

**THE CALLED MEETING OF THE
CRAWFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WEDNESDAY, 15 DECEMBER 2015**

**THE CALLED MEETING OF THE CRAWFORD COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 4:40 P.M.**

The following members were present: Mr. Paul Chapman (Chairman), Mr. Bobby Blasingame (Vice-Chairman), Mr. John Thomas, and Mr. Justin Spiller.

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. Blasingame. Motion carried 4-0

Mr. Chapman introduced as special guests Representative Robert Dickey, State Senator John Kennedy, and Mrs. Laura Mathis from the Middle Georgia Regional Commission.

FIRST ON THE AGENDA

Consolidation: City / County

Mr. Kelly gave a brief overview of prior meetings and the discussions involving the possibility of consolidating the County governments. Those points of conversation were as follows:

T-SPLOST: The topic discussed the impact of a Regional SPLOST versus a local SPLOST and the impact on the County.

Property Tax Values: An overview outlining declining property values was presented. Those values were declining due to the aging of manufactured homes and the use of conservation tax breaks.

Franchise Tax: Mr. Kelly discussed the impact of a utility franchise tax to the consolidated government. He went on to say that the consolidated government could create a charter that would allow for a franchise tax that would raise approximately \$800,000 of new revenues.

Reduction of Property Taxes: Mr. Kelly stated that should the governments consolidate the City's millage rate would roll back to the County rate. This reduction would equal 7.74 mills for City residents. As part of the Charter the County could also guarantee a millage roll back of up to 1.5 over a five year period.

Job Security: Mr. Kelly stated that a consolidated government could absorb all employees from both governments.

City Representation: The current district map is drawn in such a way that the city would be represented by three of the five districts.

CDBG Grants: A unified government would have the ability to tackle large projects that would require multiple grants over consecutive years. Currently the city and county are eligible for these type grants every two years.

Elimination of Redundant Services: A unified government could eliminate redundant services such as Planning and Zoning, Judicial Services, Police, Water, Fire, Elections, and Administration.

Mr. Braswell arrives at the meeting.

Mr. Kelly requested Mrs. Laura Mathis to speak about the consolidation process and the creation of a consolidated charter.

Mrs. Mathis stated that there were many options on how the process could proceed. She stated that it would be up to Representative Dickey to introduce the legislation in order to consolidate. Prior to that it would be necessary to have an understanding of what the charter for the new government may look like. Mrs. Mathis handed out an outline (See Attachment) with the various issues that would need to be addressed in order to proceed in the drafting of a consolidated charter.

After some discussion of how to proceed it was decided that the Mayor and the City Council would work to answer the various questions. The Board of Commissioners would also work on the various questions. Once completed the two entities would compare answers and determine where there may be differences and how best to proceed

Mr. Dickey requested that Mrs. Mathis and the Regional Commission guide the process to completion. Mrs. Mathis stated that they would be happy to assist and would begin compiling the necessary information beginning the first of the New Year.

SECOND ON THE AGENDA

Old Courthouse:

Mr. Dickey stated that he would like to see the Old Courthouse (Knoxville) renovation continue. He went on to say that he would work with the Historical Foundation to locate possible grant monies to aid in that effort.

THIRD ON THE AGENDA

Extension Office:

Mr. Dickey requested the Board consider allocated funds for building repairs to the Extension office. He went on to say that the County now had a full time extension officer that is being funded by the University of Georgia and funds from the State. He requested that the County inspect the building and address any repair issues that may need attention.

FOURTH ON THE AGENDA

Adjourn:

There being no further business, Mr. Chapman asked for a motion to adjourn the 15 December 2015 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 5:40 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

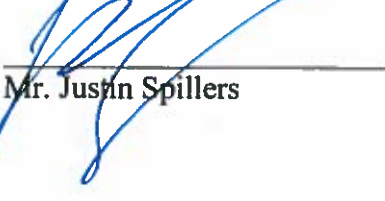
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Mr. Paul Chapman - Chairman



Mr. Blasingame - V. Chairman



Mr. Justin Spillers



Mr. John Thomas



Mr. Sterling Braswell



Attest - County Manager