

MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2014 AT 2:00 P.M. IN ROOM B3 AT THE NORTHWEST GEORGIA TRADE AND CONVENTION CENTER, 2211 DUG BAP BATTLE RD

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

The following members were present:

Mike Babb, Chairman
Lynn Laughter, Member
Gordon Morehouse, Member

Others Present:

Mark Gibson, County Administrator
County Attorney, Robert Smalley
City Council Members
Mayor of Varnell
Mayor Pro-tem of City of Dalton
Tunnel Hill City Mayor
Cohutta City Mayor
Department Heads
Press

AGENDA:

1. **Meeting Between Whitfield County Board of Commissioners and Mayors of Whitfield County Municipalities Regarding a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax:** Chairman Babb reminded attendees that the purpose of the meeting is to get the Cities input on what they think about the possibility of a SPLOST, if it would do them any good, if they have any needs, and what they would like to include on the SPLOST list. Chairman Babb asked County Attorney Robert Smalley to explain the timeline for the proposed SPLOST referendum to make sure everyone is on the same page, in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 48-8-111(a) notice of the meeting was given to the Mayors at least 10 days prior the meeting to discuss possible projects for inclusion in the proposed SPLOST referendum that Whitfield County has expressed its intent to call, the County can't take any action to call for a referendum on a SPLOST until thirty days after today's meeting, the referendum will then be placed on the Board of Commissioners agenda for the November 10th, if the timeline holds it will be anticipated that the Special Election will be held on March 17, 2015, County Attorney Robert Smalley also noted that this is the only required meeting with the Mayors to be held, but that other sub sequential meetings could be held also. Chairman Babb presented a power point of the County's proposed projects for inclusion in the SPLOST, the County is proposing a five year SPLOST that would bring in around seventy-five million dollars. Chairman Babb then opened the meeting for discussion from the elected officials. Tunnel Hill Mayor Kenny Gowin is in support of the SPLOST, and believes that the City of Tunnel Hill will benefit from a SPLOST. Varnell Council Member Jan Pourquoi stated that he is opposed of another tax and that the list should include items that are needed and not just wanted, he stated that he would like to receive a more detailed list from the County, Chairman Babb let him know that they would make one available to him. Varnell Mayor Anthony Hulseley stated that he was in support of the SPLOST and stated that the County can either raise property taxes or if the residents choose they can pass the SPLOST, the SPLOST would affect everyone who pays sales tax in Whitfield County whereas if taxes are raised it would only affect only the property owners in Whitfield County. Cohutta Mayor Ron Shinnick is in support of the SPLOST and believes the City of Cohutta would benefit from a SPLOST. Councilmember Tate O'Gwin from the City of Dalton would also like the projects defined further and the City of Dalton will prepare a list of what the biggest needs are for the City of Dalton and be as transparent as possible so that the voters can make an informed decision. The meeting lasted around an hour and no decisions were made.

ADJOURN: Unanimous

MIKE BABB, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /