

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, NOVEMBER 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 (Absent)

Others Present:

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

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

5 items were added from the potential additional items; (1. Finance – Credit Card Policy 2. Resolution-Appointment Dalton-Whitfield Land Bank Authority a. Ron Blaylock 3. Resolution-Amend Intergovernmental Agreement – Land Bank Authority 4. Ratify- Transportation Contract with Transit Alliance Group Inc. 5. Resolution-Sell County Property Old Health Department)

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

Mr. Michael Hawkins was named the Whitfield County Employee of the Month for September 2014. Mr. Hawkins works at the Whitfield County Sheriff's Office.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Babb called for a Public Hearing to hear any comments or concerns the public may have regarding the closing of a portion of Lower Dug Gap Rd. No comments or concerns were expressed in the Public Hearing so Chairman Babb closed the hearing.

Chairman Babb took a moment to recognize the two newly elected Whitfield County Commissioners, Barry Robbins District 1 and Roger Crossen District 3, they will take office on January 1, 2015.

PROCLAMATION

1. **Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month** – Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Staten to proclaim November, 2014 as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month in Whitfield County, Georgia. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter and Staten in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "A")**
2. **Honoring David Michael Howerin** – Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to honor David Michael Howerin for his thirty-eight years of service to the Northwest Regional Commission. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter and Staten in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "B")**

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to approve the Regular Business Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2014. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter and Staten in agreement.

FOR CONSIDERATION

1. **Consideration of closing a Portion of Lower Dug Gap Rd:** Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to consider abandonment and closing for public purposes of a certain portion of Lower Dug Gap Road, located in Land Lots 151 and 174 of the 13th District and 3rd Section of Whitfield County. The Motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Staten and Laughter in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "C")**
2. **Special Use Permit – Thomas and Candice Chandler – 1513 Lafayette Road:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the special use permit for a Special Event permit with the following conditions by the recommendation of the Dalton-Whitfield Planning Commission: 1) the closing time for any event shall not be later than 1:00 a.m.; 2) the driveway width at its intersection with Georgia Highway 201 shall be the width prescribed by the Georgia DOT, and such width shall be maintain into the property for a distance prescribed by the Georgia DOT; 3) if sign is built, it shall comply with the planning staff recommendation written in the staff analysis; and 4) the buffer was acknowledge as currently meeting the standard recommended by the planning staff. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Staten and Laughter in agreement.
3. **Whitfield County Environmental Health Proposed Fee Increases:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Staten to deny the fee increases proposed at this time, and for Environmental Health to resubmit the proposal of the fee increases to make them comparable and similar with surrounding Gordon, Catoosa and Murray Counties. The motion was approve 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Staten and Laughter in agreement.
4. **September 2014 Financial Statements:** Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the September 2014 Financial Statement as presented by Finance Director, Alicia Vaughn. In discussion Mrs. Vaughn reported that Local Option Sales Tax for September 2014 is \$919,465. Local Option Sales Tax for September 2014 show an increase of 5% compared to Local Option Sales Tax Collections for September 2013, Local Option Sales Tax collections for September 2014 show a .1% increase from August 2014. Year to date actual Local Option Sales Tax collections for 2014 of \$8,094,367 show an increase of 10% compared to actual Year to Date Local Option Sales Tax for 2013 \$7,335,031 for the same period. If the refunds in June and July of last year had not occurred year to date 2014 collections would be down by 2% compared to last year. Year to date actual revenues of \$18,482,436 for September 2014 are over than year to date projected revenues of \$18,482,436 by 2%. Year to date actual expenditures of \$29,538,727 for September 2014 are less than year to date projected of \$30,500,174 by less than 3%. The County began collecting the TAVT Tax on March 1, 2014. Collections for September were around \$143,349. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter and Staten in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "D")**
5. **Sheriff's Office - Purchase of Two (2) 2015 Full Size Sedans:** Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the purchase of Two (2) Full Size Sedans for the Sheriff's office. It was the Sheriff's Office recommendation to purchase these vehicles from Brooker Ford at \$47,900. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter and Staten in agreement.

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6. **Public Works – Two (2) Ford F-150 Ex-Cab 4wd Pickups:** Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to approve the purchase of Two (2) Ford F-150 Ex-Cab 4wd Pickups from Brooker Ford. It is the recommendation of the Public Works department to accept the bid from Brooker Ford at \$49,512.00. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Morehouse and Staten in agreement
7. **Public Works – Purchase of One (1) Ford F-350 Utility Bed Truck:** Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to approve a purchase of one (1) F-350 Utility Bed truck in the Public Works Department from Brooker Ford in the amount of \$35,348.00. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Staten, Laughter, and Brooker in agreement.
8. **Public Works – Purchase of Two (2) 12yd PTO Driven Salt Spreaders:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve a purchase of two (2) 12yd PTO Driven Salt Spreaders from Cherokee Truck Equipment in the amount of \$53,400.00. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Staten, Laughter, and Brooker in agreement.
9. **Public Works – Purchase of Four (4) Lift Columns & Jackstands:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve a purchase of four (4) lift columns & jackstands from Heavy Duty Lift & Equip in the amount of \$37,000.00. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Staten, Laughter, and Brooker in agreement.
10. **Public Works Road Acceptance – River Oaks Drive:** Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to accept River Oaks Drive into the County Road network system. Both Public Works Director Dewayne Hunt and County Engineer Kent Benson have determined River Oaks Drive was either built to County specs or has been tested and found acceptable for continued maintenance. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter and Staten in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “E”)**
11. **City of Varnell Annexation Requests:** Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner Laughter for no land use classification objection to the City of Varnell regarding tax parcels 11-263-01-065 & 11-189-02-167. The motion was approved 3-0 with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter and Staten in agreement.
12. **State Contract Extension for Personnel at DA’s Office:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the State of Georgia Prosecuting Attorney’s Council of Georgia State Paid Reimbursed Personnel Contract. Whitfield County has chosen to continue their agreement with the Prosecuting Attorney’s Council of Georgia for the services of the District Attorney’s Office for the Conasauga Judicial Circuit. The contract is an extension of the current PAC contract. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Staten, Laughter and Brooker in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “F”)**
13. **DA’s Office – VOCA Grant:** Motion as made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the State of Georgia Prosecuting Attorney’s Council of Georgia Agreement for Funding Prosecution based on Victims of Crimes Act Program subgrant award. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Staten and Laughter in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “G”)**
14. **Finance – Credit Card Policy:** Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the Whitfield County Credit Card policy. The purpose of this

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policy is to supplement the purchasing policy and provide guideline and procedures regarding the proper use of county credit cards. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Staten, Brooker and Laughter in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “H”)**

15. **Resolution – Appointment to the Dalton-Whitfield Land Bank Authority:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to adopt a Resolution to appoint Ron Blaylock to the Board of Directors of the Dalton-Whitfield Land Bank Authority. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Staten and Laughter in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “I”)**
16. **Resolution – Amendment to the Dalton-Whitfield Land Bank Authority Intergovernmental Agreement:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to adopt a Resolution to amend the Intergovernmental Agreement of the Dalton-Whitfield Land Bank Authority. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Staten and Laughter in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “J”)**
17. **Ratify – Transportation Contract with Transit Alliance Group Inc.:** Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to ratify the renewal contract for transit services with Transit Alliance Group Inc. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter and Staten in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “K”)**
18. **Resolution – To sell County Property – Old Health Department:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Staten to adopt a Resolution to sell County Property. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Staten and Laughter in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “L”)**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ed Painter came before the Board to make the aware that Neil Herring a lobbyist in Atlanta will be speaking about property rights in Georgia on Tuesday, November 18, at Ryman Hall.

There were no other public comments.

ADJOURN Unanimous

MIKE BABB, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /