

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2016 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 Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to amend the agenda. The motion was approved 4-0.

3 items were added from the potential additional items; (1. Fire Department – Automatic Aid Agreement with Gordon County, 2. Resolution – Reappoint Sandy Duncan Board of Tax Assessors – term to expire June 30, 2022, 3. Reappoint Zab Mendez – Highland Rivers Board of Directors – term to expire June 30, 2019)

1 item from was removed from the agenda; (City of Varnell Annexation – 11-209-11-000)

Motion was then made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Laughter 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.

Ms. Ashley Zahn was named the Whitfield County Employee of the Month for June 2016. Ms. Zahn works in the 911 department.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the Regular Business Meeting Minutes of July 11, 2016, Work Session of July 25, 2016 minutes, and the Special Called Meeting Minutes of August 1, 2016 with corrections. Commissioner Crossen made the following corrections to the Regular Business Meeting Minutes of July 11, 2016, to change item #3: Re-appointment to the Dalton-Whitfield Planning Commission: It should read Appointment to the Dalton-Whitfield Planning Commission to appoint Tom Minor for a four year term to expire July 2020. Also to change the Approval of Minutes to reflect Commissioner Laughter being in dissention due to the fact that she was not in attendance of the July 11, 2016 regular business meeting and the July 25, 2016 Work Session. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Brooker, Laughter and Robbins in agreement.

PUBLIC HEARING:

2016 Millage Rate:

Chairman Babb opened the meeting for a public hearing regarding the proposed 2016 Millage Rate for Whitfield County.

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Mr. Heath Ewton who resides at 1545 Trickum Road came before the Board to speak against the proposed millage increase. Mr. Ewton suggested that the County do away with services before the County impose a millage increase on property owners.

Mrs. Mary Thelma Norris who resides at 1907 Courtland Lane came before the Board to speak against the proposed millage rate increase. Mrs. Norris suggested that the County create a finance committee with County citizens to assist the County in balancing the budget.

Mrs. Barbara Byers came before the Board and asked if the property that is across from the landfill in the west side of the County can be sold. Chairman Babb noted that the County has a few properties up for sale.

Mrs. Velda Cross who resides at 228 Bluedun Way came before the Board to speak against the proposed millage rate increase. Mrs. Cross noted that the County look into services that can be cut from the budget.

Mr. Daryl Long who resides at 4310 Troy Lane came forward to speak before the Board. Mr. Long noted that the County can't go on with a deficit and should at least increase the millage rate up to 2 mills.

Mr. Frank Laster who resides at 3067 SE Five Springs Rd came before the Board to speak against the proposed millage rate increase.

Mr. Bob Husky who resides at 2416 Shahn Rd came before the Board to speak against the proposed millage rate increase. Mr. Husky noted that the County look into creating more revenue.

Mr. Bill Kenney who resides at 429 Amber Cliff Drive came before the Board to speak against the proposed millage rate increase.

Mr. Rob Bradham who is the president of the Chamber of Commerce came before the Board and thanked them for making an investment in economic development in Whitfield County.

Mrs. Joyce Vinyard who resides at 1105 Robin Way came before the Board to speak against the proposed millage rate increase.

Mrs. Mary Thelma Norris came before the Board to ask for all the taxing authorities in Whitfield County to have a meeting and to have that meeting open to the public.

Mr. Jevin Jensen who resides at 2705 Bradberry Hill came before the Board to speak against the proposed millage rate increase. Mr. Jensen suggested to the Board to offer County employees a voluntary early retirement option.

Mrs. Joann Husky who resides at 2416 Shahn Drive addressed the Board in response to Mr. Jensen's comment on an early retirement option for County employees. Mrs. Husky noted that she was employed until she was sixty-six years old and she would have been very upset if her employer would have said that her job needs to go to someone younger than her. Mrs. Husky thanked the Commissioners for serving on the Board.

Mrs. Linda Babb Neely who resides at 334 Coley Rd came before the Board to speak against the proposed millage rate increase. Mrs. Neely noted that she is in favor of Mrs. Norris idea of creating a finance committee.

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Mrs. Barbara Byers came before the Board and commented that Whitfield County should have more support for entrepreneurs.

Mr. Douglas Smith who resides at 326 Golfview Drive came before the Board to speak against the proposed millage rate increase.

There being no other comments or questions, Chairman Babb declared the public hearing closed.

FOR CONSIDERATION

1. **Resolution Fixing Tax Rate for 2016:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Laughter for a 3 mill increase for 2016. The motion was put to a vote with Commissioners Crossen and Laughter in favor of the 3 mill increase, and Commissioners Brooker and Robbins voting against the increase, being that there was a 2-2 vote, Chairman Babb who votes in case of a tie, voted against a 3 mill increase. Commissioner Laughter then made the motion for a 2.5 mill increase, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Crossen. The motion was put to a vote with Commissioners Crossen and Laughter in favor of the 2.5 mill increase, and Commissioners Brooker and Robbins voting against the increase, being that there was a 2-2 vote, Chairman Babb who votes in case of a tie, voted in favor of the 2.5 mill increase. The motion was approved 3-2, with Chairman Babb and Commissioners Crossen, Laughter in agreement. Commissioners Brooker and Robbins were in dissention. **(SEE EXHIBIT "A")**

2. **Petition to Close Frye Road:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to accept the petition and to hold a public hearing to close Frye Rd, located in Land Lot 289 of the 9th district and 3rd section of Whitfield County, Georgia. The public hearing for this petition will be held at the next regular Board of Commissioners meeting on September 12, 2016, at which time a decision can be made to close and abandon Frye Rd. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Brooker, Robbins and Laughter in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "B")**

3. **State Paid County Reimbursed Personnel (SPCR) Contract Extension:** Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the contract extension of the District Attorney's office from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 for \$884,775.81. The DA's office personnel are in the process of transitioning from State of Georgia employees to Whitfield County employees. The motion was approved 3-1, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen and Laughter in agreement. Commissioner Robbins was in dissention. **(SEE EXHIBIT "C")**

4. **Edwards Park – Change Order #1:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the change order for the Edwards Park Community Center, this change order will result in a credit of \$15,250. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Laughter and Crossen in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "D")**

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5. **Edwards Park Gym Equipment Bid:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to accept the bid from H.E. Hodge Company for \$101,164. This bid includes bleachers, goals and wallpads for both gyms. This will not be due until 2017 and is only to approve the vendor H.E. Hodge Company. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.
6. **Parks and Recreation Ordinance Change:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to hold a public hearing during the next regular business meeting on September 12, 2016, prior to adopting the changes in the parks and recreation ordinance. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.
7. **Fire Department False Fire Alarms Ordinance:** Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the False Fire Alarms ordinance. The ordinance amends chapter 10 of the Code of Ordinances, Whitfield County, Georgia, captioned Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions by adding a new section 10-7 entitled "False Fire Alarms," and providing generally for penalties after three (3) false alarms in one calendar year. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, Crossen and Robbins in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "E")**
8. **Fire Department Personal Protective Clothing Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the low bid for turn out gear from NAFECO for \$45,222.32. This will include 26 sets of gear, at \$1,739.32 each from the vendor NAFECO out of Decatur Alabama that has the patented inner liner system that no other company can provide. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Brooker, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
9. **Concrete Replacement at Station 1:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to approve the bid from Fine Points Investments for \$55,000. Fine Points Investments was the only vendor that provided an official bid. The front driveway at station 1 is in desperate need of replacement. The current concrete has multiple cracks and depressions that can only be fixed by replacing. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Laughter and Robbins in agreement.
10. **Fire Department – Automatic Aid Agreement w/Gordon County:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the Automatic Aid agreement with Gordon County. This agreement shall be as a joint service agreement, for sharing certain services for the safety, benefit and general welfare of all citizens in Whitfield and Gordon Counties in Georgia. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, Robbins and Crossen in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "F")**
11. **City of Dalton Annexation Request – 12-203-02-000:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen for no land use classification objection to tax parcel number 12-203-02-000. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.
12. **City of Varnell Annexation Request –11-263-01-141:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Crossen for no land use classification objection to tax

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parcel 11-263-01-141. The motion was approved 4-0 with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.

13. **June 2016 Financial Statements:** Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the June 2016 Financial Statements as presented by Finance Director, Alicia Vaughn. In discussion, Mrs. Vaughn reported that Local Option Sales Tax for June 2016 is \$850,228, the LOST percentage for 2016 is 63.752%. Local Option Sales Tax for June 2016 show a decrease of 5% compared to Local Option Sales Tax Collections for June 2015; Local Option Sales Tax collections for June 2016 show 6% increase from May 2016. Year to date 2016 Local Option Sales Tax collections of \$4,964,883 are down 3.9% compared to year to date 2015 collections. Year to date actual revenues of \$11,992,335 for June 2016 are slightly over year to date projected revenue \$11,965,108 by less than 1%. Year to date actual expenditures of \$19,925,098 June 2016 are under year to date projected expenditures of \$20,319,466 3%. TAVT collections for June 2016 were \$158,176. Based on the year 2012 Collections on the old system the collections for TAVT through June 2016 are 8% higher under the new system. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Brooker, Laughter and Robbins in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "G")**

14. **Ratify FY 2016 Contract for OPEB Valuation Services:** Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to ratify the FY 2016 agreement with Stanley, Hunt, DuPree and Rhine for OPEB Valuation services in the amount of \$7,350.00. GASB Pronouncements 43 & 45 require governments to report actuarial value of their "other post-employment benefits" (OPEB) liability. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, Crossen and Robbins in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "H")**

15. **Public Works – Asphalt Roller Purchase:** Motion was approved by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the purchase of a new 2016 asphalt roller from Yancey Bros., for \$90,940.00. The public works department requested bids for a 58-64 inch asphalt roller, eight vendors responded to the bid, Tractor Equip Co. \$77,660 (used roller), Yancey Bros \$90,940, ASC Construction Equip \$95,785, Flit Equip \$99,535, Reynold Warren \$99,705, Cowin Equip \$105,184, Tractor Equip Co. \$111,860, & Tractor Equip Co. \$125,722. Yancey Bros had the low bid for a new asphalt roller. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Brooker, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.

16. **Public Works – Tandem Dump Trucks:** Motion was approved by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the purchase of two tandem dump trucks from Premier Truck Group for \$250,024. The public works department requested bids for two tandem dump trucks, eight vendors responded to the bid, Premier Truck Group \$250,024, Lee Smith Int. \$265,840, World Wide Equip. \$269,474.22, Tranpower Inc. \$274,378, Rush Truck Center \$274,386, Nextran \$274,743, Lee Smith Int. \$281,800, & Tranpower Inc. \$284,968. Premier Truck Group had the low bid for two tandem dump trucks. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Brooker, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.

17. **Public Works – Skid Steer Purchase:** Motion was approved by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the purchase of a new skid steer and attachment from Yancey Bros., for \$74,479.00. The public works department requested bids for a Track skid steer, cold planer and broom attachment, three vendors responded to the bid, Cowin equipment,

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skid steer \$51,002, cold planer \$15,026, broom \$5,236: total \$71,264 however the specs were not met, Yancey Bros, skid steer \$51,396, cold planer \$17,961, broom \$6,797: total \$76,479 met all the specs, and Nelson Tractor, skid steer \$58,480, cold planer \$14,939, broom \$5,130: total \$78,549 however the specs were not met. The public works department recommends purchasing the skid steer from Yancey Bros. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Brooker, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

1. **Re-appointment to the Board of Directors of the Highland Rivers Health Board:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to re-appoint Zab Mendez to a three (3) year term which will expire on June 30, 2019. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.

Resolution – Board of Tax Assessors Appointment Sandy Duncan: Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the Resolution of Appointment of Sandy Duncan to the Whitfield County Board of Tax Assessors. The appointment of Sandy Duncan to the Whitfield County Board of Assessors shall expire as of June 30, 2022. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Robbins, and Laughter in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “I”)**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ADJOURN Unanimous

MIKE BABB, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /