

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 Board Retreat

April 19, 2018
8:30 a.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

Vice Chairman Ognio called the April 19, 2018 Board of Commissioners retreat to order at 8:39 a.m. Chairman Eric Maxwell was absent from the meeting.

Acceptance of Agenda

Commissioner Charles Oddo moved to approve the agenda as written. Commissioner Steve Brown seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Chairman Maxwell was not present.

Vice Chairman Ognio turned the meeting over to County Administrator Steve Rapson.

A number of elected officials, constitutional officers, board members and non-profit organizations gave brief presentations. A copy of the PowerPoint presentations, identified as "Attachment 1," is made an official part hereof.

There were no votes on the presented information.

SPLOST Implementation Overview – Environmental Management Assistant Director Bryan Keller

Mr. Keller presentation included a "walk-through" of the newly implemented SPLOST website. The goal of the website was to provide a report card of the projects, transparency and to provide an easy to follow format to maneuver through the website. He continued with the website presentation.

Commissioner Rousseau stated that this website presentation would be a good presentation to have for the budget workshop.

Mr. Keller thanked all those involved in getting the website created and maintained. The website contained 2017 SPLOST projects and information regarding road closures. Commissioner Brown suggested adding the website page to the press releases regarding the road closures to get citizens accustomed to going to the page.

A request for a SPLOST Facebook page of projects in progress and completed projects. It would be an information only page that would not accept comments, but direct inquiries to the Environmental Management office.

Commissioner Brown commended staff on doing an incredible job of getting information to citizens and making it user friendly. He stated that it was a great improvement from eight years ago. He stated that it was remarkable.

Transportation Project Delivery Overview – Public Works Director Phil Mallon begin the briefing by asking for the Board's feedback on what type of information was desired when updating them on the projects. Commissioner Brown stated that he did not like when a project was introduced and there was approval to move forward and then the Board does not hear anything about the project for four or five months.

Mr. Mallon stated that he could provide quarterly reports to allow him to report more specific details of the project. He also suggested adding a flow chart of the project with a timeline, so that the Board could see if the project was nearing completion.

Commissioner Rousseau stated that it should be added to the agenda on a quarterly basis.

Vice Chairman Ognio stated that he liked seeing it in the Administrator's Report so that the Board can ask questions and have them addressed before putting questionable information out to the public.

Mr. Rapson stated that staff would do the quarterly report and the Board can decide if it was effective.

Commissioner Brown stated that he would like to invite Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to the Board meeting to discuss the bridge project at Starr's Mill.

Staff was instructed to add the four-lane of Highway 85 to the agenda for discussion.

Break (9:25am – 9:57am)

Sheriff – Sheriff Barry Babb stated that the firing range was active. He gave an update of the Sheriff's office. He stated that the budget request for 2019 was for School Resource Officers (SRO) in the schools.

Vice Chairman Ognio asked how much funding was provided from the Board of Education (BOE). Sheriff Babb stated that the BOE provided half the salary for ten months out of the year.

Sheriff Babb stated that the shooting range was active and doing great. He stated that he had learned a lot about "sound" and using barriers to limit the sound travel.

Commissioner Rousseau made comments regarding the Sheriff's office community outreach and for being available to citizens and addressing citizen's concerns.

Sheriff Babb stated that his office continues to transition from the Dodge Chargers to other vehicles.

Coroner – Coroner Bee Huddleston and Assistant to the Coroner Lee Ellen Gaston. Mr. Huddleston introduced Deputy Coroner Jim Eason. Ms. Gaston gave a brief presentation that included statistics of reported deaths, manner of deaths, case load comparison, reasons for increase in case load and budget request. The request included the Maintenance and Operations cost; EMC for Electricity (approx. \$700), Basic Supplies (Cleaning Needs \$200, Office Supplies \$200) and an increase in the training budget of \$240.00.

Commissioner Rousseau stated that he would like for the Coroner office to coordinate with the Department of Public Health to incorporate these numbers into trends. He stated that he would be sharing with the Board the desire to hold a Health Summit in September or October to educate citizens on where resources are available. Ms. Gaston stated that they have coordinated with the high school and sent the deputy coroners to speak to students, worked with the Arm Forces Mission on suicide statistics and others.

Promise Place – Promise Place Fundraiser Officer Hortense Jackson and Senior Legal Advocate Jessica Smith led the presentation. The presentation included a background of the organization, services provided, certifications, Georgia and county statistics, effects of domestic violence in the community and funding request.

Vice Chairman Ognio asked if Promise Place received funding from the Griffin Judicial Circuit. Ms. Jackson stated not directly from the Circuit, but that a lot of the funding came from the State, grants and fundraising.

Mr. Rapson stated that the budget request was 3% increase for counseling and 5% increase for Fayette Options. He stated that the county contributes \$136,000 for counseling, so the increase would be roughly \$4,000 and for Fayette Options the county contributes \$67,000 which was roughly \$3,000 increase. He stated that the question was if Fayette County was contributing funds, are the other jurisdictions contributing and was Fayette contributing based on the number served and he did not believe that was the case.

Ms. Smith stated that the grants received for the other counties were used in that particular county. It was her understanding that the funds requested in Fayette were for Fayette because this was where the greater need was since the organization was homed in Fayette.

Mr. Rapson stated that Promise Place was eligible for the Victims Assistance grant program which was currently ran by District Attorney. He stated that he would connect the two and determine if there should be some sharing of funds.

Vice Chairman Ognio asked to see Financial Statements for Promise Place. Ms. Jackson stated that they could give the Board a copy of the audit report.

Fayette County Development Authority – Chairman Darryl Hicks and President Joan Young were present for the presentation. Ms. Young stated that the budget was based on \$4.25 per capita for each municipality and the county. She stated that everyone participated at 100%. The presentation topics included the 2017 projects overview and 2018-2019 readiness; land availability/suitability.

The budget request was the same as previous years and based on population.

Commissioner Brown commended the Development Authority for recruiting and bringing companies into the county and showing them the assets in the county. Mr. Hicks stated that there will be another Developers Day on April 25, where about 20 key people who make the decision about where the projects will be located.

Mr. Rapson stated that the tax incentive intergovernmental agreement had been approved and should be on the Board's agenda in May or June.

Commissioner Rousseau stated that when "big boxes" in areas are available, that staff considers ways to utilize the space possibly for recreation or other uses, so that they don't sit empty. He stated that he asked the Development Authority to look, innovatively, at the Administrative Complex for either upgrades or possibly moving as the City of Fayetteville looked at redesigning the downtown area. He stated that the area was not originally designed for office space and that the county would not be good stewards if we prevent the use of the area. He stated that the Board needed to have that conversation. He stated that it would run the risk of Pinewood being the downtown area.

Mr. Rapson stated that in his conversations with Mayor Johnson, now that the city was moving over to the new school location, that they would rather the county offices remain at the Administration Complex. He stated that he and the City Manager was working to coordinate a joint meeting between the city council and county commissioners to discuss.

Mr. Hicks stated that there were some tax allocation districts that should be viewed. He stated those incentives could help big businesses locate in Fayette.

Court Administrator – Court Administrator Will Simmons stated that he represented the Superior Court, Juvenile Court and Drug Court.

He stated that the Juvenile Court increase was for about \$2,000. The Drug Court was based on State grants and that nothing changed. He stated that for Superior Court there was a request for staff attorneys. He stated that there were four in Superior Court and the request was to bring them to \$60,000. He stated that there was one State paid law clerk for the Chief Judge, at a salary of \$45,800 and he was requesting that he be supplemented to bring the salary to \$60,000. He stated that the other request was from Judge Edwards who was asking for a supplement increase. He thanked the Board for what was done last year and that the request was to be increased to the maximum supplement of \$50,000.

Mr. Rapson stated that pay parity was a different issue. Mr. Simmons stated that the law clerks are licensed attorneys. He stated that this was based on qualification and education.

Mr. Rapson stated that the analysis had not been done on whether the savings from eliminating the transcriptionist was equivalent to the requested supplement increase. He stated that he would let the Board know. Mr. Simmons stated that they were losing two transcriptionists at \$25,000 and if this works out they will be losing another one which would free up another salary plus benefits.

Vice Chairman Ognio asked if this was tied into Judge Thompson's request. Mr. Rapson stated that it was a different issue. He stated that Judge Thompson's request was not tied to the Superior Court Judge's supplement. He stated that Judge Thompson's salary and the Solicitor's salary was tied to the Superior Court Judge's salary.

Fayette Senior Services – Fayette Senior Services Director of Operations Daniel Gibbs stated that Fayette Senior Services (FSS) would be celebrating the 40th anniversary on July 26. There are 2,200 members, 5,000 meals served and 3,000 meals through the Ultimate Café. The current budget was approximately \$1.9 million and \$853,000 at the Life Enrichment Center which are self-supported, \$75,000 in case management and \$400,000 in transportation. He expressed that there will be limited grant funding for the upcoming year. The request was to catch up the deficit that FSS was experiencing with a 20% increase (5% to catch up, 5% inflation, 5% more seniors and 5% increased service levels. The request included a 10% increase each year going forward.

Mr. Rapson stated that \$106,000 more than last year; the breakdown: \$33,000 for transportation, \$41,000 other funding programs shortfalls, \$32,000 for extended Saturday hours.

Commissioner Rousseau instructed staff to include, in the final numbers, the contributions from other jurisdictions, if any. He wanted to staff to also consider including the vehicles into the county's fleet and include in the vehicle replacement schedule.

Mr. Gibbs stated that Atlanta Region Commission's (ARC) advocate added language in the transit bill that senior transportation services, such as Fayette Senior Services could be funded through the transit funding.

Lunch (11:59am – 1:16pm)

McIntosh Trail CSB/Fayette Community Options/Fayette County Counseling Center – Chief Executive Officer Stefanie Jackson stated that the funding request for 2019 was for additional funding 3% increase in funding which would be used in awareness campaigns targeting stakeholders, community members and potential clients and to make some aesthetic enhancements for a fresh appeal to clients. For Fayette Community Options the request was for 5% increase in funding which would be used in awareness campaigns targeting stakeholders, community members and potential clients and to provide more accessible space for clients – county owned building.

She stated that the State did not provide funding for marketing to allow them to have a community presence so that citizens would know what services are available. She stated that she was asking all the counties to give an increase in funding. She stated that she would like to see if the county had a one-story building that they could consider using instead of having the two-story building they currently operate in.

Mr. Rapson stated that he would have Mr. Christian have someone to come over and evaluate the building to see what could be done in terms of painting and repairs.

Commissioner Rousseau stated that he would like to have McIntosh Trail Community Service Board added to the proposed Health Summit later in the fall.

Commissioner Brown commended Ms. Jackson for the work she had accomplished so far as the CEO of McIntosh Trail CSB.

Clerk of Courts – Clerk of Courts Shelia Studdard stated that she was requesting an increase in jury personnel. She stated that she was aware of the budgetary impact. She stated that the jury cases are increasing.

Mr. Rapson stated that the position was a Deputy Clerk I to handle the jury calendar.

State Court Judge – Judge Jason Thompson stated that State Court was very busy. He stated that there had been conversation regarding adding a second judge to run more cases. He stated that it would be a senior judge to run court.

He continued that he had two requests. The first request was for the allowance of \$3,600 to cover phone, travel and miscellaneous as the other elected officials are receiving. Mr. Rapson stated that it was a \$300/month stipend that they receive which was mandated in state law for the other positions and for some reason State Court Judge was not one of those.

County Attorney Dennis Davenport stated that not all jurisdictions have a State Court and if a State Court was put in place, it was put in place by legislation specific for that jurisdiction and if there was no language put in place for a stipend then they do not receive a stipend.

Mr. Rapson stated that a stipend would require an approval by the Board.

Judge Thompson stated that the DUI Court was very successful and that it not only saved lives, it saved money. He stated that the county matched about \$15,000 - \$20,000 for DUI Court and saved \$250,000. He continued that with Drug Court the judges receive a Drug Court stipend. He stated that he was requesting to be treated the same and to receive a stipend for overseeing the DUI Court. The stipend amount was \$6,000 yearly.

Mr. Rapson stated that the request was also for a case manager to be funded through the Fund 219. He stated that with the accountability court, there was a \$6,000 supplement given to the Superior Court judges that was funded through the Griffin Judicial Circuit, yet Judge Thompson was the one running DUI Court and he was not receiving the stipend.

Commissioner Rousseau asked would it be something that should be added to the legislative package to change the language to have the State Court Judge also receive the stipend.

Mr. Davenport stated that there was no general law that effects all State Court Judges, like there was for all Superior Court Judges. He stated that each State Court jurisdiction was set up by its own jurisdiction.

Magistrate Court – Judge Robert “Bob” Ruppenthal introduced the judges present. He continued that there was only one request from the Magistrate Court. He stated that he was requesting one new position; law clerk. He stated that it was an important role for the court and would be a full-time position.

Vice Chairman Ognio asked if the Magistrate Court Judge proposed handling Town of Tyrone cases was discussed during the Service Delivery Strategy (SDS). Mr. Rapson stated no. He continued that he would not consider it an official request, but rather the mayor doing some exploratory checking.

Judge Ruppenthal stated that he was contacted by the town clerk and he informed the town clerk that the Town of Tyrone would have to contact the Board of Commissioners to make a formal request. He stated that about a year later, the Town of Tyrone requested that he do it. He stated that he did encourage the Town of Tyrone to get with the county.

Mr. Rapson stated that Mayor Dial had not considered that if the county’s Magistrate Judge handled the case, that the revenue would come to the county and not to the Town of Tyrone.

Judge Ruppenthal stated that taking that on would mean an impact to the Clerk of Courts staff as well.

Mr. Rapson stated that in aggregate, it was moving one person at \$63,000.

Commissioner Brown stated that he wanted to be sure that the Board had the supporting documents for the request and that Judge Ruppenthal might want to be present at one of the budget hearings.

Break (2:26pm – 2:45pm)

Fayette FACTOR-Family Connection (Non-Profit Proposal) – Executive Director of Fayette FACTOR Becky Smith, Former AVPride Member Dawn Oparah and Beverly Thomas.

Mrs. Smith stated that she came before the Board in November and asked the Board to table the discussion of providing funds to the non-profits organizations in Fayette County. She stated that they had met with the non-profit base in the county and done their homework on a non-profit proposal.

She continued that there were five non-profits in Fayette County that were mandated to receive funds from the county. She stated that there were over 30 non-profits within Fayette County. The presentation covered data of the need in Fayette County, funding and transportation are the greatest needs of non-profits and grants are becoming harder to obtain.

Mrs. Smith stated that the proposal was for FACTOR to be appointed as the lead of a non-profit grant program. She stated that it would allow for a collaboration of resources between the non-profits. It would also allow a trained volunteer review panel an opportunity to review applications and make funding recommendations to the Board.

Mrs. Oparah addressed the proposed criteria and grant process for applying for county assistance. This would only cover non-profits that assist with basic human needs. The request was to establish a Collaborative Grant Management Program, led by the office of FACTOR and to provide \$100,000 funding to establish the grant for the administration of funds through a third-party entity for the local non-profits that provide human services in Fayette County.

Commissioner Brown stated that he was willing to fund FACTOR last year and that he supported the work that FACTOR was doing. He stated that philosophically he did not like the direction that this proposal was going. He stated that from his perspective he needed to be the one to say where the money was going because he was the one that was ultimately responsible for the money. He stated that he would rather that the Board would use the criteria and decide where the money would go.

