

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

Others Present:

Mark Gibson, County Administrator
Citizens
Department Heads
Press

Chairman Babb took a moment to recognize Roger Crossen who qualified for County Commissioner for District 3, and Renee Davis and Barry Robbins who qualified for County Commissioner for District 1. Commissioners Staten and Morehouse will not be seeking re-election this year. The Primary Election will be held on May 20, 2014.

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

1 item were added from the potential additional items; (Limestone Valley MOA)

Motion was then made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Brooker 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.

CITIZEN COMMENT

1. Ms. Carol Allgood came before the Board speaking on behalf of the Pioneer Heights Subdivision. She is concerned about residential safety in the neighborhood due to the tractor trailers that are driving on Winnwood Dr. Public Works Director Dewayne Hunt explained to the Board that there is a business at the end of Winwood Dr. that the tractor trailers are driving to and from. County Administrator Mark Gibson made the Board aware that the Sherriff's office and Public Works have looked into this issue. It was explained to Ms. Allgood that in December 1993 Whitfield County adopted the Zoning policy and the business was grandfathered into the (C-2) General Commercial district the business has a vested right to operate in that area. The Board let Ms. Allgood know that they will see if there are any other remedies that can be taken to ensure neighborhood safety.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Babb called for a Public Hearing to hear any comments or concerns the public may have regarding an application for an Alcohol Beverage Application for Quick Stop located at 2962 Cleveland Highway. No comments or concerns were expressed in the Public Hearing Chairman Babb closed the hearing

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made by Commissioner Morehouse and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to approve the Regular Business Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2014 and the Special Called Meeting

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Minutes of February 24, 2014. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Morehouse and Laughter in agreement.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

1. **Re-Appointment to the Whitfield County EMS Quality Review Committee:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to re-appoint Bruce Satterfield and Gayle Brennon to a two-year term to the Whitfield County EMS Quality Review Committee. Their term will expire on December 31, 2015. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, and Morehouse in agreement.

FOR CONSIDERATION

1. **Malt Beverage/Wine License Application:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Morehouse to approve the Beer/Wine License application for Quick Stop located at 2962 Cleveland Hwy. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Morehouse, Brooker, and Laughter in agreement.
2. **Public Works Purchases:**
 - a. Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and Seconded by Commissioner Laughter to approve the low bid of Sagequest for GPS service and installation on various Public Works vehicles. This will be used to track vehicles location, driver's performance and vehicle idle time which will save money in fuel cost. This will also be used during inclement weather to help track snow/ice removal for EMC. The low bid was from Sagequest at \$17,280.00. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Morehouse, Brooker and Laughter in agreement
 - b. Motion was made by Commissioner Morehouse and Seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the search for a vendor and purchase of two used enclosed box trucks not to exceed \$40,000.00. These vehicles will be used for the movement and storage of the Parks division equipment to maintain parks and recreation fields. This will also prevent theft of mowers and equipment. Pending approval trucks will be located, inspected and service records evaluated prior to purchase. Typically a box truck of this type is \$75,000 plus each new. The cost of (2) two vehicles shall not exceed \$40,000.00. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Morehouse, Brooker and Laughter in agreement
 - c. Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and Seconded by Commissioner Morehouse to accept the low bid of \$15,600.00 from Environmental Products of Georgia for a Haloptic Pole Camera. This item will allow Public Works to inspect storm water drainage problems, without having to excavate the roadways and will be used in conjunction with the drainage pipe jetter to clean storm water drains. This equipment may also be utilized by the Engineer Department with storm water inspections. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Morehouse, Laughter and Brooker in agreement.
3. **5311 Grant Application for FY2015 – Transit Department:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Morehouse to approve the Authorizing Resolution for the FY2015 Rural Public Transportation 5311 Grant. The application deadline for the FY2014 Rural Public Transportation 5311 grant for the Whitfield County Transit Department is March 14, 2014. The Authorizing Resolution is only a

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small portion of the application package, but it is the only item which must be formally adopted by the Board of Commissioners. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Brooker, and Morehouse in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "A")**

4. **Rezoning Request – Taylor Family Rentals, LLC:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker to deny the rezoning request by Taylor Family Rentals, LLC to rezone 3.34 acres from Single Family Residential (R-2) to Neighborhood Commercial (C-1). The motion died for a lack of a second.

Motion was then made by Commissioner Laughter and Seconded by Commissioner Morehouse to approve the rezoning request by Taylor Family Rentals, LLC, to rezone 3.34 acres from R-2 to C-1 limited commercial with the following conditions: that the commercial entrance/exit should be limited to the Cleveland Highway frontage, which requires a buffer fifteen (15) feet wide on the east side of the subject lot adjacent to those properties inside the City of Dalton; and to close the gravel driveway at Beulah Drive and add curbing to prevent ingress/egress at Beulah Dr. The motion to approve the rezoning request with conditions; was approved 2-1 with, Commissioners Morehouse and Laughter in agreement. Commissioner Brooker was in dissent.

5. **January 2014 Financial Statements:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to approve the January 2014 Financial Statements as presented by Finance Director, Alicia Vaughn. In discussion, Mrs. Vaughn reported that Local Option Sales Tax for January 2014 is \$836,002. Local Option Sales Tax for January 2014 show a decrease of 17% compared to Local Option Sales Tax Collections for December 2013; Local Option Sales Tax collections for January 2014 show a 12% increase from January 2013. Year to date actual revenues of \$2,486,488 for January 2014 are less than year to date projected revenue \$2,567,179 by 3%. Year to date actual expenditures of \$3,199,097 for January 2014 are less than year to date projected of \$3,223,746 by less than 1%. TAVT Collections for January 2014 were \$108,391. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter and Morehouse in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "B")**
6. **2013 Budget Amendment #5:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to approve the budget amendment #5 as presented by Finance Director Alicia Vaughn. This budget amendment will adjust the budget to estimated final actuals for 2013 fiscal year, effect of budget amendment #5 to General Fund; Decrease budgeted revenues by \$380,823 & Decrease budgeted expenditures by \$1,284,300, budgeted deficit \$1,176,420, year-end actual figures are estimated at this time as our property tax revenues are not final, bases on estimates our Projected 2013 deficit is \$429,347. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Morehouse, Laughter, and Brooker in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "C")**
7. **Board of Elections – Equipment & Software Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Morehouse to approve the purchase of equipment and software from Elections Systems & Software in the amount of \$21,165.00. The Voter Registrar, Ms. Mary Hammontree noted that the equipment consists of a printer to print the ballots, a folder/sealer, and a laptop to connect to the vendor that creates the database and the actual ballot that comes from the Secretary of State's Office. Based on the volume of unused ballots that have been disposed of in previous years, utilizing this equipment is projected to save the County over \$22,000 over the next five years. Without this equipment the volume of disposed ballots would continue to increase due to the early no reason voting that went into effect in 2006. This equipment will give the Board of Elections access to the ballots anytime without actually having them printed by a separate vendor, the Board of Elections will be able to print only the number of ballots that they would

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need which will eliminate the disposal of ballots in any future elections. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Brooker, and Morehouse in agreement.

8. **Fire Department – Declaration of Surplus:** Motion was made by Commissioner Morehouse and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the declaration of vehicles and equipment from the Fire Department and to be placed on GovDeals.com. This will include a 1997 Ford Explorer, (2) 1978 Chevrolet/LaFrance 1000 GPM pumping apparatuses that no longer pass the NFPA pump service testing requirements and 109 aluminum fiberglass wrap composite self-contained breathing apparatus air bottles that are over 15 years old. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, and Morehouse in agreement.
9. **E911 – Emergency Medical Dispatch/911 Advisor System:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Morehouse to approve the purchase of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials Emergency Medical Dispatch System. The APCO is an international leader in providing public safety communications expertise, professional development and technical assistance. The APCO Emergency Medical Dispatch program provides a systematic approach to not only handle medical calls for service, but also fire and law enforcement. This system interfaces with the Computer Aided Dispatch System and provides electronic guide cards which would replace the manual card system that is currently in place. The Whitfield County Medical director, Dr. William Pullen has also given his approval on the implementation of this system. The APCO program is cost-effective and includes local customizing while still meeting National Standards. Training is more cost effective as it can be completed on site with local instructors which will reduce training costs, travel, and overtime costs. The motion 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter and Morehouse in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “D”)**
10. **Limestone Valley Memorandum of Agreement:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to enter into agreement with the Limestone Valley Soil and Water Conservation District, the City of Tunnel Hill and the City of Varnell. The agreement states that the County is able to conduct technical review and approval of erosion and sediment control plans in accordance with standards set forth in the ordinance of the County and the Cities, to submit to the District quarterly reports, to keep the District informed of land-disturbing plans that may affect soil and water conservation. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Morehouse and Laughter in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “E”)**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Bobby Harrell who resides at 2011 Greenfield Place, came before the Board to voice his concern about tractor trailers traveling on Lower Dup Rd. Mr. Harrell is concerned that emergency vehicles would not be able to get into his subdivision in case of an emergency because of tractor trailers becoming stuck while attempting to turnaround at the entrance of Summerfield Subdivision. Mr. Harrell stated that tractor trailers are trying to locate Engineered Floors or Shaw Plants, he noted that due to the several roads having Dug Gap in their name, the tractor trailers drive on Lower Dug Gap Rd and have to turn around. Whitfield County Public Works recently put up “No Thru Trucks” signs on this road. Mr. Harrell suggested renaming Lower Dug Gap Rd to Old Dug Gap Rd. Public Works Director Dewayne Hunt said that many of the tractor trailers rely on GPS to find their destination however many GPS systems have old data, County Administrator Mark Gibson stated that GIS Coordinator Jess Hansen has provided the County’s information to the GPS companies, but they have not updated our information into their systems. Chairman Babb said that South Dug Gap Rd. is currently closed but when it reopens in a couple of months it should help with the tractor trailer situation as it will allow for through flowing traffic on Dug Gap Rd.

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ADJOURN Unanimous

MIKE BABB, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /