

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, JUNE 9, 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 (Absent)
Gordon Morehouse, Member

Others Present:

Mark Gibson, County Administrator
Robert Smalley, County Attorney
Citizens
Department Heads
Press

Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Morehouse to amend the agenda. The motion was approved 3-0.

3 items were added from the potential additional items; (1. Whitfield County Historic Preservation Commission a. Re-appoint Kenneth Harless, b. Re-appoint Kathryn Sellers, c. Re-appoint Marvin Sowder, d. Re-appoint Bob Jenkins, e. Re-appoint Randy Beckler (three year terms to expire December 31, 2016) f. Appoint Greg Cockburn (three year term to expire December 31, 2016), 2. Public Appearance – Amber Hefner & 3. Sheriff’s Office – Three (3) 2015 Mid-Size SUV, 4X4 Vehicles)

Motion was then made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Morehouse to approve the amended agenda. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Morehouse, and Laughter in agreement. Approval of the agenda was unanimous.

Ms. Suzi Thorne was named the Whitfield County Employee of the Month for April 2014. Ms. Thorne works in the Sheriff’s Office.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

1. Notification from Superior Court, Appointments of L. Stephen Kelehear, Robert A. Cowan and Carol Byers as members of the Whitfield County Board of Elections and Registration on May 27, 2014 by Judge William Boyett.
2. **Re-appointment to the Board of Directors of the Conasauga River Alliance:** Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to reappoint Mr. Chad Mulkey to the Conasauga River Alliance for a term of two-years which will expire on June 1, 2016. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter and Morehouse in agreement.
3. **Re-Appointment to the Dalton-Whitfield Library Board of Trustees:** Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to re-appoint Allyson Faulk to the Dalton-Whitfield Library Board of Trustees to a three year term to expire June 30, 2017. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, Morehouse and Brooker in agreement.
4. **Re-Appointment to the DFCS Board:** Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to re-appoint Ms. Jeannie Davis and Detective John Helton to the Whitfield County Department of Family and Children Services Board of Directors.

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They were re-appointed to a five-year term to expire June 30, 2019. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter and Morehouse in agreement.

5. **Re-appointment to the Dalton-Whitfield Planning Commission:** Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to reappoint Mr. Pat McCoy and Mr. Virgil Cook to the Dalton-Whitfield Planning Commission for a four-year term the term will expire July 10, 2018. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter and Morehouse in agreement.
6. **Historic Preservation Commission** - Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to reappoint Kenneth Harless, Kathryn Sellers, Marvin Sowder, Bob Jenkins and Randy Beckler to the Whitfield County Historic Preservation Commission for three-year terms, which will expire on December 31, 2016. The motion also appointed Greg Cockburn to a three- year term, which will expire on December 31, 2016. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Morehouse, and Laughter in agreement.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Morehouse to approve the Regular Business Meeting Minutes of May 12, 2014, and Special Called Meeting Minutes of May 31, 2014. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter and Morehouse in agreement.

Zoning Decisions – Proposed Amendment to the Whitfield County Zoning Ordinance: Motion was made by Commissioner Morehouse and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to approve the proposed amendment to the Whitfield County Zoning Ordinance, otherwise known as Appendix A of the Code of Ordinances of Whitfield County, Georgia, be amended by adding the new definitions “Agritourism” and “Organic Farming and Processing;” by adding the same uses to the Permitted Use Table under the category that is identifies as “Agriculture, Animals, Forestry Uses,” denoted as “S” as Special Uses in GA and R-3, including the notation of “3-9-29” as a special requirement for both uses; by adding a new Section 3-9-29” as a special requirement for both uses; by adding a new Section 3-9-29; and for other purposes. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Morehouse, Laughter and Brooker in agreement. (SEE EXHIBIT “A”)

FOR CONSIDERATION

1. **Tax Assessor’s Office Approval of Bid:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Morehouse to accept the low bid of Southdata for the 2014 Tax Assessment notice printing and mailing services in the amount of \$18,860.00. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Morehouse and Laughter in agreement.
2. **April 2014 Financial Statements:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to approve the April 2014 Financial Statements as presented by Finance Director, Alicia Vaughn. In discussion, Mrs. Vaughn reported that Local Option Sales Tax for April 2014 is \$885,411. Local Option Sales Tax for April 2014 show a decrease of 4% compared to Local Option Sales Tax Collections for March 2014; Local Option Sales Tax collections for April 2014 show a 3% decrease from April 2013. Year to date Local Optional Sales Tax collections through April 2014 show a 4% decrease compared to Year to date Local Options Sales Tax collections for 2013; Year to date actual revenues of \$9,262,096 April 2014 are over year to date projected revenue \$9,193,953 by less than 1%. Year to date actual expenditures of \$11,872,873 April 2014 are less than year to date projected of \$12,891,982 by

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less than 7%. TAVT Collections for April 2014 were \$164,320. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, and Morehouse in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "B")**

3. **2014 Budget Amendment #1:** Motion was made by Commissioner Morehouse and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the 2014 budget amendment #1 as presented by Finance Director Alicia Vaughn. In discussion Mrs. Vaughn state that generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) require that a governmental fund report at the inception of a capital lease both another financing source and an expenditure equal to the net present value of the minimum lease payments. This amendment is to adjust the Capital Projects Acquisition fund budget for the addition to the capital leases for Public Works for the 2014 fiscal year. This has no net impact on this fund. The capital lease was approved at a prior commissioner's meeting. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Morehouse, Laughter, and Brooker in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "C")**
4. **2014 Budget Amendment #2:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Morehouse to approve the 2014 budget amendment #2 as presented by Finance Director Alicia Vaughn. In discussion Mrs. Vaughn stated that the Sheriff's Office has requested that their Drug Seizure Fund be amended to reflect a more accurate accounting of what they actually plan to spend in 2014. Vehicles approved and purchased in 2013 did not arrive until 2014; therefore the expenditure is accounted for in the current year. The Drug Seizure fund balance at December 31, 2013 was \$343,467 so funds are available to make this adjustment. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Morehouse, Laughter, and Brooker in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "D")**
5. **Sheriff's Department – Camera Equipment for Six (6) Ford Taurus Interceptors:** Motion was made by Commissioner Morehouse and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the purchase of the camera equipment for six (6) 2014 Ford Interceptors from West Chatham Warning Devices Inc. for \$32,005.00 The Sheriff's Department received bids on May 19, 2014 from L3 Mobile Vision, Inc. at \$32,432.84, and West Chatham Warning Devices Inc. at \$32,005.00. It was the Sheriff Department's recommendation to approve the purchasing of the camera equipment for six (6) 2014 Ford Interceptors from West Chatham Warning Devices Inc. at \$32,005.00 as they were the lowest bid received. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Brooker and Morehouse in agreement.
6. **Special Use Permit – Randy and Cynthia Beavers:** Motion was made by Commissioner Morehouse and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to approve a Special Use permit for Randy and Cynthia Beavers for an Organic Farming and Processing/Agritourism Operation in the General Agriculture (GA) Zone District. The subject property is addressed as 1421 Boyles Mill Rd, NE Dalton, GA. The Planning Commission had recommended that the Board of Commissioners approve the special use permit at this location. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Brooker and Morehouse in agreement.
7. **Sheriff's Office - Purchase of Three (3) 2015 Mid-Size SUV, 4x4 Vehicles:** Motion was made by Commissioner Morehouse and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the purchase of Three (3) Mid-Size SUV, 4x4 Vehicles for the Sheriff's office. The Sheriff's Office received and opened only one bid on June 2, 2014 from Brooker Ford – at \$80,526. It was the Sheriff's Department's recommendation to purchase these vehicles from Brooker Ford at \$80,526. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter and Morehouse in agreement.

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8. Public Appearance – Amber Hefner:

Ms. Amber Hefner came before the Board of Commissioners to voice her concern regarding the intersection of Beaverdale Rd., Boyles Mill Rd, Good Hope Rd, and Dawnville-Beaverdale Rd., there have been multiple wrecks at this intersection and she would like the County to do something to help prevent more accidents from occurring. Ms. Hefner noted that she lives in the Beaverdale community and several of her family members travel this intersection daily, her parents also on a business at this intersection. Ms. Hefner stated that her mother was advised several months ago that the County was conducting a road study was to see if anything could be done. Ms. Hefner asked about the possibility of adding rumble strips or lowering the speed limit at this intersection. Chairman Babb noted that in most cases the causes of these accidents were caused by drivers failing to stop or yield to oncoming traffic. Public Works Director Dewayne Hunt stated the speed limit on this intersection is 50 mph based on a traffic study by the Georgia Department of Transportation done in August of 2010, the 85th percentile speed is 55 mph, and sign upgrades along Beaverdale Rd to include all intersections was completed in 2012, he also noted that the Average Daily Traffic on Beaverdale Rd was 2,547 vehicles during a study conducted Nov. 2 – Nov. 15 of 2012. Mr. Hunt stated that if rumble strips are put on all the stops at this intersection it could cause noise complaints from residents, in some instances where rumble strips are put in high traffic intersections they have to be removed because of noise complaints. Ms. Hefner made the suggestion to only put rumble strips on Boyles Mill Rd and Good Hope Rd. Commissioner Brooker made a motion to put rumble strips only on Boyles Mill road to start with, to see if it helps. Mr. Hunt said that within 30 days the rumble strips would be put in. Mr. Hunt will also look into what can be done at the Dawnville-Beaverdale and Beaverdale intersection because it is at a 45 ° slant, he will report back to the Board after the study is completed. Chairman Babb thanked Ms. Hefner for bringing her concerns before the Board.

Commissioner Brooker introduced the new City of Varnell Administrator Mike Brown who was in attendance during the meeting, Chairman Babb welcomed Mr. Brown who previously worked at the City of Dalton's Parks and Recreation Department for more than thirty years.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

ADJOURN Unanimous

MIKE BABB, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /