by A. D. Smith Community Services Inc.

Mr. Wilson advised that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission requests approval of the Memorandum of Understanding. In the past, this program has been administered by the County. A.D. Smith Community Services, Inc., has developed a program that has been very successful in other communities and have asked to bring the program to Spalding County at no cost to the County.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she had talked with Kelly Leger at Parks and Recreation today and she talked with Ms. Walker-Harps just prior to the meeting. There will be a cost to the County to provide employees at Ambucs Park, Fairmont Park and at City Park when the program is being operated. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor expressed her concern that the County does not have a track record with this organization, and stated that if the Board approves the agreement it will be interesting to see how this works out.

Mr. Wilson stated that there are part time employees already budgeted who will man the Recreation Centers during the time that the program is scheduled to run.

Motion/Second by Ray/Flowers-Taylor to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between A.D. Smith Community Services, Inc., the Spalding County Board of Commissioners and the Spalding County Collaborative Authority for Family and Children, Inc. to provide for administration and operation of the USDA Summer Food Service Program by A.D. Smith Community Services, Inc. Motion carried unanimously by all.

3. Consider adoption of resolution authorizing the FY2015 CSBG Program.

Mr. Wilson stated that this is our FY2015 CSBG Grant which starts October 1, 2014 and goes through September of 2015. This is our Meals on Wheels Program through the Council on Aging as well as the After School Tutoring Program and Summer Tutoring Program through the Salvation Army. We have been doing this for many years and Three Rivers Regional Commission handles

the grant administration and has prepared all of the paperwork for us. The budget for this program has been reduced again this year, from \$119,000.00 to \$110,440.00, so both of these programs have been reduced. The staff recommends approval.

Motion/Second by Ray/Johnson approve the resolution authorizing the FY2015 CSBG Program in the amount of \$110,440.00. Motion carried unanimously by all.

4. Consider authorizing Fire Department to apply for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant to purchase the Bulls Eye Fire Extinguisher Training System.

Mr. Wilson advised that the cost for this system is \$12,605.00 and the Grant requires a 5% match. The deadline for the Grant Application is March 21. We have been successful in the past with the Assistance to Firefighters Grant and we do recommend approval.

Motion/Second by Ray/Johnson to authorize the Fire Department to apply for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant to purchase the Bulls Eye Fire Extinguisher Training Program with our 5% match of \$630.25. Motion carried unanimously by all.

5. Consider establishing date for a workshop to discuss limitations of domestic animals in residential zoning districts.

Mr. Wilson stated that the Chairman and staff met as directed at the last meeting to determine a date and time for a workshop to be held on limiting the number of domestic animals to be housed in residential zoning districts. We are suggesting a workshop on Friday, March 21, 2014 starting at 9:00 a.m. In your packets you will find copies of Ordinances from adjacent counties and limitations. We have also asked Chad Jacobs and Animal Control to be present at the meeting. In addition, Chad will present a GIS map of the residential areas with properties of 1 acre or less tracts as most of these ordinances apply to zoning that is residential and 1 acre or less.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked that someone from Environmental Health also be present to advise what type of potential health risks and safety issues could develop when there are too many animals being housed on a small piece of property.

Commissioners Flowers-Taylor and Johnson had a conflict with the workshop being scheduled for the Friday, March 21st. Commissioner Miller suggested Monday, March 24, as an alternate date for the workshop.

Consensus of the Board was to schedule the workshop on Monday, March 24, 2014 at 8:00 a.m.

6. Consider establishing dates for Personnel Ordinance workshops.

Mr. Wilson stated that the Chairman and staff met as directed at the last meeting to determine dates and times for a workshops to be held on the Personnel Ordinance.

***Consensus of the Board was:
Monday, March 31, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. until noon***

(Recess the workshop)

Friday, April 4, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. until noon

(Recess the workshop)

Monday, April 7, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. until noon

(Conclude the workshop)

7. Designate Official County Representative for County Roll Call at ACCG Centennial Anniversary meeting on April 12, 2014.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor volunteered to be the Official County Representative for County Roll Call at the ACCG Centennial Anniversary meeting on April 12, 2014.

8. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor would like to discuss littering problem in Spalding County.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor expressed her concern over the bags of garbage that are being dumped on the roadways in the County and on the State Highways. She stated that it is concerning how much garbage is being dumped and it is compounded by the animals breaking into the garbage bags and spreading the contents. She feels that we need to better enforce the Ordinances currently on the books.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor suggested that at the intergovernmental meeting between the Cities, the Board of Education and the County a possible topic of discussion could be a volunteer day to do a community clean up. Several years ago we participated in a citywide clean up and the residents received it well and we got a lot done. She would like for us to talk with the City to see if there is any interest in doing something jointly like a community clean up.

Mr. Wilson advised that he would contact Public Works, the ZSI Probation Office and the State Probation Office to address the problem.

XI. REPORT OF COUNTY MANAGER

1. The Griffin Spalding Area Transportation Committee meets this Wednesday, March 19, at 1:30 p.m. in this meeting room.
2. Our Spring into Fitness for County Employees is scheduled for May 10 at Wyomia Tyus Park. This is the annual event sponsored by the County where we invite employees and their families to come out, do some exercise, get healthy and have a little fun. This event is funded by an ACCG Health & Wellness Grant. No County tax dollars are expended.
3. We have started demolition of the In-Rem houses. We will be getting to the remainder of the houses once we have completed removing the stumps and cleaning up at Dundee Lake Park where we harvested the timber. We have scheduled demolition of 10 units over the next 60 to 90 days. We will be contacting the media to cover the demolition of the substandard housing. Four out of the 10 units will be burned the remainder will be taken down with our track hoe and disposed of at the C & D landfill.

4. Ms. Garrison has been working on our vendor listing. She did talk with CSI and Commodity Codes are something that our current software system will handle. ACCG has sent out information on their Internship Program and we feel that this would be a great project for an intern. There is no cost to the county and we would like permission to file an application for an intern through the ACCG program. Consensus of the Board was to move ahead with the intern program application.
5. Kathy Gibson has been working with Alvin Huff from the City of Griffin on the SPLOST survey and have the survey almost complete. Staff will be making copies and distributing them to the Board of Commissioners this week along with the public information on the survey items. Wilson thanked Alvin and Kenny who have been working together with us on this survey and we hope that it will meet the Commissioners' expectations.

XII. REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

Miller – Wanted to know where we stand on the 800 MHz agreement with the City of Griffin.

Mr. Wilson advised that the City of Griffin approved an intergovernmental agreement that included none of the options that Spalding County presented to the City of Griffin. The City drafted their own option and have presented it to us and he will get that information to the Board this week. Ms. Garrison and Mr. Windham have been reviewing the City's proposal.

Commissioner Miller stated that he attended the EPI meeting where the Good Samaritans presented their proposal for the Summer Program in Spalding County. He is uncomfortable about the program as presented because, it appears to be too good to be true. He requested that Kelly Leger, Regina Abbot and Ms. Jewel Walker-Harps and possibly a County Commissioner set up a meeting with the Good Samaritan Group in the hope of getting the questions that were left unanswered at that meeting, answered.

Mr. Wilson stated that Mr. Fortune has been working with Good Samaritans to get the appropriate insurance and contract information and hopes to have it together for the April 7th meeting.

Commissioner Miller asked that he be allowed to explain why he voted against the Financial Policies and Procedures at the last meeting. One of the items in the Financial Policies and Procedures increased the amount of money that the County Manager and the Administrative Services Director could spend without coming before the Board of Commissioners. The Commissioners were elected to look out for the County's money, not the County Manager and not the Administrative Services Director and that is why he had to vote against the Financial Policies and Procedures as presented at the last meeting.

Flowers-Taylor – Wanted to comment on the statements made by Commissioner Miller regarding the contract with Mr. Ramos and his organization. She attended the initial meeting when the Good Samaritans made their presentation to the Parks and Recreation

Advisory Board and a young lady who attended with Mr. Ramos stated that the program was working well at Kelsey Middle School which is part of the Spalding County School system. She was wondering how the School System was addressing the liability, as she hasn't seen anything in the newspaper suggesting that the School System had adopted something and that is of concern.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that there was a pot hole about the size of a manhole cover on Odell Road just before Carver Road that Public Works repaired. However, there is a culvert at that location has an indentation completely across the road and the asphalt is cracking and bowing up. She also had two calls today about Quilly Street just north of Dundee Park where there are several pot holes in that road.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor expressed her concerns regarding excess employee leave. She wanted to make sure we would be able to address this matter during the workshop on the Personnel Ordinance.

