

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 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 (Absent)
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 Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to amend the agenda. The motion was approved 3-0.

3 items were added from the potential additional items; (1. Fire Department – Fire Apparatus Purchase, 2. SPLOST – Dalton-Whitfield Library Carpet Quote, 3. Prater’s Mill Resolution)

Chairman Babb also made the motion to move the Fire Departments’ agenda items 1. Fire Department – Tri State Mutual Aid Agreement, 2. Fire Department – Fire Apparatus Purchase to the beginning of the meeting.

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

Government Finance Officers Association -Distinguished Budget Presentation Award:

Chairman Babb presented Finance Director, Alicia Vaughn with the GFOA’S Distinguished Budget Presentation Award that was awarded to Whitfield County for its budget. This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting and represents significant achievement by Whitfield County. The award reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. The Board congratulated Mrs. Vaughn and staff for their achievement.

- 1. Fire Department – Tri State Mutual Aid Agreement:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to enter into the Mutual Aid Agreement with Tri-State Mutual Aid Association. Fire Chief Edward O’Brien noted that the Tri-State Mutual Aid Associate was founded in 1973 as a 501-CJ due to catastrophic events in NW Georgia and SE Tennessee. Presently the group has 47 Fire and Rescue departments active in the 13 county areas of Georgia and Tennessee. Georgia counties include, Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade and Walker Counties. The system

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currently handles approximately 150-220 mutual aid requests annually in the response area. The benefit for our community will be quick access to emergency equipment and personnel if the need arises. Our obligation would be to provide requesting communities assistance if our local needs are being met. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioner Crossen, Robbins, and Laughter in agreement.

2. **Fire Department – SPLOST Fire Apparatus Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the purchase of four (4) Triple Combination Pumpers, one (1) 75' Heavy Duty Ladder and one (1) 100' Aerial Platform from Pierce Manufacturing Inc. for \$3,302,746. The 2015 SPLOST approved by the Citizens in Whitfield County allows the County and Whitfield County Fire Department to purchase six (6) fully equipped apparatus. The apparatus include four (4) Triple Combination Pumpers, one (1) 75' Heavy Duty Ladder and one (1) 100' Aerial Platform. A working group of employees was utilized to write the specifications and reviewed the bids submitted, the department prefers that one manufacturer build all apparatus so that training, operation and maintenance related items can be minimized. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Robbins, and Laughter in agreement.

PRESENTATION

1. John Schwenn from the Dalton-Whitfield Archway Partnership came before the Board to give a presentation highlighting the accomplishments that the Archway Partnership has made since its inception in 2009. The Archway Partnership held a Community wide listening session on August 31, 2009 in an attempt to identify issues confronting Dalton and Whitfield County, facilitators from the University of Georgia and Dalton State College led small group discussions around three key areas concerning the community. The three key areas were Economy, Education and Environment, the Archway Partnership's vision is that Dalton-Whitfield County will be the economic engine of Northwest Georgia, internationally recognized for its innovative business environment, its commitment to high-quality educational opportunities and its stewardship of the abundant natural resources with which our community has been entrusted. Mr. Schwenn further stated some Key Accomplishments made by the Archway Partnership such as, Design Engineering, Manufacturing (DEM) Camp, First Five, and Readers to Leaders (R2L), Community Wide Literacy Commitment, Library Learning & Technology Center, Book Nooks/Reach Out & Read and Saturday Academy. Mr. Schwenn also noted that the Dalton-Whitfield Archway Partnership is in the process of transitioning from an 'active' Archway community, to an alumni community, the group is moving from their current Archway Executive Committee model to a new structure under the name, Archway Alliance for Community Development. The Board thanked Mr. Schwenn for the update on the Archway Partnerships accomplishments.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

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1. **Re-Appointment - Dalton Whitfield Board of Zoning Appeals:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to ratify the re-appoints of Debby Peppers and Tracy Ward to the Dalton Whitfield Board of Zoning Appeals. Mrs. Pepper's term will expire on August 2019 and Mr. Ward's appointment will expire on August 2020. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Laughter and Robbins in agreement.
2. **Re-Appointment – Dalton-Whitfield Department of Family & Children's Services Board of Directors:** Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to re-appoint Roberto Rojas to the DWDFC. Mr. Roja's term will expire on June 30, 2020. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to approve the Regular Business Meeting Minutes of August 10, 2015 with the correction to page three, item five: (Commissioner Laughter made an amendment to the purchase of the Tax Commissioners vehicle, Commissioner Laughter stated that the purchase should come out of the Tax Commissioners budget) and the Special Called Meeting Minutes of August 10, 2015. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Laughter, and Robbins in agreement.

RESOLUTION

1. Motion was approved by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Laughter declaring Prater's Mill Heritage Site a Legacy for Whitfield County and the second week of October as Prater's Mill Week. The motion was approved 3-0 with Commissioners Laughter, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.

FOR CONSIDERATION

1. **July 2015 Financial Statements:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the July 2015 Financial Statements as presented by Finance Director, Alicia Vaughn. In discussion, Mrs. Vaughn reported that Local Option Sales Tax for July 2015 is \$851,698. The Local Option Sales Tax percentage for 2015 will be 63.752%. The Local Option Sales Tax for July 2015 show a decrease of 10.9% compared to Local Option Sales Tax Collections for July 2014; Local Option Sales Tax collections for July 2015 show a 4.8% decrease from June 2015. Year to date Local Option Sales Tax collections of \$6,017,524 through July 2015 are down 3.8% compare to Year to Date 2014 collections of \$6,256,631, Year to date actual revenues of \$13,950,295 for July 2015 are over year to date projected revenue \$13,302,124 by 5%. Year to date actual expenditures of \$22,075,025 for July 2015 are less than year to date projected of \$23,743,104 by less than 7%. TAVT collections for July 2015 were \$181,283. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Laughter, and Robbins in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "A")**
2. **Ratify – Resolution to Open a New Account with First Tennessee Bank:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to ratify the

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resolution to open a new Certificate of Deposit with First Tennessee Bank, opening deposit \$2 million. These funds are part of the 2015 SPLOST bond funds and will not be commingled with General Fund deposits and must be kept in a separate account. First Tennessee Bank is offering a rate of .75% for one year. The funds will be collateralized at 110%. The new interest rate will allow the County to earn an additional \$12,000 in interest which can be used to offset SPLOST expense. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Crossen and Laughter in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "B")**

3. **EMA – Ratify Hazard Mitigation Grant:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to ratify the Hazard Mitigation Grant in the amount of \$20,996 from GEMA/Homeland Security. This grant will be used to purchase weather radios to be distributed among citizens through various means. The grant is pre-budgeted by the State and only the approved items can be purchased. The local match for this grant is \$3,149, and will be met through in kind services such as radio programming and community awareness events. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Crossen and Laughter in agreement.
4. **SPLOST – Dalton-Whitfield Regional Library Carpet Quote:** Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the two quotes from J&J Flooring for library flooring and installations and lab flooring and installation in the amount of \$192,946.08. The main library amount is \$166,744.44 and the learning and technology lab is \$26,201.64. Half of the project will be paid out of 2015 SPLOST funds and the other half will be paid by the State Library Board. KCP Architects Inc. recommended a textile composite flooring, used in other Georgia libraries which is made by local manufacturer J&J Flooring Group. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Robbins and Laughter in agreement.
5. **Sheriff’s Office – External Painting at Jail Facility:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the low bid from Duncan Painting for \$20,000.00. This is for the painting of outside metalwork around the jail facility, this project is needed to prevent deterioration to the facility metalwork as rust is visible in many locations. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Robbins and Laughter in agreement.
6. **Parks & Recreation – Fence Bid Dawnville/Pleasant Grove:** Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the low bid from Dalton Fence for \$105,000 for fence replacement at Dawnville and Pleasant Grove Parks. Dalton Fence will remove existing fence for \$4,000, plus no charge for post replacement when needed. The black vinyl fence for Pleasant Grove is \$53,000 and \$48,000 for Dawnville Park. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Robbins and Laughter in agreement.
7. **Parks & Recreation – Light Replacement Bid Dawnville/Pleasant Grove:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the low bid from Lawson Electric for \$341,010 for lighting and removal of existing poles at Dawnville and Pleasant Grove Parks. Lawson Electric will replace

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lighting for \$331,500 at both Dawnville and Pleasant Grove Parks and remove existing wood poles for \$9,510.00. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Robbins and Laughter in agreement.

8. **Recreation Department – Amendment #2 with Architect for Edwards Park:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve amendment #2 from Wright and Mitchell Associates Inc. for civil engineering services for the New Community Center at Edwards Park in the amount of \$22,088. This amendment has been added to include billing from the civil engineer work that needed to be done at Edwards Park for soil and erosion around the new community center building. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Robbins and Laughter in agreement.
9. **Engineering – Project 3.7 SR 201 Extension Design Proposal:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the design proposal from American Consulting Professionals for \$306,500 and authorize the Chairman to sign the contract. Preliminary surveying and route selection work was done on this project by American Consulting Professionals back in 2009 as part of the 2007 TSPLOST. Because of their knowledge of the project and their previous work, the Engineer department asked ACP to submit a cost proposal for complete design services for this project. The total length of this project is just over a miles at 5,600 feet, of this 4,400 feet are on the mainland and 1,200 feet are on side roads. Services to be provided are; surveying, traffic engineering, environmental and permitting, geotechnical exploration and roadway design/plan production. The motion was approved 3-0 with Commissioners Crossen, Laughter and Robbins in agreement.
10. **Engineering – TSPLOST Project 3.10 R/W Acquisition:** Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the proposal from Moreland Altobelli Associates, Inc (MAAI) to provide right of way acquisition services for \$91,600. TSPLOST Project 3.10 is the widening and improvement of Hill Rd from Airport Rd to Eastbrook Rd. There are 42 parcels of right of way to be acquired for the project, mostly residential with a few commercial and manufacturing parcels. MAAI was the program manager for the 2007 TSPLOST and has acquired R/W for all previous projects, so they have substantial knowledge of this project and of the TSPLOST program in general. They have provided good service on previous R/W acquisitions to date. MAAI proposes to perform Fair Market Value offers and negotiations for each parcel, closings will be held locally and are not included in the proposal which is consistent with past projects. The motion was approved 3-0 with Commissioners Crossen, Laughter and Robbins in agreement.
11. **Engineering – Ratify Carbondale Grading Change Order No. 1:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to ratify change order No. 1 in the amount of \$61,851.91 from Northwest Georgia Paving Company. The

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grading project at Carbondale Business Park is complete, but as with a project of this size they encountered some unsuitable soils along the way that had to be excavated and replaced with good fill dirt. The unit price that was agreed upon with the contractor is the standard GDOT rate for this work, known as undercut, is currently \$7.50 per cubic yard of dirt removed and replaced. The total undercut cost is \$26,764.28. Another item not included in the original bid is grassing the pad area. The cost for stabilizing the site with permanent grass is \$32,760.23, which is required by the NPDES to prevent against erosion. The contractors hit rock in a small vein right underneath a storm drain line at the south end of the site, the cost for equipment and removal of the rock was \$2,327.40. The original contract was \$827,650 adding this change order of \$61,851.91 brings the new contract amount to \$889,501.91. The motion was approved 3-0 with Commissioners Crossen, Laughter and Robbins in agreement.

12. **Sheriff's Office - Purchase of Six (6) 2015 Full Size Sedan Patrol Vehicles:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the purchase of Six (6) 2015 Full Size Sedan Patrol Vehicles for the Sheriff's office. The Sheriff's Department received and opened bids on August 17, 2015, only one bid was received from Brooker Ford – at \$149,994 with each unit at \$24,999. The purchases will come out of the 2015 SPLOST funds. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.
13. **Sheriff's Office - Purchase of Four (4) 2015 SUV All Wheel Drive Vehicles:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the purchase of Four (4) 2015 SUV All Wheel Vehicles for the Sheriff's office. The Sheriff's Department received and opened bids on August 17th, 2015, only one bid was received Brooker Ford at \$114,060 with each unit at \$28,515. The purchases will come out of the 2015 SPLOST funds. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Robbins, and Crossen in agreement.
14. **County Extension - Purchase of One (1) 2015 Mini-Bus:** Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the purchase of One (1) 2015 Starcraft Mini-Bus from Brooker Ford in the amount of \$50,732.93. Brooker Ford was able to use local vendor privilege and match the low bid received. The Whitfield County 4-H Ecoline van was donated in 1992, due to age of the van and the growth of the 4-H youth programs, Dalton-Whitfield community members, foundations and organizations have made contributions to 4-H for the express purpose of purchasing a new means of transportation. Whitfield County 4-H will donate the Community funds received for the purchase of a new 4-H mini-bus to the Whitfield County BOC. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Robbins, and Crossen in agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to enter into an Executive Session in order to discuss personnel. Present for the meeting were Chairman Mike Babb, Commissioners Laughter, Robbins, Crossen and County Attorney Robert Smalley. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Crossen and Laughter in agreement.

Motion was then made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commission Crossen to come out of Executive Session. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Crossen and Laughter in agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ADJOURN Unanimous

MIKE BABB, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /