

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2014, AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING #2, 214 W. KING STREET

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

The Chairman called the meeting to order.
Pledge of allegiance to the Flag
Roll call to determine quorum

The following members were present:

Mike Babb, Chairman
Harold Brooker, Vice Chairman
Lynn Laughter, Member
Robby Staten, Member
Gordon Morehouse, Member

Others Present:

Mark Gibson, County Administrator
Citizens
Department Heads
Press

Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Staten to amend the agenda. The motion was approved 4-0.

6 items were added from the potential additional items; (Re-appointment to the Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Planning Board, Contract to Provide Transit Services to Southeasterns, Inc., Resolution ACCG Centennial, Sheriff's Office Purchase of 10 Full-Size Sedans, Appointment of Sidney Baxter to Senior Magistrate Judge, and RFP for Banking Services)

Motion was then made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the amended agenda. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Morehouse, Laughter, and Staten in agreement. Approval of the agenda was unanimous.

Mrs. Missy Williams was named the Whitfield County Employee of the Month for December 2013. Mrs. Williams works in the Tax Assessors Office.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made by Commissioner Morehouse and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to approve the Regular Business Meeting Minutes of January 14, 2014 and the Special Called Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2014. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Staten, Laughter and Morehouse in agreement.

PROCLAMATION

1. **Severe Weather Awareness Week** – Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Staten to proclaim February 3-7, 2014 as "Severe Weather Awareness Week" in Whitfield County, Georgia. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter Staten, and Morehouse in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "A")**

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

1. **Re-Appointment to the Northwest Georgia Trade & Convention Center Authority:** Motion was made by Commissioner Morehouse and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to re-appoint Commissioner Robby Staten and Dan Rogers to a one-year term to the NWGTCC. The term is effective as of January 31,

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2014. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, Morehouse, and Staten in agreement.

PRESENTATION

1. Andrew Carnes from the Dalton-Whitfield Joint Development Authority came before the Board to give an Economic Update for Whitfield County for 2013. Mr. Carnes stated that the Development Authority's Target Business Strategy is Automotive, Chemicals, Plastics, Advanced Manufacturing, Food Processing and Large Retail. Mr. Carnes noted that currently there are 43 projects in their project pipeline. Carnes noted that in 2013 15 projects were won resulting in over 2,000 direct jobs, the three largest projects were Engineered Floors, Mohawk Industries and Shaw Industries. Carnes also credited the Rapid Response Team which consists of various departments within both County and City Governments.

FOR CONSIDERATION

1. **C.E.R.T. Grant:** Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the funding of \$10,000.00 for the C.E.R.T. Grant. These funds will be used for CERT training and equipment. This is the 5th grant received by Whitfield County for the C.E.R.T. program. These funds will purchase training manuals, field response guidebooks, C.E.R.T. response kits that includes personal protective gear and other items needed for response, office supplies, response equipment and training supplies for the program. Whitfield County must agree to commit to the funds then be reimbursed by GEMA. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, Morehouse and Staten in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "B")**
2. **Homeland Security Grant:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to approve and accept the Homeland Security Grant from GEMA in the amount of \$43,160.00. The grant states that on behalf of Governor Nathan Deal, the Whitfield County Emergency Management Agency has been awarded a Homeland Security Grant award in the amount of \$43,160.00. The agreement governs the use of the funding provided by Department of Homeland Security Grant to help build and enhance capabilities to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from a Hazardous Material Incident, Major disasters and other emergencies in accordance with the goals and objectives of the State Strategic Plan. This funding is awarded solely for the budgeted items listed on the Detailed Budget Worksheet specifically and has been expressly pre-approved. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, Morehouse, and Staten in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "C")**
3. **December 2013 Financial Statements:** Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the December 2013 Financial Statements as presented by Finance Director, Alicia Vaughn. In discussion, Mrs. Vaughn reported that Local Option Sales Tax for December 2013 is \$1,010,544. Local Option Sales Tax for December 2013 show an increase of 15% compared to Local Option Sales Tax Collections for November 2013; Local Option Sales Tax collections for December 2013 show a 5% decrease from December 2012. Year to date actual Local Option Sales Tax collections for 2013 of \$10,149,095 show a decrease of 33% compared to actual Year to Date Local Option Sales Tax for 2012 of \$15,243,653 for the same period. Year to date actual revenues of \$34,871,307 for December 2013 are less than year to date projected revenue \$36,075,535 by 3%. Year to date actual expenditures of \$36,005,604 for December 2013 are less than year to date projected of \$37,251,956 by less than 3%. The County began collecting the TAVT Tax on March 1, 2013. Collections for December were \$136,636. Year to date TAVT collections for 2013 were \$1,414,024. Year to date figures are estimates as the county will accrue 60 days of property tax collections in the 2013 fiscal year and will not close our books until the end

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of February. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Staten, Laughter and Morehouse in agreement. (SEE EXHIBIT "D")

4. **Sheriff's Office – Video Visitation Kiosks:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Staten to spend \$25,000 in grant funds towards a kiosk system at the Whitfield County Jail. The Sheriff's Office applied and received funding through the Federal State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP_ in 2013 for the assistance of facility projects and maintenance. This grant was awarded in the amount of \$28,769.00 and is mandated by that Bureau of Justice Assistance policy and law to be used solely for Correctional Purposes. The Sheriff's Office requests that \$25,000 of these funds to be applied towards a video visitation system on-site and a related server to assist in this process. The installation will be completed by Techfriends a well know IT support company that provides kiosk services to local jails and prison across the nation. This process and equipment will provide several benefits to the County and Sheriff's Office, to include: increased security, reduced manpower usage from moving inmates within the facility, improved communication between staff and inmates, systems of electric accountability and logging of inmate issues and complaints, increases ability to provide visitation services to inmates and significantly reduced printing costs as inmate handbooks and other items can be made available electronically. The entire system much of which will be installed by Techfriends at no cost to the County, will provide additional services to inmates such as email, an improved commissary interface, more flexible visitation hours, easy access to communication materials and easy access to account balances and information. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Brooker, Staten and Morehouse in agreement. (SEE EXHIBIT "E")
5. **Re-Appointment to the Region One Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities Planning Board:** Motion was made by Commissioner Morehouse and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to re-appoint Brittany McMillian to a three-year term to the BHDDPB. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, Morehouse, and Staten in agreement.
6. **Contract to Provide Transit Service to Southeastrans, Inc.:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Morehouse to approve the contract with Southeastrans, Inc. for transit services. The contract is contingent upon the following three changes to the contract that the County Attorney recommends: 1a) term of lease, 3g) liquidated damages-removed from contract, and b4) no arbitration, or move arbitration to Whitfield County court. The motion to approve the contract contingent upon the changes was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Staten, Laughter and Morehouse in agreement. (SEE EXHIBIT "F")
7. **Resolution – Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) Centennial:** Motion was made by Commissioner Morehouse and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve a Resolution in support of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) Centennial. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Staten, Morehouse and Laughter in agreement. (SEE EXHIBIT "G")
8. **Sheriff's Office - Purchase of Ten (10) 2014 Full Size Sedan Patrol Vehicles:** Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner Morehouse to approve the purchase of Ten (10) 2014 Full Size Sedan Patrol Vehicles for the Sheriff's office. The Sheriff's Department received and opened the bids on January 21, 2014 from Auto Nation Ford of Marietta – at \$241,450.00, and Brooker Ford – at \$244,890.00. It was the Sheriff's Department's recommendation to purchase these vehicles from Brooker Ford at \$241,450.00 because they agreed to match the low bid of Auto Nation Ford of Marietta; it is the local vendor and has

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submitted the Affidavit of Eligibility as required. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Staten, Brooker and Morehouse in agreement.

9. **Appointment of Judge Sidney Baxter to Senior Magistrate Judge:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Morehouse appoint Judge Sidney Baxter to Senior Magistrate Judge. Judge Sidney Baxter retired on December 31, 2013, Chief Judge of the Magistrate Court of Whitfield County Haynes H. Townsend has appointed Gayle Gazaway to fill the unexpired term as Magistrate Judge as provided in O.C.G.A § 15-10-20, consequently as authorized under O.C.G.A § 15-10-220 Judge Townsend has appointed Sidney Baxter as Senior Magistrate Judge of Whitfield County. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Morehouse, Staten and Morehouse in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "H")**

10. **Request for Proposals – Banking Services:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker to approve a request for RFP for Banking services for Whitfield County and seconded by Commissioner Staten to open the floor for discussion. During the discussion Tax Commissioner Danny Sane came forward to say that changing banks would greatly impact his department due to the scope of services his office provides so he would not like to include his office in the Banking Services RFP at this time. The Finance Department would also like to move forward with updating the Accounting Software and at this time a Banking RFP would push this back several months. The motion was denied 2-3, with Commissioners Brooker and Staten in approval and Commissioners Morehouse, and Laughter, and Chairman Babb against the Banking Services RFP.

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURN Unanimous

MIKE BABB, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /