

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Eric K. Maxwell, Chairman
Randy Ognio, Vice Chairman
Steve Brown
Charles W. Oddo
Charles D. Rousseau



FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

Steve Rapson, County Administrator
Dennis A. Davenport, County Attorney
Tameca P. White, County Clerk
Marlena Edwards, Deputy County Clerk

140 Stonewall Avenue West
Public Meeting Room
Fayetteville, GA 30214

MINUTES

December 14, 2017

6:30 p.m.

Welcome to the meeting of your Fayette County Board of Commissioners. Your participation in County government is appreciated. All regularly scheduled Board meetings are open to the public and are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Call to Order

Chairman Eric Maxwell called the December 14, 2017 Board of Commissioners meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. A quorum of the Board was present. Commissioner Charles Oddo was absent.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by Chairman Eric Maxwell

Chairman Maxwell offered the Invocation and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Acceptance of Agenda

Commissioner Steve Brown moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Charles Rousseau requested to move items #12 and #14 together on the agenda. Commissioner Brown amended the motion. Vice Chairman Randy Ognio seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Oddo was absent.

PROCLAMATION/RECOGNITION:

1. **Recognition of Winners of the 2017 Model Water Tower Competition and Water System Staff.**
Water System Director Lee Pope recognized staff that assisted with the 2017 Model Water Tower Competition. He recognized Joseph Spann for an excellent job in coordinating and planning the competition. Teachers and first, second and third place students from JC Booth Middle School and Bennett's Mill Middle School were presented a certificate from the Board of Commissioners.
2. **Recognition of the Gaddy family for their annual Christmas light display.**
Commissioner Steve Brown, on behalf of the Board of Commissioners presented the Gaddy family with a plaque in recognition of their annual Christmas light display. Mrs. Gaddy thanked the Board and everyone who visited the Gaddy's home. She shared the family's experience on ABC's "The Great Christmas Light Fight" and how the light display expanded over the years. She thanked everyone for the collection of 23% of all the toys collected for Toys for Tots® in Fayette County. She continued that at the loss of their grandchild, five years ago, her daughter became the March of Dimes® ambassador for Fayette County and at that point the family put out a bucket and collected \$10,000 in donations in eight days. The family donated a total of \$56,000 to the March of Dimes®. She stated that displaying the Christmas light was healing for her family. Mr. Gaddy explained the process in putting up the lights and how he obtained a lot of the lights. The presentation concluded with a photo of Mr. and Mrs. Gaddy and the Board of Commissioners.

PUBLIC HEARING: None

Chairman Maxwell requested to have #4 removed for discussion. Commissioner Rousseau requested to remove item #3.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of items #3 and #4 for discussion. Vice Chairman Ognio seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Oddo was absent.

CONSENT AGENDA:

3. Approval of the County Clerk's recommendation to adopt the 2018 County Commissioner Meeting Schedule.

Commissioner Rousseau stated that this Board and the previous Board, struggled with the idea of having a daytime meeting. He stated that a lot of senior citizens do not like to travel at night which made it difficult for them to participate in the evening meetings. He stated that he would like for the Board to consider changing the Tuesday meetings listed on the 2018 schedule, to 3:00 p.m. or 4:00 p.m. and in November and December to change the meeting time as well. He stated that he would recommend that the schedule be amended to an agreeable afternoon time for the Tuesday and November/ December meetings.

Commissioner Brown stated that 4:00 p.m. was a good time. Commissioner Rousseau stated that for the winter months, there would still be the issue of it being dark outside and being difficult for senior citizens to travel. Commissioner Brown suggested the April 24 meeting be held at 4:00 p.m. and the November 8 and December 13 meeting be held at 2:00 p.m.

Commissioner Rousseau moved to approve the 2018 County Commissioner Meeting Schedule with the modification to the April 24 meeting to be held at 4:00 p.m. and the November 8 and December 13 meetings be held at 2:00 p.m. Commissioner Brown seconded. Discussion followed.

County Administrator Steve Rapson suggested also changing the time for the other Tuesday meeting, October 9 to 4:00 p.m., for consistency.

Commissioner Rousseau amended the motion to also include October 9 as a 4:00 p.m. Commissioner Brown amended the second. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Oddo was absent.

4. Approval of Water Committee's recommendation to accept the 2018 Water Committee Meeting Schedule.

Chairman Maxwell stated that he received a letter from Chip Conner resigning his seat on the Water Committee effective immediately. Chairman Maxwell stated that he would like to recognize Mr. Conner at a Board of Commissioners meeting.

Commissioner Brown stated that the Water Committee presented him with a plaque and he was told that the Board would be recognizing him at one of the meetings. Mr. Rapson confirmed that Mr. Conner was scheduled to be on the January 25 Board of Commissioners meeting agenda.

Commissioner Rousseau stated that the schedule needed to have the location and time added to the schedule. A corrected version of the schedule to include the time and location was added to the dais. He stated that he would encourage the committee to consider holding one or two meetings of the Water Committee in the evenings.

Chairman Maxwell moved to approve the 2018 Water Committee Meeting Schedule and to amend it to include the time and location. Vice Chairman Ognio seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Oddo was absent.

5. **Approval of staff's request to accept a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) award in the aggregate amount of \$522,912 to upgrade the culvert on Antebellum Way with a triple box culvert and to provide the local match of \$92,273 and authorization for the County Administrator to sign award documentation.**
6. **Approval of the November 9, 2017 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes.**

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

7. **Consideration of a recommendation from the Selection Committee, comprised of Vice Chairman Randy Ognio and Commissioner Charles Rousseau to re-appoint Dr. Loida Bonney to the Fayette County Board of Health for a term beginning January 1, 2018 and expiring December 31, 2023.**

Commissioner Rousseau stated that this was a re-appointment of Dr. Bonney that was completing an unexpired term. He stated that she was the only applicant for this position. The requirement for the position was that the applicant be a physician practicing in Fayette County. He stated that Dr. Bonney met all the requirements. He stated that he was in a quagmire because of the issue of having an applicant serve on two boards. He stated that Dr. Bonney was a current member of the Hospital Authority as well. He stated that he had conversations with Dr. Bonney and she would be considering whether she would reapply for the Hospital Authority. He stated that she had done an outstanding job serving and volunteering in the community. He recommended Dr. Bonney's appoint to the Fayette County Board of Health.

Commissioner Rousseau moved to approve to re-appoint Dr. Loida Bonney to the Fayette County Board of Health for a term beginning January 1, 2018 and expiring December 31, 2023. Vice Chairman Ognio seconded.

Vice Chairman Ognio stated that he shared the same concerns as Commissioner Rousseau regarding serving on two boards. He stated that Dr. Bonney was very qualified and the only applicant for the position and that it would be hard to compete against her because she was so well qualified.

Commissioner Rousseau moved to approve to re-appoint Dr. Loida Bonney to the Fayette County Board of Health for a term beginning January 1, 2018 and expiring December 31, 2023. Vice Chairman Ognio seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Oddo was absent.

8. **Consideration of a recommendation from the Selection Committee, comprised of Chairman Eric Maxwell and Commissioner Charles Oddo, to re-appoint Martha Hopkins to the Fayette County Zoning Board of Appeals beginning January 1, 2018 and expiring December 31, 2020.**

Chairman Maxwell stated that this was a sole applicant and a recommendation for re-appointment. He stated that she was more than qualified for the position. He stated that he and Commissioner Oddo discussed the position and both recommend that Ms. Hopkins be re-appointed to the Fayette County Zoning Board of Appeals.

Chairman Maxwell moved to re-appoint Martha Hopkins to the Fayette County Zoning Board of Appeals beginning January 1, 2018 and expiring December 31, 2020. Vice Chairman Ognio seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Oddo was absent.

9. **Consideration of staff's recommendation to award Bid #1388-B for two Pumper Fire Apparatus to Fireline Inc. in the amount of \$873,966 to fund \$41,958 for safety equipment, and to designate vehicle #93036 as surplus and authorize its sale.**

Fire Chief David Scarbrough stated that this request was to purchase two new Fire Pumpers. He stated that the recommendation was to purchase the fire pumpers from Fireline Inc. for \$873,966.

Mr. Rapson stated that this was funded through the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan for vehicle and equipment for the fire department and the 2017 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST).

Chief Scarbrough stated that the expected delivery date was after the first of the year and the vehicle would be in service by the spring.

Chairman Maxwell stated that the older vehicles would be placed in reserved mode. The other one would be available for surplus. Chief Scarbrough stated that having a reserved apparatus was needed with the aging fleet.

He informed the Board that the fire department had received an evaluation from the Insurance Services Office (ISO) and Fayette County was able to successfully drop the rating in March 2018 to 3 from a 4. He stated that citizens would need to contact their insurance agents to determine what the adjusted savings could be. He concluded that it was a team effort that included working with the Water System.

Vice Chairman Ognio asked if the new pumpers were a hale pumper. Chief Scarbrough stated that he was proposing a hale pumper.

Vice Chairman Ognio moved to approve to award Bid #1388-B for two Pumper Fire Apparatus to Fireline Inc. in the amount of \$873,966 to fund \$41,958 for safety equipment, and to designate vehicle #93036 as surplus and authorize its sale. Commissioner Rousseau seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Oddo was absent.

10. **Consideration of a "Enhanced State Route Mowing Program" for calendar year 2018.**

Public Works Director Phil Mallon briefed the Board. Mr. Mallon stated that staff was requesting direction regarding the mowing of state routes. He stated that in April, the Board approved the purchase of additional equipment and two additional staff members to improve the level of service. He stated that the direction at that time was to break the county into three zones and work to try to get five to six mowing per zone completed. He stated that this past year did not reflect that because the equipment did not come in until November 2017. He stated that based on conversations from the Board, staff wanted to ask for direction on how to use the present resources. He stated that State Routes (SR) 54 and 74 have, in excess of 30,000 vehicles per day motorist, State Route 314 had over 20,000 per day and McDonough Road had 12,000 to 13,000 per day. He continued that the total volume of vehicles for all the local roads was half the volume of SR 54 and SR 74. He stated that he was recommending and requesting approval to dedicate the new equipment and the two new positions to create a third crew that would focus entirely on the state routes. This would expand the pilot program where the county was responsible for all the state routes in the unincorporated areas, to be aggressive in picking up trash and weed control and cleaning the curb and gutter areas. He stated that this would not change the efforts already being given to other areas.

Commissioner Brown stated that some of the nice development opportunities that bring nice paying jobs, travel from Atlanta on the county's state routes. He continued that the county must make a good impression. He stated that this schedule would go a long way in improving the state routes and that it was a matter of civic pride. He stated that the first impression from an economic development prospective was critical. Sometimes the developers come to visit the county for a one day trip and that one trip could potentially determine if they would generate hundreds of millions of dollars worth of expenditures and tax dollars and good jobs in Fayette County.

Commissioner Rousseau stated that he and Commissioner Brown had engaged in several conversations regarding this matter. He stated that if there are some civic groups that would take on a route to pick up trash, ahead of the cutting schedule, or things of that nature, staff could send something out to those groups to take on the challenge of picking up the trash. He stated that cutting was the eye sore, but even more was the clipping and trash left behind. He stated that he encouraged Vice Chairman Ognio to emphasize to Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), when they attend the Transportation Committee meetings, that they were not living up to the standard that the Board would like.

Mr. Mallon stated that the next agenda item was regarding the contract with GDOT. He stated that what staff was doing did not relieve GDOT of their schedule. This would be done in addition to what GDOT provides.

Frank Gardner made comments regarding one zero turn tractor being used. (Comments were inaudible from the audience). Mr. Mallon stated that the zero turn were the most effective and preferred by staff. Vice Chairman Ognio stated that Clayton County also uses the zero turn tractors for mowing.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the updated mowing and maintenance schedule as presented. Commissioner Rousseau seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Oddo was absent.

11. Consideration of the updated Mowing and Maintenance Agreement with Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for State Routes in Fayette County.

Road Department Director Steve Hoffman stated that the Board voted in April to expand the mowing program to include the state routes in the county and the previous vote was to enhance that program and this request was an agreement from GDOT to amend the current contract basically penciling in the additional state routes. He stated that staff was good with the agreement. He stated that GDOT did not ask for signatures, but that the Chairman would need to initial the changes made by GDOT. He stated that this agreement would allow the county to enter inside the GDOT right-of-way.

County Attorney Dennis Davenport confirmed that he had reviewed and approved the agreement.

Vice Chairman Ognio moved to approve the updated Mowing and Maintenance Agreement with Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for State Routes in Fayette County. Commissioner Brown seconded.

Commissioner Brown encouraged staff to build a good relationship with the subcontractor so that staff could "weave" into their schedule.

Commissioner Rousseau stated that maybe this should be part of the legislative package.

Vice Chairman Ognio moved to approve the updated Mowing and Maintenance Agreement with Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for State Routes in Fayette County. Commissioner Brown seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Oddo was absent.

12. Staff update on the proposed Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) roundabout projects on SR 92 at Antioch Road and Seay Road (GDOT PI 009971 and 009972) and consideration of GDOT's request for Fayette County to enter into a Local Government Lighting Agreement and Landscaping Maintenance Agreement for the projects and adoption of Resolution 2017-19.

Mr. Mallon stated that item #13 had direct monetary consequences to this agenda item. He stated that Mr. Sam Allen and Mr. Robert Reid from Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) were present for questions. He stated that this project had been before the Board several times over the years. He stated that it was first before the Board in January 2014 and at the time, the Board was interested but did not want to commit because of questions. He stated that the questions were documented in a letter dated May 9, 2014 sent to GDOT. He stated that GDOT responded in writing on April 5, 2017.

Mr. Rapson stated that there were two agreements, one was in the package and one was placed on the dais.

Mr. Mallon stated that GDOT was nearly complete with the design, in the right-of-way acquisition process and plan to award construction before the end of the fiscal year. He stated that the total value for the two roundabouts for construction and right-of-way was about \$5.5 million. He stated that one of the three questions in the letter sent by the Board was, "what was the footprint of the two projects." He stated that there were no impacts to structures. The next question was about peak hour delays. He stated that the response for both projects was that it would perform at acceptable levels currently and into the design in the future and that higher delays would be expected if left as is. The last question was about Highway 92 being widened into four lanes. He stated that the roundabouts would be designed to accommodate four lanes and it would be a four-lane divided highway between the roundabouts with the continuous median and north and south would be provided two lanes. He stated that if the state route were ever widened and continuously the roundabout could be restriped to accommodate that. The cost to Fayette County, if approved, was for maintaining and paying for power associated with lightening and traffic signals. He stated that based on the number of lights and the watts associated with the bulbs, staff expected the power bill to be up to \$615 a month for \$7,400 a year in power. He stated that the county would also be responsible for landscaping the islands. He stated that one of the local businesses would like to enter into an agreement with Fayette County to provide landscaping and based on their work, staff believed they would do a good job.

Commissioner Brown asked if it was two lanes within the roundabout. Mr. Mallon stated that it would not be two dedicated lanes going around the roundabout. He stated that the next agenda item was for part of the project to move the water lines.

Mr. Rapson stated that item #13 summarizes the estimated project cost at \$779,510 to move the water lines. He stated that there were about seven or eight major water lines that come into the area and would have to be relocated out of GDOT's right-of-way.

Commissioner Brown stated that this was getting into significant money on this project. He stated that the county was originally approach with the roundabout as a way to handle the traffic flow and congestion problems in a safe way. He continued that when we start to look at almost a million dollars just for the water infrastructure, would the traffic signals not be better at that point.

Mr. Mallon stated no. He stated that the traffic signals were not warranted based on the volume and future projections.

Vice Chairman Ognio stated that he knew a fatality at that intersection had "keyed" this project up, but according to the accident report there were:

2012 – three accidents

2013 – one accident

2014 – two accidents

2015 – two accidents

2016 – one accident

2017 – as of 12-04-2017; three accidents

He stated that he had heart ache over spending \$5 million for an intersection with this few of accidents, when there are intersections on state routes that have 30 accidents a year. He stated that he realized that GDOT offered the money and that they would take it somewhere else if the county did not use it, but the county desperately had intersections that need GDOT's money that are a lot more hazardous.

Mr. Mallon stated that GDOT, like the county, have money that comes in specific buckets for specific uses. He stated that at the time, this intersection was identified as a safety need. He stated, "why that intersection versus others", was likely because there was a cap on the amount. He stated that the other intersections may have been too large for what the available money was for.

Vice Chairman Ognio stated that there were other intersections with a lot higher accident rate than this intersection. He stated that he did not know when GDOT would be addressing the other intersections. Mr. Mallon stated that from his view, the money was available and that there was not an option to move it to another project. He stated that other intersections are needed projects and these intersections need improvement and if the county did not do this, the cost would come back to the county at a much higher cost.

Commissioner Brown stated that both roads are geometric nightmares. He stated that he did not mind doing the project, but that it had turned into a lot more expensive project than originally anticipated. He stated that hopefully GDOT was listening to Vice Chairman Ognio to address the other intersections.

Mr. Mallon stated that the county was in the middle of starting the Comprehensive Transportation Plan and these two projects (roundabouts) are in the old 2003 plan. He stated that public input was needed and encouraged to come before the elected officials.

Vice Chairman Ognio stated that his other concern was that the county was introducing walking traffic through the intersections with this project. He stated that it appeared it could be more dangerous than it was currently. He stated that there was no crosswalk there now. Mr. Mallon stated that staff could request that GDOT not put in a crosswalk and not stripe it or add the pedestrian signals. He stated that there was no supporting sidewalks or paths in that area at this time. He stated that he could ask.

Commissioner Brown asked if it was a result of federal funding that the crosswalks had to be in place. (an inaudible response was given) The GDOT representative stated that the purpose of the roundabout was a calming measure to help slow the speeders down, to allow the driver to slowly move through the roundabout. He stated that there was the potential for pedestrian crossing at any intersection. He stated that with the ADA attributes that allow the opportunity to

safely cross. Commissioner Brown reiterated that there were not sidewalks at the intersection. The representative stated that sidewalks could be installed in anticipation.

Commissioner Rousseau stated that his issue had to do with the waterline. He stated that he deferred to accident report given by Vice Chairman Ognio and the fact that the Comprehensive Transportation Plan was in the works, if this would rise to the level of being a top priority. He stated that the Board was reluctant to turn down the money and it put them in a precarious position. He asked that in regard to the waterline, if it was only being requested to be moved because of the project. Water System Director Lee Pope indicated yes. Commissioner Rousseau stated that it was almost \$800,000 to move waterlines. He stated that in recent discussions about several communities who are without public water and are on well systems would cost roughly that amount. He asked if the county would receive any revenue back from the public works department when the waterlines are moved. The answer was no. He asked if the county would receive any revenue back from any additional users when the waterlines are moved. The answer was no. He stated that the door had been opened that, with the communities requesting public water, at roughly \$1 million, the individuals who would receive the water would pay for the water. The answer was there would be small revenue. Commissioner Rousseau stated that it was some revenue. He stated that he philosophically was opposed to the project for that reason. He stated that if the county could pay \$800,000 to move waterlines, then the money could be used to provide people with good drinking water. He stated that he was not "mixing apples and oranges". He stated that the issue was that the county would spend \$800,000 of money that we said we did not necessarily have, that we would not recoup any of, versus an opportunity to use the money to run water to those communities that the Board had been talking about. He stated that he raised the issue for the Board's consideration. He stated that when talking about moving traffic versus people drinking healthy water, it did not compare from where he was sitting. He stated that he and Mr. Rapson had some communication and that Mr. Rapson indicated that the county would receive some revenue that would take about 30 years to pay back. He stated that spending this \$800,000 would mean getting no revenue back. He stated that he was voting no for those reasons; the Comprehensive Transportation Plan, the accident report and moving \$800,000 of waterlines that would generate no revenue when people are asking the county to have water ran to their community. He stated that he would employ the Board to support him in the effort to run waterlines to one or two of the communities.

Chairman Maxwell asked if there was timeline that a decision had to be made. The answer was no.

Sam Allen, GDOT Project Manager for both projects and Robert Reid, GDOT Office of Program Delivery.

Vice Chairman Ognio stated that when the project was first brought to the Board it was stated that it would be at no cost to the county. He stated that he wanted to know if there was a way that the county could be assisted with the \$800,000 from GDOT. Mr. Reid stated that the county could write a letter to the Chief Engineer requesting assistance.

Mr. Rapson asked what was GDOT's budget for the two projects. Mr. Allen stated that the projects were funded through the federal safety funding program and the total cost was around \$4 million for each project. Mr. Rapson stated that was what the \$8 million would get from this project in the General Fund, which did not help the water fund. He stated that there are no additional revenue streams with the new pipes, but the reason the county had to pay the \$800,000 was because it was GDOT's right-of-way.

Chairman Maxwell moved to table the proposed Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) roundabout projects on SR 92 at Antioch Road and Seay Road (GDOT PI 009971 and 009972) and consideration of GDOT's request for Fayette County to enter into a Local Government Lighting Agreement and Landscaping Maintenance Agreement for the projects and adoption of Resolution 2017-19 to the February 8, 2018 Board. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Oddo was absent.

13. Consideration of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and Fayette County Water System to move county utilities from GDOT right-of-way.

Chairman Maxwell moved to table the Memorandum of Understanding between the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and Fayette County Water System to move county utilities from GDOT's right-of-way to February 8, 2018. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Oddo was absent.

14. Consideration of the request to authorize staff to acquire all fee simple right-of-way and easements for the 104 Broom Boulevard culvert replacement project (2017 SPLOST No. 6509L).

Environmental Management Director Vanessa Birrell briefed the Board regarding this item. She stated that she was requesting that the Board allow staff to acquire fee simple right-of-way and easement for the 2017 SPLOST projects at Broom Boulevard and Antebellum Way (item #15). She stated that on Broom Boulevard the request was to acquire three properties with two owners and at Antebellum it was four properties with two owners and the Homeowner's Association.

Mr. Rapson stated that it was a 2017 SPLOST project funded at \$387,000.

Commissioner Rousseau moved to approve staff to acquire all fee simple right-of-way and easements for the 104 Broom Boulevard culvert replacement project (2017 SPLOST No. 6509L). Vice Chairman Ognio seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Oddo was absent.

15. Consideration of the request to authorize staff to acquire all fee simple right-of-way and easements for the 210 Antebellum Way culvert replacement project (2017 SPLOST No. 6509D).

Commissioner Brown moved to approve staff to acquire all fee simple right-of-way and easements for the 210 Antebellum Way culvert replacement project (2017 SPLOST No. 6509D). Vice Chairman Ognio seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Oddo was absent.

Ms. Birrell asked if going forward with the request for right-of-way and easement, if it could be placed on the Consent Agenda. County Attorney Dennis Davenport stated that it did not matter if it was on Consent.

Mr. Rapson stated that the grant that was approved under Consent was funded under the 2017 SPLOST, so that would free up the SPLOST dollars.

16. Discussion of the Fayette County Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) prior to submittal to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA).

Mr. Rapson stated that he and all the city managers within the municipalities of Fayette County, have been working on this since the beginning of the year. He stated that the managers have come up with an agreement and will be going to the elected officials. He stated that the information provided was the form document that would end up being the service delivery that the Board would vote on. He stated that Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) originated through House Bill 489, which was the state's way of having the county and the cities come together because the same residents are impacted and whoever could offer a service cheaper should be the one providing that service and make things equitable between the tax dollars received from mutual citizens. He stated that it was also to ensure that the unincorporated tax district was not using those tax dollars to subsidize the unincorporated tax payers. He stated that there was analysis that would be shared in February that shows that there were not any financial inequities. He stated that there were four areas that he

and the city managers believed an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) was needed; an inmate agreement, emergency services with the City of Fayetteville, a paving agreement with Peachtree City, City of Fayetteville and the Town of Tyrone and a recreation agreement. He stated that SDS Form 2 was a form used for every department to state the delivery service, list the governmental entity impacted by the service and detail the current IGA's in place. He continued to break down the components of the SDS.

Commissioner Brown asked if the Board would see a copy of the IGA's before the cities voted. Mr. Rapson stated that he would share a draft with the Board.

Mr. Rapson stated that Vanessa Birrell was instrumental in pulling together a lot of the details and reviewing IGA's that had not been reviewed in over 20 years.

This agenda item was presented as informational. No vote was taken.

Mr. Rehak was present for the meeting. The Board moved item #20 up on the agenda for consideration before taking a recess.

The Board recessed at 8:37 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 8:47 p.m.

17. Consideration of the County Attorney's recommendation to deny the disposition of tax refunds, as requested by Evelyn Snellings for tax year 2016 in the total amount of \$4,217.90.

Mr. Davenport briefed the Board that Ms. Snellings had received a tax exemption as a spouse of a disabled veteran since 2012. He stated that up until this request he thought the disabled veterans' exemption was for 100% up to 100%. He stated that was not the case and that it was only 100% up to a certain value of the house. If the house was a value sustainably higher than the exemption cap the excess value would not be subject to the 100% exemption. He stated that he learned that in the process. When Ms. Snellings reached age 65 in 2015, in February 2016 she inquired if there were any other exemption that could decrease her tax bill and was informed that she had the most exemptions available. Being prodded by a friend of hers, Ms. Snellings asked again in 2017 and found out that the 65 years and older exemption, when there was a Georgia Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) of less than \$15,000, deletes 100% of the school tax portion of the tax bill which would impact the excess amount over the cap of the 100% disabled veterans' exemption. He stated that she can stack the exemptions, but that no one knew that could be done because the value of the house was a wild card. He stated that once it was determined that the additional 65 years old and over AGI of less than \$15,000 yielded an exemption amount greater than what she was receiving, it was applied in 2017. He stated that Ms. Snellings then asked for a refund for the amount paid in 2016. He stated that because this was not the disabled veterans' exemption, which can go back retroactively, but it was the 65 years old and over school tax exemption with less than \$15,000 AGI that does not have retroactive application, the recommendation was to deny the request. Commissioner Brown moved to deny the disposition of tax refunds, as requested by Evelyn Snellings for tax year 2016 in the total amount of \$4,217.90. Vice Chairman Ognio seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Oddo was absent.

