

MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY AUGUST 10, 2015, AT 12:00 NOON IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING #2, 214 W. KING STREET

SPECIAL CALLED 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 (Absent)
Lynn Laughter, Member
Barry W. Robbins, Member
Roger Crossen, Member (Absent)

Others Present:

Mark Gibson, County Administrator
Department Heads
Citizens
Press

A Motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Laughter. Approval of the agenda was unanimous.

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. **2015 Millage Rate:** Chairman Babb opened the meeting for a public hearing regarding the proposed 2015 Millage Rate for Whitfield County. Additionally Alicia Vaughn went over a presentation on the 2015 proposed 1 mill rate increase.

Mr. Phillip Neff come before the Board to speak. Mr. Neff is a local business owner he said that if the Board is going to raise the millage rate this year then for the next year it should strive to prevent any more increases in the following years. Mr. Neff also thanked the Board for their service to Whitfield County.

Mr. David Pennington came before the Board to say that since the millage rate increase will pass, that the Board look at ways to cut spending and stop further tax increases. Mr. Pennington noted that the Board has raised the millage rate and added additional taxes to the Citizens of the County for the past several years. Mr. Pennington further stated that the tax payers of the City of Dalton are paying County taxes without any services being provided by the County which he believes does not make any sense. Mr. Pennington stated that the County should not be involved in Economic Development as there are too many regulations that are imposed to business when government is involved.

Mr. Jan Porquoi came and spoke before the Board. Mr. Porquoi is a Council member for the City of Varnell. Mr. Porquoi noted that he sees that there are too many governing authorities within the County, there are too many small Cities in the County which he sees as unnecessary. Mr. Porquoi noted that structure of the County and City government should be reorganized since most of the Cities provide the same services that the County does. Mr. Porquoi also noted that many of the County and City citizens are unsure of whether they are within City limits or not and that the Cities and County should find more ways to combine services.

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Mr. Harold Groover came before and spoke before the Board. Mr. Groover noted that the Board should stop adding taxes to the citizens and for the Board to cut spending.

Mr. Jan Porquoi came and spoke to the Board again. Mr. Porquoi noted that the Fire Insurance premiums that the City of Varnell receives should go to the County, the premiums add up to around \$100,000. Mr. Porquoi noted that since he does serve on the City of Varnell Council he knows that the City of Varnell is in very good financial standing. Mr. Porquoi also noted that since the SPLOST passed that the City of Varnell will be receiving \$300,000 for capital projects, and that the other Cities within the County should give their Fire Insurance premiums to the County also.

After Mr. Porquoi's comments, no one else came forward so Chairman Babb closed the public hearing and the meeting was adjourned.

ADJOURN: Unanimous

MIKE BABB, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /