

MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2016, AT 11:00 A.M. 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

Others Present:

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

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

FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. **Civil War Trust Preservation Deed/Grant Farm Property:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the deed transfer of property from the Civil War Preservation Trust to Whitfield County. Funds were raised over a two-year period for the purchase of this property, several non-profit and profit organizations contributed donations: including The Civil War Trust Foundation, The Lyndhurst Foundation, The Riverview Foundation, Northwest Georgia Community Foundation and Dalton Utilities. The Civil War Preservation Trust applied for a Conservation Easement from the Georgia Piedmont Land Trust. Tract 1 measures 300.53 acres and tract 2 measures 0.58 acres and adjoins the over 650 acre Rocky Face Ridge property owned by Whitfield County. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, Robbins and Crossen in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "A")**
2. **Contract Award for SPLOST Communication Project:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to approve the award for new P25 Subscriber Radios to Motorola Solutions, Inc. for the SPLOST Communications Project. The RFP was awarded to Motorola on October 31, 2016 and Whitfield County entered into contract negotiations with Motorola and agreed on a proposed equipment price of \$4,119,572.52. Technical and pricing proposals were evaluations separately using a weighted point system whereby out of the maximum %100 overall project score, 20% of points were allocated to subscriber user equipment technical proposal evaluation scores, 30% of points were allocated to subscriber user prices proposals, and the remaining 50% of points were allocated by the preference of the various agencies in Whitfield County and the participating municipalities. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, Crossen and Robbins in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "B")**
3. **2017 Budget Adoption:** Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to adopt the 2017 budget as presented by Finance Director Alicia Vaughn. The total general fund revenues and fund balance for FY2017 is \$45,534,919 with \$484,167 surplus, special revenue funds are \$12,603,089, capital project funds of \$42,442,094, debt service fund of \$1,725,837, and proprietary funds of \$857,317. In discussion Commissioner

MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2016, AT 11:00 A.M. IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING #2, 214 W. KING STREET

Brooker suggested to the Board to decrease the amount of funding for the Dalton-Whitfield Library and Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) contingent on the amount of funding they receive from the City of Dalton, both of these agencies are jointly funded by the City of Dalton and Whitfield County. Chairman Babb noted to Commissioner Brooker that the County had committed addition funding to the Library and in return the Library would focus on workforce development, and that the Library has held up their end of the bargain. The Library has added a computer lab where citizens can apply for jobs and can take adult education classes free of charge. Commission Brooker wanted to fund these agencies to match the City of Daltons level of funding. Commissioner Crossen noted that the Library requested \$278,000, the 2017 budget shows \$255,400 being funded to them so there was cut made to their initial request. Finance Director Alicia Vaughn noted that the Board would be decreasing the Library's budget by \$55,000 to match the City of Dalton's funding. Mrs. Vaughn noted that the CVB is receiving \$150,000 in funding which is \$23,000 less than 2016's funding. Commissioner Laughter asked Mrs. Vaughn about the Capital Project Funds amount, Commissioner Laughter noted that \$42,422,094 is a substantially high amount, Mrs. Vaughn noted that the majority of the projects are SPLOST projects. Chairman Babb replied to Commissioner Brooker that the Board can't pass a contingent budget, however the budget can be amended next year as long as there are four (4) votes from the Board. Commissioner Brooker also raised the question about the Whitfield County Department of Family and Children's services requesting an additional \$30,000. Commissioner Laughter commented that after the budget workshop on December 14, 2016, the pay adjustments and pay increases for the 2017 budget would be as follows: a 2% increase for any personnel who work in Corrections and a 2% increase for Sheriff deputies and a 3% pay increase for most of the Whitfield County employees, the adjustments and increases take effect in July 2017. Commissioner Brooker noted that he would not vote in favor of the increases and adjustments unless the Board would vote to match the City of Dalton's funding of the Library and CVB. In the budget workshop held on December 14, 2016 Commissioner Robbins would not support a 3% pay adjustment of most of Whitfield County employees and may possibly support a 2% increase for the Sheriff's deputies beginning in July 2017. The motion was approved 3-2, with Commissioner Crossen, and Laughter in agreement, with Chairman Babb also voting to approve the budget as presented. Commissioners Brooker and Robbins in dissention. **(SEE EXHIBIT "C")**

ADJOURN: Unanimous

R. LYNETTE LAUGHTER, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /