



**Board of Commissioners – Special Called  
Meeting March 11, 2024, at 9:00 AM  
Room 108, Spalding County Annex Building  
MINUTES**

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The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held a Special Called Meeting on Monday, March 11, 2024, at 9:00 am in Room 108 of the Spalding County Annex Building, with Chairman Clay Davis presiding. Commissioners Rita Johnson and Ryan Bowlden were present for the meeting. Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor and James Dutton were absent from the meeting. Also present were County Manager, Dr. Steve Ledbetter, Director of Accounting and Finance, Eria Dye, and Deputy County Clerk, Ragan Jones to record the minutes.

**I. OPENING (CALL TO ORDER)**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clay W. Davis.

**PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES AND ALL OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.**

**II. INVOCATION**

Dr. Steve Ledbetter delivered the Invocation.

**III. PLEDGE TO FLAG**

Commissioner Ryan Bowlden led the Pledge to the Flag.

***Motion/Second by Bowlden/Johnson to amend the agenda to move Agenda Item 2, The Spalding Board of Commissioners to hear presentations from perspective law firm, Galloway & Lyndall, for Zoning Attorney, to Agenda Item 1 and Agenda Item 1, The Spalding County Board of Commissioners to hear presentations from perspective law firm, Jarrad & Davis, for County Attorney, Zoning Attorney, and Human Resources Attorney to Agenda Item 2. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***

**IV. AGENDA ITEMS**

1. The Spalding County Board of Commissioners to hear presentations from perspective law firm, Galloway & Lyndall, for Zoning Attorney.

Newton Galloway presented to the Board for law firm, Galloway & Lyndall for County Zoning Attorney. He stated that he has served as the Spalding County Zoning Attorney for 29 years. Mr. Galloway compared Spalding County to Forsyth County in race, population, employment, residential building permits, and education. Mr. Galloway stated that he wanted to raise the bar for Spalding County and hopes to continue to do this by serving Spalding County as Zoning Attorney.

2. The Spalding County Board of Commissioners to hear presentations from perspective law firm, Jarrad & Davis, for County Attorney, Zoning Attorney, and Human Resources Attorney.

Jeff Strickland presented to the Board for law firm, Jarrad & Davis for County Attorney, Zoning Attorney, and Human Resources Attorney. He stated his general information about the firm. Jarrad & Davis currently have 18 lawyers and serve 9 counties. The firm covers all aspects of local government including zoning and human resources.

Chairman Davis shared concerns about having a local attorney and asked, "What is your plan for being local?"

Mr. Strickland responded, "I recognize that our firm is not based in Griffin, and I think that there may be opportunities to set up second locations based on how quickly the firm is expanding somewhere closer to the center of the state. We represent counties all over the state and provide different levels of service based on their needs or desires."

Commissioner Johnson asked, "Is there a representative at each of the zoning meetings? Are you continuing to take on new counties?"

Mr. Strickland responded, "Yes, but my focus would be Spalding, and I would manage what Spalding needs based on specialty."

Commissioner Johnson asked, "How involved are you within the other counties, outside of the legality aspect?"

Mr. Strickland responded, "Just the legal service. Being an outsider to the community can be beneficial because you are not subject to what local lawyers may be. The focus is to assist the local governing body to do their function."

Chairman Davis asked, "If we choose Jarrad & Davis, will you be the point person for Spalding County when we need you?"

Mr. Strickland responded, "Yes, my preference would be to have a designated person that you get to know and to rely on, and I see myself as being here full time."

Chairman Davis asked, "Do you see yourself as being the county attorney, zoning attorney, and human resource attorney?"

Mr. Strickland responded, "You may if it's more efficient to do that. If we need to have a zoning professional instead, then I would be willing to let them handle the zoning meetings. I am fortunate enough to be a firm that has profession expertise in all areas."

Commissioner Johnson asked, "How involved would you be in the process of when the Human Resources Attorney is needed?"

Mr. Strickland responded, "I would be directly involved as the County Attorney. All discussions start with the county attorney, and I would either handle it or direct it to another attorney that is an expert in the area."

Chairman Davis stated that the County Attorney also serves as the Election Board Attorney. It is ideal that we have a local

Commissioner Johnson asked, "Are you proposing this bid for all three attorneys or none at all?"

Mr. Strickland responded, "No, it's not."

Mr. Strickland asked, "On a day-to-day standpoint, how do you anticipate the level of service?"

Dr. Ledbetter responded, "I typically have conversations with our law firm daily. It is not face to face. We communicate via text, email, or phone call."

Mr. Stricklands stated the counties his firm represents communicate in this manner.

3. The Spalding County Board of Commissioners to hear presentations from perspective law firm, Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete, LLP, for Human Resources Attorney.

Dr. Ledbetter stated the representative for Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete, LLP, for Human Resources Attorney could not attend, and asked to reschedule for March 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm.

Dr. Ledbetter stated that considerations for attorney will take place on March 28th.

## **V. ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Bowlden to adjourn the meeting at 10:32 a.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.***