Chairman Gardner suggested that we bring the matter up at the beginning of the workshop.

Mr. Wilson stated that Mr. Gay is currently polling other counties to see how they are addressing leave in excess of the maximum accrual amounts. If the Commissioners have any questions or suggestions he asked that they get them to staff before the workshop so they can be addressed during the workshop.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked about succession planning for Departments. She wants to make sure that if there is a succession plan in place for a position that it is actually being followed when filling these positions.

Finally, Commissioner Flowers-Taylor expressed her concern over the number of animals being housed on small parcels of land and you have people living on both sides of the property. She hopes that we can get an ordinance in place to address this problem. She feels that it is abuse and it is not fair to the other property owners who are forced to put up with the situation.

Johnson – Stated she feels that we definitely need to look more closely into the Good Samaritans and Mr. Ramos before we move forward.

This past month, Commissioner Johnson, William Wilson and Chairman Gardner attended the intergovernmental meeting that was hosted by the Chamber of Commerce. There were members of the School Board, the City Commission and other local business people present at the meeting. The presenter at that meeting was Kay Phippen who is the Mayor of the City of Jackson, but at one time was the Chamber of Commerce Executive for Henry County.

While at the Chamber of Commerce Ms. Phippen was able to arrange an intergovernmental meeting where the School Board, the Cities and County governments united in one common cause and they worked together to get the issue resolved. Ms. Phippen encouraged the group to work toward setting up an intergovernmental retreat outside of Spalding County and suggested that some of the issues to be considered could include Economic Development, the School

System, Clean City Task Force as well as a Health and Safety Task Force.

Commissioner Johnson stated that she has been interested in an intergovernmental effort for quite some time and found it interesting that Ms. Phippen encouraged the attendees to set up an intergovernmental meeting in a retreat setting outside of the county to brainstorm.

The Chamber of Commerce would like to have a dinner with the entities mentioned to talk about an intergovernmental retreat. We would like to ask Kay Phippen to speak at the meeting so that she can answer all of the questions that the participants may have. The dinner would be at the Senior Center, we tentatively have a date of April 16, which is a Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m. It would consist of dinner and cocktails to be paid for by sponsors, there would be no cost to the tax payers. We see this as a way of getting these agencies all together and to get us moving in the right direction for an intergovernmental retreat later this year.

Ray – The Griffin Performing Arts and the Griffin Ballet Theater will have a performance on August 29th, 7:30 p.m. at the Griffin Auditorium. The tickets are \$10.00 per individual, it is going to be a great event and if you can make plans to attend you will enjoy the performance.

Regarding the airport. It has been a while since we have discussed anything regarding the airport. We have a lot of old information that is turning into misinformation. Misinformation and old informations has a tendency to cause confusion for the taxpayers. Commissioner Ray asked that the Board be brought up-to-date on the airport and that the Board make a decision on where we need to go and move forward; hopefully, at one of our next meetings.

Gardner – Commissioner Gardner stated that he would like to suggest that we have a vote on the airport at the next meeting. Considering Spalding County's budget and financial situation and there are so many people that he has talked with who are opposed to this airport. We are the peoples' representatives and he thinks that we need to have some serious discussion about this and he would like for us to have a vote on it one way or the other. Peoples' lives have been on hold and it is time that we make a decision, we either are going to go ahead with this airport or we aren't. Something needs to happen. This has just gone on for too long and he would like to see us have it on the next agenda.

Commissioner Miller stated that when the meeting was held at the Fairmont Community Center there was no flag in the meeting room. Also, there was no public address system and he had a real hard time hearing what people had to say. He asked Mr. Wilson to make sure that there is a flag posted in the meeting room and that some type of public address system be available.

Commissioner Gardner would also like to see an intergovernmental initiative including the City and Board of Education, with everyone working together for a common goal.

Commissioner Gardner reminded everyone that the County will be hosting a Blood Drive on Tuesday, March 25, at the Welcome Center. Zoning meeting on Thursday, March 17 at 6:00 p.m.

XIII. CLOSED SESSION – None.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second by Miller/Ray to adjourn at 7:21 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by all.