

**THE CALLED MEETING OF THE  
CRAWFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, 26 JANUARY 2016**

**THE CALLED MEETING OF THE CRAWFORD COUNTY BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:00 P.M.**

The following members were present: Mr. Paul Chapman (Chairman), Mr. Bobby Blasingame (V-Chair), Mr. John Thomas, Mr. Sterling Braswell and Mr. Justin Spillers.

**INVOCATION GIVEN BY MR. JUSTIN SPILLERS**

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

Mr. Chapman asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Spillers made the motion. Motion was seconded by Mr. Braswell. Motion carried 5-0

**FIRST ON THE AGENDA**

**Board Appointments: *Board of Health***

Mr. Chapman asked for a motion to re-appoint Dr. Freddy Gatton as the Consumer Advocate and Mrs. Barbara Rowell as the "Advocate for the Needy" for a six year term to the Board of Health.

Mr. Braswell made the motion. Mr. Thomas seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**SECOND ON THE AGENDA**

**Consolidation: *City / County***

Mr. Kelly introduced Mrs. Laura Mathis, Mr. Sam Parrin, and Mr. Jonathan Connell (Middle Georgia Regional Commission) and stated they would be assisting the County and City to create a charter for the proposed Consolidated Government.

Mrs. Mathis and her team addressed the issue of:

- a. Administration*
- b. Judiciary*
- c. Revenue and Finance*
- d. General Provisions*
- e. Transition Provisions*
- f. Transition Plan and Schedule*

The following reflects those questions and answers after much discussion:

### **III: Administration**

- Will you have an Administrator or a Manager? **MANAGER**
  
- Who will the chief law enforcement officer be? **SHERIFF**
  - o Police Chief? **NO.**
  - o Sheriff? **YES.**
  
- Judge of the Probate Court, Clerk of Superior Court, Tax Commissioner, Sheriff, Coroner, Surveyor, and Magistrate will remain officers of Roberta-Crawford County. **SURVEYOR IS APPOINTED BY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.**
  
- Will you establish a new system of departments by ordinance? Will there be a deadline for such an ordinance to be adopted? **CONTINUE THE COUNTY DEPARTMENTS. ABSORB CITY AND COUNTY EMPLOYEES IN TOTAL TO FIT INTO THE EXISTING STRUCTURE WITH PAY SCALES.**
  
- Will you create a new personnel classification system and pay plan? **UTILIZE THE SYSTEM ADOPTED BY COUNTY AFTER SALARY EVALUATION AND ADJUSTEMENT AS NEEDED.**
  
- Will all boards, commissions, and authorities of Roberta or Crawford County continue? **ALL BOARDS CREATED BY THE CRAWFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSION AND CITY OF ROBERTA MAYOR AND COUNCIL WILL CONTINUE. HOWEVER, THOSE POSITIONS APPOINTED BY THE CRAWFORD COUNTY BOC WILL BE REAPPOINTED UPON EXPIRATION BY THE NEW CONSOLIDATED COMMISSION AND ALL THOSE POSITIONS APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF ROBERTA WILL BE REAPPOINTED UPON EXPIRATION BY THE NEW CONSOLIDATED COMMISSION. ALL POSITIONS PREVIOUSLY HELD BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSION AND THE MAYOR OF THE CITY WILL BE HELD BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NEW CONSOLIDATED COMMISSION.**
  
- Will you have a pension plan? **YES. THE CONSOLIDATED COMMISSION WILL CONTINUE TO USE THE PRESENT PENSION PLAN THAT IS BEING UTILIZED FOR CRAWFORD COUNTY EMPLOYEES. ANY CITY OF ROBERTA PENSION PLAN WILL CONTINUE TO BE SUPPORTED FOR THOSE EMPLOYEES BUT ALL NEW HIRES WILL COME UNDER THE CURRENT COUNTY PLAN THAT WILL BECOME THE NEW CONSOLIDATED COMMISSION PLAN.**

### **IV: Judiciary**

- Probate Court, Magistrate Court, and Superior Court stay in effect? **YES.**
- Will you keep or abolish Municipal Court? **If abolished, you will need to provide for the transfer of cases to one of the other courts. ABOLISH. TRANSFER TO PROBATE AND MAGISTRATE DEPENDING ON THE ISSUE JUST LIKE CASES IN UNINCORPORATED CRAWFORD COUNTY ARE ISSUE DEPENDENT AS TO WHICH COURT HANDLES PRESENTLY.**

### **VI: Revenue and Finance**

- Provides the power and authority of the new government to levy/collect taxes, charges, assessments and fees for the new government. **YES.**
- Creation of service tax districts? **NOT AT THIS TIME BUT THE CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE THE ABILITY TO CREATE SPECIAL TAX DISTRICTS, ETC...**
  - o General Services District: Total area of Crawford County; taxes to perform services within entire boundary. **YES.**
  - o Special Services District: Former Roberta boundary; would allow for the collection higher levels of service to formerly incorporated areas. **NOT AT THIS TIME BUT AUTHORITY SHOULD REST IN CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT TO SET AS DETERMINED NECESSARY.**
- Any indebtedness held by either government would be the responsibility of the newly consolidated government (possible to obligate to service districts). **YES.**
- All contracts, leases, and bonds will continue. **YES.**
- When will the fiscal year start and end? **OCTOBER 1.**
- Governing Board will adopt annual budget and provide for annual audit as required by O.C.G.A. **YES.**

#### **VII: General Provisions**

- What laws from previous governments will apply to newly consolidated government? **THE TRANSITION TEAM WILL EVALUATE EXISTING CITY AND COUNTY ORDINANCES AND RECOMMENDS A SET OF SAME TO NEW GOVERNMENT UPON SAME TAKING OFFICE.**
- What powers from previous governments will apply to newly consolidated government? **NEED GUIDANCE – HOME RULE FOR COUNTY VERSUS CITY. WHAT POWERS ARE ONLY AVAILABLE BY MUNICIPAL CHARTER? WE WANT ALL HOME RULE POWERS FOR COUNTIES PLUS ANY POWERS ONLY ALLOWABLE BY CHARTER. PREFERABLE FOR CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT TO RETAIN ALL POWERS OF BOTH FORMER GOVERNMENTS.**
- Will the new governing authority be charged with adopting a new code of ordinances? **THE NEW GOVERNING AUTHORITY WILL BE CHARGED WITH REVISING THE EXISTING COUNTY AND CITY CODES OF ORDINANCES AS NEEDED.**

#### **VIII: Transition Provisions**

- What services from the city and county would be provided under consolidation? **THE CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ALL SERVICES PRESENTLY PROVIDED BY THE CITY AND COUNTY. HOWEVER, THERE WOULD BE NO REDUNDANCY. THAT IS ONE DEPARTMENT FOR EACH OF LAW ENFORCEMENT, WATER AND SEWER, ROADS, GROUNDS, ELECTIONS, ADMINISTRATION, FIRE PROTECTION, PLANNING AND ZONING, ETC...**

- Will any reductions in force occur as a result of consolidation? **POSSIBLE. EMPLOYMENT WOULD NOT BE A GAURANTEE.**
- When will the charter become effective? (Election of governing delegation or specific date?) **THE REGIONAL COMMISSION WOULD PUT TOGETHER VARIOUS TIMELINES IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THE BEST APPROACH.**
- How will transition occur? **THE CITY AND COUNTY GOVERNMENTS WILL CONTIONUE TO OPERATE INDEPENDENTLY UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE NEWLY ELECTED AND SWORN IN GOVERNING AUTHROITY HAS TAKEN OFFICE. AT THAT TIME, THE NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD BE CHARGED WITH HIRING A CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT MANAGER TO UNDERTAKE THE TRANSITION. ANTICIAPTED 6 MONTH PROCESS. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT MANY MEETINGS WILL OCCUR BETWEEN THE TIME OF THE ELECTION OF THE NEW COMMISSIONERS AND THE SWEARING IN OF THE NEW COMMISSIONERS SUCH THAT DECISIONS CAN BE MADE BY THE PEOPLE WHO WILL BE IN CHARGE AT THAT TIME.**
- Will both local codes of ordinances remain in force? Until which date? **YES AND UNTIL SUCH DATE AS THE NEW GOVERNMENT CHANGES OR AMENDS THEM. IF CONFLICT, COUNTY CODE GOVERNS.**

#### **Appendix: Transition Plan and Schedule**

- Majority vote of county residents *and* of city residents is required for consolidation referendum to pass. **YES.**
- If referendum to consolidate is approved, a transition team is needed. Who will make up this team?
  - o Examples: City Clerk, County Manager, Attorneys, representatives from governing bodies, appointed members, public members (choose the size and qualifications)
  - o Chairman selected from among the transition team.
- Transition team will be responsible for:
  - o Advising the new government until newly elected officials assume responsibilities; and
  - o Presenting data, information, and options for newly-elected officials when they take office
- ***Transition team will not make binding decisions for the new government. Transition Team will simply evaluate and recommend.***


Mrs. Mathis thanked everyone for participating and reminded the Board members and audience that the next meeting was scheduled for 09 February 2016.

**Adjourn:**

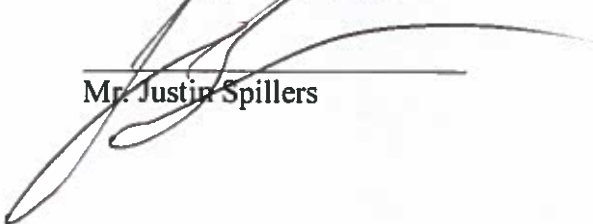
There being no further business, Mr. Chapman asked for a motion to adjourn the 26 January 2016 Called Meeting of the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Spillers made the motion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Braswell. Motion carried 5-0 and the Board adjourned at 7:40 p.m.


**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**THE CALLED MEETING OF THE  
CRAWFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, 26 JANUARY 2016**

  
Mr. Paul Chapman – Chairman

  
Mr. Blasingame – V. Chairman

  
Mr. Justin Spillers

  
Mr. John Thomas

  
Mr. Sterling Braswell

  
Attest – County Manager