18. Consideration of the County Attorney's recommendation to deny [correction was "to approve"] the disposition of tax refunds, as requested by Victor Hardy for tax years 2014, 2015 and 2016 in the total amount of \$54.87.

Mr. Davenport stated that this tax refund request was for a piece of property that, by the plat, was shown to be a certain number of acreage, in addition to having roadbed of lesser acreage, the property record card accidentally added the roadbed acreage twice to make the gross acreage of 9.1 acres greater than the actual 8.837 acres that were present. He stated that the additional acreage caused a tax bill greater than what Mr. Hardy should have paid. He stated that anything before tax year 2014 would be barred. He stated that the amounts in 2014, 2015 and 2016 total \$54.87. He stated that although the agenda said that the recommendation was to deny, it was actually to approve the request for \$54.87.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the disposition of tax refunds, as requested by Victor Hardy for tax years 2014, 2015 and 2016 in the total amount of \$54.87. Vice Chairman Ognio seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Oddo was absent.

19. Consideration of the County Attorney's recommendation to deny the disposition of tax refunds, as requested by Steven and Shelly White for tax years 2014, 2015 and 2016 in the total amount of \$236.47.

Mr. Davenport stated that on October 5, 2017, the tax assessors were notified that a pool that was in the backyard of the White's home was filled-in in 2014. He stated that the question for the tax assessor, as it relates to real property was, that each tax payer was responsible for providing information if there was a change to the property. He stated that in 2014 there was no change in that return. He stated that real property was unique in that, if the tax payer or tax assessor made a mistake in the value of the real property, the county could not go back and fix that for prior years. He stated that although he agreed that the pool was filled-in and that it had an effect on the value of the property, the request to go back to 2014, 2015 and 2016 to receive a refund for \$236.47 was recommended for denial.

Commissioner Brown moved to deny the disposition of tax refunds, as requested by Steven and Shelly White for tax years 2014, 2015 and 2016 in the total amount of \$236.47. Vice Chairman Ognio seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Oddo was absent.

20. Consideration of the County Attorney's recommendation to approve the disposition of tax refunds, as requested by Thomas Rehak for tax years 2014, 2015 and 2016 in the total amount of \$553.20.

Mr. Davenport briefed the Board that this item was dealing with a tax refund request based on a resident who had less square footage at the home than what was recorded on the property record card in the amount of 100 square feet smaller. He stated that the property record card was the basis used by the tax assessor's office to determine the value of the home and the application of the mileage rate and what the final tax bill would be. He stated that in 2014, 2015 and 2016 the difference was \$163.99, 182.80 and \$ 206.41 for a total of \$553.20. He continued that the reason for those three items was because the tax refund request had a three-year statute of limitations. He stated that the request was made for as far back as 2008 but the other information prior to 2014 had not been worked up because of the statute of limitations.

Mr. Rehak stated that the county's tax assessor's office had been very helpful. He asked the Board to approve this request. He stated that it was frustrating to know that the taxes were overpaid based on information provided by the county. He stated that if he owed the county money for a parking ticket, the county would have more than three years to put a lien against him or his property and that did not seem fair. He stated that he wanted to reiterate how appreciative he was of the staff.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the disposition of tax refunds, as requested by Thomas Rehak for tax years 2014, 2015 and 2016 in the total amount of \$553.20. Vice Chairman Ognio seconded.

Commissioner Brown stated that he agreed that it didn't seem fair. The Board agreed.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the disposition of tax refunds, as requested by Thomas Rehak for tax years 2014, 2015 and 2016 in the total amount of \$553.20. Vice Chairman Ognio seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Oddo was absent.

21. Consideration of the County Attorney's recommendation to approve the disposition of tax refunds, as requested by Esther Tippens for tax years 2014, 2015 and 2016 in the total amount of \$4,826.30.

Mr. Davenport stated that when Ms. Tippens sold her house it was recognized that due to an error in the valuation of the property over the years, the property was valued as commercial property instead of residential property. He stated that it was not commercially zoned and had not been used as commercial property. He stated that in the past it had been used as a church, however not during the three years in question. He stated that the tax assessors recognized that it should not have been valued as commercial and should have been valued as residential, producing a refund amount in the aggregate of \$4,826.30 for years 2014, 2015 and 2016. He stated that he recommended approval.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the disposition of tax refunds, as requested by Esther Tippens for tax years 2014, 2015 and 2016 in the total amount of \$4,826.30. Vice Chairman Ognio seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Oddo was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Gerald Chandler stated that he attended the last meeting to request an addition to the O&I zoning regulations. He stated that he owned property at 1826 Highway 54. He stated that he had been turned down from the zoning office. He stated that he bought the building in 2004 and that it was zoned residential. He stated that he did a lot of work to modify it to O&I and he ran his heating and air conditioning business out of the building. He continued that the building was up for rent in 2009 and he rented out to a landscaping company. He continued to give a history of the property and its use. He stated that he had a current potential buyer of the building who did internet sales. He stated that when he went to zoning it was determined that it was internet sales. He stated that when the "zoning people" heard it was internet sales of cars, they denied the request. He stated that the Fayette County O&I stated that "the following permitted uses shall be allowed in the O&I zoning district. One was office use. He stated that the buyers want to have an office to sales the cars, but that there would be no cars on the property. He stated that it was not large enough for that. He stated that there would be no "for sale" cars on the property. He stated that the O&I says, that an insurance broker could be in the office. He stated that the buyers are brokers and can sale from the building. He continued that the O&I also stated that it could be a real estate broker. He stated that he did not get any feedback, so he emailed Commissioner Oddo. He read Commissioner Oddo's email into the record. "Based on our conversation I have a couple of preliminary conversations with non-elected officials to get an understanding of your type of situation, sometimes there are valid reasons, though not obvious, that the Board itself had not acted. However, so you are aware, if the Board agrees to look at changes the process would take time. It's not a rapid process." He stated that he was asking the Board to speed up the process because he wanted to sale the property.

Marlene Welch asked the Board if there were any questions about internet car sales. She stated that the Georgia Dealer Board recognizes internet sales different than going to the traditional dealer that with a car lot. He stated that it

was recognized as an office only, with a landline and a sign and a separate door for business. She explained the difference between the type of license required.

Nicole Smith; ex-Fayette County employee of 911 for 17 years. She stated that she was here to let the Board know what the staff at 911 had gone through. She stated that she documented things that happened to her and other employees personally. She stated that collectively among the employees who had bad experiences there was over 50 pages of documentation. She stated that she left the county in good standing with no reprimands. She stated that she tried to talk to Mr. Rapson about some of the problems, but that he would not return her calls. She stated that the problems that occurred; the yelling in the face, being "talked down to" constantly and being screamed at while answering a 911 call or fire radio. She stated that in the process of working a house fire she was being "chewed out". She stated that the Board would be surprised at the hours that staff worked at 911. She stated that they could not stay staffed because of the administrative treatment of the employees. She stated that the quality of service was going down and that there were examples within the public safety community of problems at dispatch. She stated that these were facts. She stated that one employee was fired over a policy violation and another employee was able to haze three employees and nothing happened to that person. She continued that inappropriate comments were being made to female employees and that the complaint had been brought to Human Resources and nothing was done. She stated that on May 1, 2017 a meeting was held for 911 employees by Human Resource and Nancy Weeselink, the EAP Coordinator attended. She stated that Ms. Weeselink came into the meeting to listen to some of the problems that was going on. She stated that Ms. Weeselink already knew about some of the problems. She quoted a statement from Ms. Weeselink. "This is the worst case of hostile work environment that I have ever seen." Ms. Smith stated that Ms. Weeselink urged the group to collect documentation and compile documentation because Lewis Patterson (Human Resource Director) was going to do an investigation. She stated that there was a coordinated effort to bring down two of the supervisors that were compiling documentation. She stated that three employees were wrongfully fired. She continued that they filed an appeal. She stated that they later accepted a settlement. She stated that she was not begrudged because she was passed up for a promotion, but that she was upset about the reward at the top. She stated that she hoped the Board would take a closer look. She stated that she was not fired, but administration at 911 seem to imply that she was fired. She stated that she left on good terms.

Jordon Posey, Peachtree City resident, ex-Fayette County employee for 911 who resigned in good standing in October 2017. He stated that part of his concerns was staffing. He stated that often time there were four people to a shift when there should have been five or six. He stated that often administrative staff would have to cover a radio. He stated that staff would have to monitor over 15 channels at a time and that was concerning. He distributed information packages to the Board. He stated that each of the packages contained a flash drive with documents, recordings and radio traffic recordings. He stated that he has had several meetings with Lewis Patterson and that he had emailed County Administrator Steve Rapson on multiple occasions and over a month had gone by and he still had not met with Mr. Rapson.

Frank Gardner stated that he mentioned a few years ago that if Fayette County really wanted to do something then the county would get water and sewer throughout the county. He stated that the 5-acre lots made the county great. He stated that in regard to the expense of moving water lines and getting people service, it should be placed on a ballot to get water system throughout the county. He continued that he brought up the issue of the striping. He stated that the Road Department Director Steve Hoffman shared that the contractor would be there in the next ten days. He also discussed an article in the paper about doing murals on the buildings. He thanked Commissioner Brown for bringing that to the county. He stated that it was the 5th year of the shooting in Connecticut and he wished more people would consider getting the maximum round guns off the street. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS:

In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, accommodations are available for those who are hearing impaired and/or in need of a wheelchair. The Board of Commissioners Agenda and supporting material for each item is available on-line through the County's website at www.fayettecountyga.gov. This meeting will be telecast on Comcast Cable Channel 23 and on the internet at www.livestream.com.

A. Request for Quotes #1332-A: Water Treatment Chemicals

Animal shelter water line

Mr. Rapson updated the Board on the Animal Control sewer lines. He stated that the county reached an agreement for the easement with the Rite Aid property. He stated that staff was waiting on the engineer to complete the final design to determine where the easement was located.

Lees Mill opening

He continued that the county held a ribbon cutting for Lees Mill and that it was officially open.

Frank Gardner's comments

Mr. Rapson stated that there was water throughout the county, but not sewer. He stated that all the sewers are isolated to the cities. He stated that the murals and awnings had been removed and have been cleaned and will be put back on the building.

911 formal employees' comments

Mr. Rapson stated that there was an investigation conducted and Ms. Wesselink came in to fix a lot of the issues mentioned. He stated that he could share the investigation with the Board if so desired. He stated that Mr. Posey had requested to meet with him, however he was on vacation. He stated that he planned on meeting with him when he returned, however Mr. Posey had filed an EEOC lawsuit and once that happens he does not meet with the employee.

Commissioner Oddo's statement:

"This evening I am with my wife and my family preparing to celebrate the birth of Christ. The beautiful thing about this wonderful time of year is universal message of peace and brotherhood. It is a message that sometimes seems overwhelmed in a world fraught with dangers, but it nevertheless flickers. A flame of hope, it is persistent for thousands of years in which this world cannot extinguish.

As we bring to end, this year of the Commission meetings, my wife, Pily, and I extend our very best wishes to each of you; the citizens of Fayette County, the incredible staff and employees with whom I am privileged to work and their families and to each Commissioner and his family and to my own family and friends. May the true spirit of Christmas dwell within your hearts always, and may the new year bring much health, happiness and success! Be careful. Be safe. And have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in 2018!"

ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

Notice of Executive Session: County Attorney Dennis Davenport stated that there was one item involving threatening litigation, one item involving pending litigation and the review of the Executive Session minutes for October 26, 2017.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:

Vice Chairman Ognio:

Representative John Yates

Vice Chairman Ognio stated that we lost a World War II veteran, servant and House Representative. He stated that John Yates passed away. He stated that he was a great person to be around and that he wanted to remember him.

In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, accommodations are available for those who are hearing impaired and/or in need of a wheelchair. The Board of Commissioners Agenda and supporting material for each item is available on-line through the County's website at www.fayettecountyga.gov. This meeting will be telecast on Comcast Cable Channel 23 and on the internet at www.livestream.com.

Happy Birthday wish

Vice Chairman Ognio wished Mr. Rapson a happy birthday.

Transportation Committee meeting

Vice Chairman Ognio stated that he did not get a chance to attend the last Transportation Committee meeting, but that he wanted to thank Vice Chair Shane Robinson because he heard she did a great job of conducting the meeting in his absence. He stated that GDOT was present for the meeting and shared a lot of information.

Trip to the White House

Vice Chairman Ognio stated that he went to Washington, D.C. and met with NACo, National Association of Counties and they walked the attendees through the new tax plan. He stated that he focused on the federal Department of Transportation. He stated that he had the clerk's office scan in the list of contacts he received to the Board. He stated that it was a long day at the White House. He stated that they did a good job answering questions.

Georgia Department of Transportation

Vice Chairman Ognio stated that Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) was working to get the interchange at SR74 and I-85. He stated that he traveled SR 138 to I-85 and the meter light on the on-ramp had traffic backed up past Oakley Industrial. He stated that was something to address with GDOT. He stated that the county did not have an interstate running through it so the county's interstate access was very important.

226th birthday of the Bill of Rights

Vice Chairman Ognio acknowledged that December 15 was the 226th birthday of the first ten amendments (Bill of Rights) of the United States Constitution.

Commissioner Rousseau

Merry Christmas

Commissioner Rousseau wished staff a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Happy Kwanza and all that the season brings. He stated that he pledged to continue to work with the Board for the betterment of the county. He thanked the Board for their service and the sacrifices made.

Thank you to staff

He stated that he was impressed with how nimble Fayette County government can be on occasions and the willingness of the team to respond to citizen's request when there are inquiries. He stated that the Board deals closely with the clerk's office and he thanked the clerk for the professionalism and for keeping the office in order. He congratulated the fire department on the ISO rating. He thanked the road department for responding again to an inquiry from citizens in the community. He encouraged staff to continue responding the way that they are. He stated that his saying was, "It's about WHAT we do, HOW we do it and WHO we do it for." He stated that "what" we do is provide services for people. "How" we do it should be at the highest level possible and "who" we do it for was the citizens of the county.

McIntosh Trail

Commissioner Rousseau thanked Commissioner Brown for his service on the McIntosh Trail Community Service Board.

Commissioner Brown

Internet Car Sales

In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, accommodations are available for those who are hearing impaired and/or in need of a wheelchair. The Board of Commissioners Agenda and supporting material for each item is available on-line through the County's website at www.fayettecountyga.gov. This meeting will be telecast on Comcast Cable Channel 23 and on the internet at www.livestream.com.

Commissioner Brown stated that he would stress that the county could not look at things in a laser format with this situation. He stated that the Board had to extrapolate what happens to all the parcels of land in that zoning classification and what automobile sales could morph into. He stated that was one of the things that was hard to deal with. He stated that the Board made changes that they believed were good and every once in a while, there was one that comes up that created problems. He stated that the Board was listening to the request and had to take the request beyond the context of what was being presented.

McIntosh Trail Community Service Board

Commissioner Brown stated that he had the opportunity to serve on the McIntosh Trail Community Service Board. He stated that it was a board that dealt with a lot of people in need with mental health issues. He stated that he came on board at a time when there was major financial difficulties and leadership changes. He stated that the Fayette County team on that board really worked hard with the others to help turn things around. He stated that the finances are in good shape and there was a new CEO starting. He stated that next year would be his last year in local government. He stated that he saw this as a transitioning. He stated that there was information provided to the Board showing who could serve on this board.

Christmas donation

Commissioner Brown stated that he used to do Christmas cards to all the employees, but it became too much addressing all the cards. He stated that he decided two years ago to make donations to charitable organizations in Fayette County in the name of the employees of Fayette County. He stated that the two organizations that he will donate to are Grandparents and Kin Raising Children; an organization that helps grandparents, who through unfortunate circumstances, are having to raise small children and to the Fayette Care Clinic.

Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) report card

Commissioner Brown stated that it would be neat if at one of the Board meetings there was a SPLOST report card showing how many projects had been started, how many road projects, total amount spent and to have staff discuss any relevant items.

Mr. Rapson suggested doing it quarterly because most of the projects did not move fast. Commissioner Brown agreed.

Statement regarding Scott Fabricius

Commissioner Brown stated Christmas was a joyous time, but that some people get depressed at Christmas. He stated that when despairing or sad things happen during Christmas, it tends to be amplified. He stated that he was heart-broken at the things that are happening to a gentleman in the community and he felt the gentleman was owed a statement. He read the following statement into the record:

"After a full year of viewing in 2017, I extend my gratitude to our newest configuration of the Board Members of the Fayette County Board of Elections and Voter Registration, Messrs. Hicks, Lester and Wright.

The gentlemen on the board exemplify the essence of strong character and bi-partisan cooperation to insure fair elections in Fayette County, something that was missing in the past with numerous controversies.

If this county cannot assure the public of fair and unbiased elections, there is little else our county government can offer of any value.

We previously suffered an entanglement of a familial sort, obscuring our elections in a cloud of untrustworthiness.

Let me state for this public record that I am extremely proud of the members of the Fayette County Republican Party Executive Committee who refused to look the other way in the midst activity they knew to be wrong and an insult to every citizen of Fayette County.

In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, accommodations are available for those who are hearing impaired and/or in need of a wheelchair. The Board of Commissioners Agenda and supporting material for each item is available on-line through the County's website at www.fayettecountyga.gov. This meeting will be telecast on Comcast Cable Channel 23 and on the internet at www.livestream.com.

The surest way to overcome malevolence is to confront it.

Let me state for this public record my sincerest appreciation of the various State Agencies, including the Office of the Attorney General, for their serious and expert prosecution of the law-breaking, an issue I raised personally at a Republican County Convention and elsewhere.

I offer the citation of OSAH-ELE-LV-1652126-56-WALKER, Georgia Administrative Hearings, agency reference number: 2012-141, STATE ELECTION BOARD v. M. L. WATTS. I stand by the ruling and the penalties dispensed as confirmation of the systemic complaints raised within the Fayette County Republican Party.

I see a sole attorney representing two separate cases of one family, using one to justify the release of the other. I feel that layers of poor decisions by this body have created an atmosphere of reprisal to any citizen presenting truth to power.

For the county government to behave as an aggrieved party when the Office of the Attorney General provided beyond the shadow of a doubt the existence of impropriety is an outrage.

To punish an innocent party, especially a person working under the direction of his Executive Committee, based upon suspect reasoning is a scandalous disgrace and an outright abuse of power.

We approach Christmas, punishing the innocent."

He stated that he says all that for the chairman of the Fayette County Republican Party who just had an almost \$36,000 lien placed on his house. He stated that the chairman and his wife are going to downsize and would lose \$36,000 of the sale of the house because of the action of several parties. He stated that he was very heartbroken that he had to do that when he was following the direction of the Executive Committee of the Fayette County Republican Party. He stated and the party did not get any type punishment or have to file anything. It all falls on the chairman. He stated that he thought it was egregious when it started and he believed it was worse now. He stated that the gentleman's wife, successfully so far, has fought a battle against cancer and his mother died two weeks ago and then the lien was placed on his house. He stated that he offered his personal deepest, sincerest apologies. He offered God's speed to Scott Fabricius and he wished it could have been different.

Chairman Maxwell stated that for the record, he had been recused from this case because he had represented the Watts over the past two years.

Chairman Maxwell

Response to Gerald Chandler's comments

Chairman Maxwell stated that he would like for the Board to study what Mr. Chandler brought up. The use of the internet and office industrial. He reiterated that it was not a quick process. He stated that he was asking for Board support to review this topic.

Commissioner Brown stated that he would like to have it on an agenda to discuss all the ramifications involved.

Chairman Maxwell stated that was part of the problem...the Board had not discussed this topic.

Vice Chairman Ognio stated that the attorney needed to review.

Mr. Davenport stated the Board could convey the idea in as broad a sense or narrow of a sense to the Planning Commission to give some focus in respect to what the Board would like for them to look at. He stated that there would be public hearings and

In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, accommodations are available for those who are hearing impaired and/or in need of a wheelchair. The Board of Commissioners Agenda and supporting material for each item is available on-line through the County's website at www.fayettecountyga.gov. This meeting will be telecast on Comcast Cable Channel 23 and on the internet at www.livestream.com.

possibly workshops and then it would come back to the Board to have a public hearing and determine the direction the Board would like to take. He stated that it would be a minimum of six months to a year, depending on how things go.

Mr. Rapson suggested having Planning & Zoning Director Pete Frisina outline the parameters and concerns and he can take the feedback to the Planning Commission meeting.

After further discussion, the Board agreed to have Mr. Frisina gather the information from the Board and from the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals and bring it back to the Board.

Mr. Rapson assured Mr. Chandler that staff would reach out to him to let him know when it goes before the Planning Commission.

2017 State of the County

Chairman Maxwell stated that in January 2017 the Board constituted a new Board of Commissioners and appointed him the new Chairman. He stated that he was pleased to be appointed.

In February and March there was a big effort to approve the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) and it passed by vote of the citizens. The SPLOST brought \$41 million that came to the county, specifically \$64 million that came to Fayette County Commission to spend. In 2017 there was a stormwater "tax" that was sent out and the Board eliminated that "tax".

In May and June, the Board went through the budget process. He stated that he was happy to report that the budget included a rollback; the lowering of the tax rate on the property. He stated that he promised in a January speech at the Republican breakfast that there would be no tax increase.

Around the month of July, the Board ran into a headwind with Animal Control. He stated that the Board addressed the Animal Control issues a number of ways, including connecting to the sewer system and other projects that are taking place. He stated that there had been some significant end roads regarding the shelter.

In September, October and November, the intersection at Antioch and Goza Roads became a hot button item. He stated that unfortunately there was a fatality at that intersection and he was sorry that it happened. He stated that the Board very quickly, put out an RFP, received recommendations and decided to build a new roundabout. He stated that there had been significant structural changes at that intersection presently. He stated that the Board was hoping it would be safer in the future.

He stated that Fire Chief Scarbrough had mentioned the new ISO rating that the county received. He thanked the Chief for the hard work that it took.

He stated that Mr. Rapson gave the update on the Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) and that it was a big deal. He stated that it was a document about how the county would work with the cities over the 10-year period.

He stated that he attended the ribbon cutting for the stormwater project on Lees Mill Road. A project completed with SPLOST funds.

He stated that he enjoyed running the meetings. He stated that he did not know what it was like before he was elected. He stated that he would read in the newspaper from time to time and then he would not read it anymore because it seemed like a disaster at times. He stated that there was a document in the back of the room that stated that the Board would work for the betterment of the Fayette County citizens. He stated that he was pleased that the Board had worked with one another for the past 12 months.

In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, accommodations are available for those who are hearing impaired and/or in need of a wheelchair. The Board of Commissioners Agenda and supporting material for each item is available on-line through the County's website at www.fayettecountyga.gov. This meeting will be telecast on Comcast Cable Channel 23 and on the internet at www.livestream.com.

He stated that the Fayette County Library had an event about three months ago where he and twenty students had the opportunity to connect with a NASA astronaut. He stated that the program was televised world-wide and that he told the director that he did not think she could top what she had already done. He stated that the county had a great library and he encouraged citizens to go visit the library.

The Sheriff's office had new facility that was being completed and the opening ceremony would be around January 11.

He continued that Mr. Frank Gardner had brought up the murals. He stated that around February he told Mr. Rapson that the Administration Complex needed to be pressure washed, a new parking lot, new paint and the light poles fixed. He stated that Mr. Rapson told him, at the time, that staff was already working on it. He stated that the Administration Complex had a completely different feel and it looked wonderful.

Kenwood Phase II had a new bathroom installed. He stated that there were projects all over the county being completed. He stated that GDOT had resurfaced some of the road in the county. He stated that there was a bridge at Whitewater Creek that would hopefully be done soon.

He stated that the Commissioners can do a little, here and there, but that it was the 750 employees that do this for the citizens of Fayette County. He stated that the Commissioners direct some of the pieces, but that the boots on the ground were the employees. He stated that they were a fine excellent group all the way up to the County Administrator. He thanked the county employees for the work that they do and that he hoped that 2018 would be an even better year.

He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Commissioner Brown commended Chairman Maxwell on how he ran the meetings. He stated that as an elected official all that was asked was a fair playing field and an opportunity to state their individual views. He stated that the Board may not always agree, but that there had been excellent debates on issues and discussions and he owed the Chairman a debt of gratitude for that.

Commissioner Rousseau stated that he did an HOA Bootcamp and over 300 people attended from metro Atlanta. He stated that there were four people who walked up to him and stated that they did not live in this county, but that they used the library. He stated that bringing up the issue of how well the library staff received people and provided customer care...he echoed the sentiment.

Vice Chairman Ognio wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Notice of Executive Session: County Attorney Dennis Davenport stated that there was one item involving threatening litigation, one item involving pending litigation and the review of the Executive Session minutes for October 26, 2017.

One Item of Threatening Litigation, One Item of Pending Litigation and Review of the October 26, 2017 Executive Session Minutes: Vice Chairman Ognio moved to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Rousseau seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Oddo was absent.

The Board recessed into Executive Session at 10:19 p.m. and returned to Official Session at 10:27 p.m.

Return to Official Session and Approval to Sign the Executive Session Affidavit: Vice Chairman Ognio moved to return to Official Session and for the Chairman to sign the Executive Session Affidavit. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Oddo was absent.

Approval of the October 26, 2017 Executive Session Minutes: Vice Chairman Ognio moved to approve the October 26, 2017 Executive Session Minutes. Commissioner Brown seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Oddo was absent.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Brown moved to adjourn the December 14, 2017 Board of Commissioners meeting. Vice Chairman Ognio seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Oddo was absent.

The December 14, 2017 Board of Commissioners meeting adjourned at 10:28 p.m.

Tameca P. White, County Clerk

Eric K. Maxwell, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, held on the 11th day of January 2018. Referenced attachments are available upon request at the County Clerk's Office.

Tameca P. White, County Clerk