Mrs. Oparah stated that FACTOR would do the vetting and then a recommendation would come back to the Board to make a decision. She stated that it would not be approved without the Board.

Commissioner Brown stated that there was a list of organization that were serving a purpose that the county should be covering. He stated that he did not see why there needed to be a panel to make a recommendation because that was the responsibility of the Board.

Mrs. Oparah stated that was the reason for requesting that the agenda item be tabled, so that they could come back with a method for the vetting process.

Commissioner Brown stated that this was for a \$100,000 request and that the other requests were being made by other departments, agencies and officials that must be funded.

Mrs. Smith stated that they had done their due diligence.

Commissioner Rousseau stated that the Board would take the proposal and if the Board was willingly to go down this road, come back and discuss what dollars would be allocated. He stated that he would like to see an employee contribution fund and have the county do a match to contribute funds. Mrs. Oparah stated that it could be extended to the community as well.

Commissioner Oddo asked Mrs. Smith how they would be compensated for their part in the proposed vetting process. She stated that best practices did show an administrative fee be included for administrating the services. The discussion ended.

Commissioner Rousseau left the meeting.

Board of Health/Health Department – Environmental Health Director Robert Kurbes, County Nurse Manager Angie Nutt and Teresa McDaniel made a presentation. Mr. Kurbes led the presentation with an overview of services provided, the patient trends, health services trends, projected growth in services and goals. He stated that the budget funding for the health department was made up of 30% from the State for mandated services provided, 16% from the county and 54% from fees. He expressed that the current facility impacted the ability to expand services. He stated that Peachtree City currently allowed for a satellite location for services.

Ms. Nutt stated that the WIC office had also outgrown their location. She stated that the clients who use the Fayette location was for anyone from any county.

Mr. Kurbes stated that the budget request for fiscal year 2019 was the same as previous years, \$275,360. He stated that he was asking for the Board's consideration and assistance in finding a facility to provide better services.

Commissioner Brown stated that he wondered if the City of Fayetteville had some space with all the maneuvering that they were doing.

Mr. Rapson stated that it was possible. He stated that the county really did not have anything that would accommodate them. He stated that he looked at some of the departments adjacent to the health department to determine if they could be moved, but there was not enough space available.

Commissioner Brown instructed staff to have a discussion with the City of Fayetteville about space that may be available.

Planning Commission – Planning Commission Chair Brian Haren stated that there were some issues that have come before the Planning Commission that the opportunity to speak with the Board, may have alleviated some confusion. He stated that when there were issues that the Planning Commission would like to explain to the Board prior to a Board meeting, that the Board would allow for a meeting to sit down and make sure they understood it.

Commissioner Brown stated that it would be good to have the Planning Commission at the Board meetings as well. He continued that he would like to see a plan from the Planning Commission of areas for multi-use paths.

Planning and Zoning Director Pete Frisina stated that Phil Mallon was working on a plan for the county and once in place they could work on the ordinances.

Mr. Al Gilbert stated that he would like to have the Planning Commission take a good long look at the land use plan because they never really had the opportunity to take a good look at it. Mr. Haren stated that he supported Mr. Gilbert's request.

Zoning Board of Appeals – Chair Marsha Hopkins shared some issues that have come up lately; the front yard/side yard, internet auto sales and setbacks.

Commissioner Brown asked why the number was so high for appeals. He stated that sometimes he felt it was an emotional decision.

Ms. Hopkins stated that she was not familiar with the case that Commissioner Brown was referring to.

There was continued discussion on flag lots and corner lots.

Ms. Hopkins asked if the ZBA could get county badges to wear when visiting properties. Mr. Rapson stated yes and that they could go to Human Resource to get those.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Charles Oddo moved to adjourn the April 19, 2018 Board of Commissioners retreat. Commissioner Brown seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Rousseau was not present.

Tameca P. White, County Clerk

Randy Ognio, Vice Chairman

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, held on the 10th of May 2018. Referenced attachments are available upon request at the County Clerk's Office.

Tameca P. White, County Clerk