

MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY DECEMBER 7, 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
Lynn Laughter, Member
Barry W. Robbins, Member
Roger Crossen, Member (Absent)

Others Present:

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Babb called for a Public Hearing to hear any comments or concerns the public may have regarding the proposed 2016 Budget. This is the first out of two public hearings scheduled for the public to comment on the 2016 proposed budget. The next will be held on December 14, 2015 during the Board of Commissioners regular business meeting.

Rebel Burton came before the Board if County to not fund the pension this year and instead use the almost \$1 million dollars to pay for the State Paid County Reimbursed employees from the District Attorney's office and the Public Defender's office. Chairman Babb noted that the Board has discussed this option. The County pension system is currently funded at 121%, which allowed the County to skip contributions during 2012, 2013 and 2015, 50% was contributed in 2014. If the Board decides to skip contributing this year the funding level will drop to the high 80's or low 90's, earlier this year the Board enacted a policy to keep the pension funded at least 100%, should the Board decide to skip 2016's funding the policy will need to be changed. District Attorney Bert Poston stated in an prior meeting that the percentage of benefits for the SPCR employee contact have gone up considerably from 10.41 in 2010 and is expected to increase to 24.72 next year which raises the cost of the SPCR contact. Chairman Babb also noted that some employees from the District Attorney and Public Defender's office have agreed to come off of the State Paid County Reimbursed contract which will save the County money in the long run.

Mary Thelma Norris came before the Board to ask the Board to find a way to not fund a \$4 million dollar deficit. Mrs. Norris stated that passing a budget with a \$4 million dollar deficit will fall back on the shoulders of tax paying citizens. Mrs. Norris noted that taxes have been raised time and time again and she can't continue to fund a budget that is not balanced.

Chairman Babb noted that one of the biggest task the Board has is create a budget and have it funded to make the payments for the County with the main goal being to watch the budget. Being tax payers themselves they understand that the tax increases affect the Citizens but sometimes you have to judge by what you have. The Board gets input from the Citizens, Department Heads, neighboring counties

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close to our population, cost per capita for services, cost per capital per employees, spending capita and mileage rate.

No other comments or concerns were expressed in the Public Hearing so Chairman Babb closed the hearing.

ADJOURN: Unanimous

MIKE BABB, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /