

**THE CALLED MEETING OF THE  
CRAWFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
WEDNESDAY, 12 JANUARY 2016**

**THE CALLED MEETING OF THE CRAWFORD COUNTY BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:02 P.M.**

The following members were present: Mr. Paul Chapman (Chairman), Mr. John Thomas, Mr. Sterling Braswell and Mr. Justin Spiller.

INVOCATION GIVEN BY MR. BRASWELL

**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 4-0

**FIRST 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 reminded the Board that the process would take a few meetings to address the various issues of a Consolidated Government and at the end of the process a consensus on how the new government should look and function could be reached.

Mrs. Mathis and her team addressed the issue of "Consolidation, Creation, Boundaries, Status, and Powers of Roberta/Crawford County". The following reflects those questions and answers after much discussion:

- All powers, duties, and functions of the City of Roberta and Crawford County will be consolidated into a single, new political entity: Roberta-Crawford County. **YES**
- Boundaries will include the existing limits of Crawford County. **YES**
- Government will be both Municipal Corporation and county throughout the entire boundaries. **YES**
- Will hold rights, powers, duties, and authority granted to cities, counties, and both under Georgia law. **MUST HAVE CITY CHARACTERISTICS FOR PURPOSE OF COLLECTING FRANCHISE FEES. ARE THERE ANY OTHER SPECIFIC REASONS TO STRUCTURE LIKE CITY VERSUS COUNTY?**

**MOST SIMPLE CONSOLIDATION WOULD RETAIN THE ELECTED POSITIONS OF CRAWFORD COUNTY AND THE COUNTY OFFICES TO ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF BOTH CITY AND COUNTY.**

Mrs. Mathis then addressed the issues of the Governing Authority and its structure and powers. The following reflects those questions and answers after much discussion:

- Structure
  - o What will you call the governing authority? (i.e. Commission, Council) **ROBERTA-CRAWFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
  - o What title will its elected officials hold? **CHAIRMAN, VICE CHAIRMAN, COMMISSIONER**
  - o How many members will the governing authority have? **FIVE**
  - o Will the chief elected official be a Chair or a Mayor? **NO. BOARD OF COMMISSIONER APPOINTED COMMISSION CHAIR**
    - How much power does the Chair or Mayor have? **CHAIRS THE COMMISSION MEETINGS AND WILL BE THE COMMISSIONER WHO IS APPOINTED TO VARIOUS BOARDS (REGIONAL COMMISSION/DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY/BOARD OF HEALTH) UNLESS THE CHAIRMAN SO APPOINTS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE BOARD TO SERVE IN HIS STEAD.**
      - Veto power? **NO**
      - Voting power? **YES**
      - Power to appoint staff? **NO. MAJORITY VOTE.**
      - Influence over day-to-day operations? **NO. MAJORITY VOTE. OPERATIONS HANDLED BY GOVERNMENT MANAGER.**
  - o Will there be other officers? (i.e. Vice-Chair, Mayor Pro-Tem) **YES. VICE CHAIR.**
  - o What will constitute a quorum? **Three (3)**
  - o How long will terms for elected officials be? **4 YEARS**
    - Will they be staggered? **YES. SAME AS COUNTY POSITIONS PRESENTLY.**
    - Will there be term limits? **NO.**

- Compensation
  - o Monthly amount? **\$12,000 PLUS COLAS. SAME AS PRESENT COMMISSION BASED ON ACCG CALCULATIONS AND RULES.**
  - o Same for all members or different for Chair/Mayor? **\$100 EXTRA FOR CHAIRMAN PER MONTH.**
- Meetings
  - o How often will meetings be held? **TWO TIMES PER MONTH. FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAYS EACH MONTH.**
  - o What is the procedure for special or called meetings? **THESE PROCEDURES SHOULD MIRROR THE OPEN MEETINGS RULES PRESENTLY GOVERNING CRAWFORD COUNTY. 24 HOUR NOTICES, POSTED ON BULLETIN IN COUNTY OFFICE AND COURTHOUSE. NEWSPAPER GETS COPY BUT PAPER ONLY RUNS ONCE PER WEEK.**
- Ethics
  - o No nepotism. **NOT A REQUIREMENT FOR NEW CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT.**
  - o No county employees can hold office. **Follow State Law for elected officials.**

Mrs. Mathis then addressed the issues of Elections and how they would be structured, election dates and districts. The following reflects those questions and answers after much discussion:

- All elections conducted in accordance with the "Georgia Election Code." **YES.**
- Initial officials of Roberta-Crawford County elected in special election (what date?). When would subsequent elections be held? **NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE LIMITATIONS ON EXISTING TERM LIMITS AND WHEN THEY CAN TERMINATE. THOUGHT IS TO HAVE COMMISSION DISTRICTS 2, 3, AND 4 ELECTED FOR 2 YEAR TERMS IN 2016 IN ANTICIPATION OF CONSOLIDATION. IF CONSOLIDATION FAILS, THE TERMS WILL BE EXTENDED TO 4 AND ALL WILL CONTINUE. IF CONSOLIDATION OCCURS, THEN ALL 5 CONSOLIDATED DISTRICTS WILL BE UP FOR RE-ELECTION IN 2018. AT WHICH POINT DISTRICTS 1 AND 5 COULD BE FOR 2 YEARS AND 2, 3, AND 4 FOR FOUR YEARS TO CREATE A STAGGER GOING FORWARD.**
- Election districts? **SAME AS COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICTS.**

Mrs. Mathis thanked everyone for participating and reminded the Board members and audience that the next meeting was scheduled for 26 January 2016.

**Adjourn:**

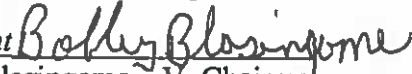
There being no further business, Mr. Chapman asked for a motion to adjourn the 12 January 2016 Called Meeting of the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Spillers made the motion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion carried 4-0 and the Board adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**THE CALLED MEETING OF THE  
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WEDNESDAY, 12 JANUARY 2016**



Mr. Paul Chapman - Chairman

*Absent*   
Mr. Blasingame - V. Chairman

  
Mr. Justin Spillers

Mr. John Thomas

  
Mr. Sterling Braswell  
Attest - County Manager