

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2015, 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  
Roger Crossen, Member  
Barry W. Robbins, Member

**Others Present:**

Mark Gibson, County Administrator  
Citizens  
Department Heads  
Press

**Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to amend the agenda. The motion was approved 4-0.**

**4 items were added from the potential additional items; (1. Superior Court – Domestic Violence Grant, 2. Engineering – Transfer of Titles from the City of Dalton, 3. Public Works – 2014 Budget Surplus Summary, 4. Sheriff’s Office – License Plate Reader Bid)**

**Motion was then made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the amended agenda. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Laughter, Brooker and Crossen in agreement. Approval of the agenda was unanimous.**

**Mrs. Sharon Ratcliff was named the Whitfield County Employee of the Month for December 2014. Mrs. Ratcliff works at the Whitfield County 911 Center.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the Regular Business Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2015 with the correction to the spelling of Prater’s Mill and the Meeting Minutes of the Special Called Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2015. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Laughter, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

- 1. Re-Appointment to the Dalton/Whitfield Joint Development Authority:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to re-appoint Mr. Lamar Lyle to a two-year term to the Dalton/Whitfield Joint Development Authority. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Robbins, Crossen and Brooker in agreement.
- 2. Re-Appointment to the Dalton/Whitfield Joint Development Authority:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to re-appoint Mr. Frank Robertson to a one-year term to the Dalton/Whitfield Joint Development Authority as the City/County appointee. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Brooker, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.

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**PRESENTATION**

1. Eric Smith came before the Board and gave a presentation about light pollution in Whitfield County.
2. Andrew Carnes from the Dalton-Whitfield Joint Development Authority came before the Board to give an Economic Update for Whitfield County for 2014. Mr. Carnes stated that the Development Authority's Target Business Strategy is Automotive, Chemicals, Plastics, Advanced Manufacturing, Food Processing and Large Retail. Mr. Carnes noted that currently there are 60 projects in their project pipeline. Carnes noted that in 2014, 13 projects were won resulting in over 507 direct jobs, the three largest projects were Engineered Floors, Mohawk Industries and Shaw Industries. Carnes also credited the Rapid Response Team which consists of various departments within both County and City Governments.

**FOR CONSIDERATION**

1. **IT Department – Vehicle Replacement Bid:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to approve the purchase of (1) one 2015 Ford Escape 4WD vehicle replacement for the IT department. Bids were requested for a smaller more economically model to replace a 1998 Ford Expedition 4WD with 240,901 miles and only one response was received, Brooker Ford at \$24,644. It is the recommendation of the department to accept the bid from Brooker Ford at \$24,644. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.
2. **Public Works Catch Basin Skimmers:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the purchase of (3) three catch basin skimmers from Jen-Hill Construction Material in the amount of \$3285.00, each one costs \$1095.00. These are a required item for the Stormwater plan for Westside Park. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Brooker, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
3. **Public Works Department Bid Hot Water Pressure Washer:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve all of the following low bid from Bulk Chemical Systems of \$7,365.00. Public Works requested bids for a hot water pressure washer, they received three bids, Bulk Chemical Systems, \$7,365.00, Power Equipment Direct, \$11,000.17 and Northern Tools & Equipment, \$11,999.00. It is the recommendation of the department to accept the low bid from Bulk Chemical Systems of \$7,365.00. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Brooker, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
4. **Resolution – Ordinance Solid Waste:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the resolution amending Article III of Chapter Seven in the Whitfield County Code of Ordinances. The ordinance amends Section 7-89 Disposal of Waste. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Brooker, Crossen and Robbins in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "A")**
5. **Ratify – Public Defender Contract 2015:** Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the 2015 Public Defender Contract. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, Crossen and Robbins in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "B")**

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6. **Contract for Superior Court – Court Reporters:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the Independent Contractor’s Agreement with Whitfield County and Estes Reporting Inc., Janice Walters, Sally Williams, and Margaret Palmer to perform the Duties of Court Reporter for the Whitfield County Superior Court Judges. The motion was approved 4-0 with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, Robbins and Crossen in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “C”)**
7. **Superior Court – Domestic Violence Grant:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to support the Conasuaga Judicial Circuit Domestic Violence program. The Domestic Violence Court hopes to coordinate a multi-disciplinary approach to improve the criminal justice systems response to violent crime by holding the offenders accountable while ensuring victim safety and reducing recidivism. This is a three year, no match grant through the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, Robbins and Crossen in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “D”)**
8. **December 2014 Financial Statements:** Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the December 2014 Financial Statements as presented by Finance Director, Alicia Vaughn. In discussion, Mrs. Vaughn reported that Local Option Sales Tax for December 2014 is \$1,107,567. Local Option Sales Tax for December 2014 show an increase of 9.6% compared to Local Option Sales Tax Collections for December 2013; Local Option Sales Tax collections for December 2014 show a 15.4% increase from November 2014. Year to date actual Local Option Sales Tax collections for 2014 of \$11,235,131 show an increase of 10.7% compared to actual Year to Date Local Option Sales Tax for 2013 of \$10,149,095 for the same period. Year to date actual revenues of \$37,357,807 for December 2014 are over than year to date projected revenue \$38,036,184 by 2%. Year to date actual expenditures of \$38,632,089 for December 2014 are less than year to date projected of \$40,666,564 by less than 5%. The County began collecting the TAVT Tax on March 1, 2013. Collections for December 2014 were \$166,223. Year to Date TAVT collections for 2014 were \$1,782,415. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Laughter, Brooker and Robbins in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “E”)**
9. **5311 Grant Application for FY2016 – Transit Department:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the Authorizing Resolution for the FY2016 Rural Public Transportation 5311 Grant. The application deadline for the FY2014 Rural Public Transportation 5311 grant for the Whitfield County Transit Department is March 15, 2015. The Authorizing Resolution is only a 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 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Brooker, Robbins and Crossen in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “F”)**
10. **Public Works Road Acceptance – Grizzly Drive:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to accept Grizzly Drive onto the County Road network system, with a cash bond from the property owner to maintain the road for one year. Public Works Director Dewayne Hunt estimates the amount of \$16,000.00 would be the cost for maintaining the road. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Laughter and Robbins in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “G”)**

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11. **Deed of Gift Property Donation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve a resolution once the proper documents are submitted to Whitfield County by the property owners upon the condition that the property be made into a sitting property and a bird sanctuary and the 2014 and 2015 property taxes owed on the property be paid. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Brooker, Crossen and Laughter in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “H”)**
  
12. **Engineering – Transfer of Titles from the City of Dalton:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the title transfer of a two trucks from the City of Dalton. As part of the new stormwater agreement between the City of Dalton and Whitfield County, the City agreed to supply two (2) vehicles for use in the field by new stormwater personnel. The City is offering: Vehicle #1 is a 2002 Dodge Ram 1500 4WD with 59,354 miles, Vehicle #2 a 2001 Dodge Ram 1500 4wd with 87,910 miles. The trucks were recently purchased by City for transfer and did not come from their existing fleet. They will meet the current needs of the Engineering Department. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Laughter and Crossen in agreement.
  
13. **Public Works – 2014 Budget Surplus Summary:** Public Works Director Dewayne Hunt came before the Board and made them aware of the Budget Surplus his department had for the year 2014. In discussion Mr. Hunt had over \$800,000 in surplus funds, he cited several factors such as labor savings and various state grants received throughout the year.
  
14. **Sheriff’s Office – Purchase of License Plate Reader System:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to table this item until the next Board of Commissioners meeting. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Daryl Long came before the Board to commend Public Works Director Dewayne Hunt for his department being under budget for the year 2014.

There were no other public comments.

**ADJOURN** Unanimous

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MIKE BABB, CHAIRMAN  
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /