

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, MARCH 14, 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 Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to amend the agenda. The motion was approved 4-0.**

**4 items were added from the potential additional items; (1. Sheriff's Office – Vehicle Purchase, 2. Engineering Department – a. Georgia Civil War Heritage Trail Markers Bid b. Purchase of Wetland Credits Carbondale Access Road 3. Public Works Right of Way Mowing Study, 4. Notice of Timber Harvesting Form)**

**Motion was then made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Robbins 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.**

**Mr. Lee Fields was named the Whitfield County Employee of the Month for January 2016. Mr. Fields works in the Sheriff's Office.**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Chairman Babb called for a Public Hearing to hear any comments or concerns the public may have regarding an application for a Malt/Wine Beverage Licenses for Dixie Corner Food Mart located at 1729 S. Dixie Hwy, Dalton, GA.

No comments or concerns were expressed during the hearing, Chairman Babb closed the hearing for the Malt Beverage/Wine Beverage License.

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

1. **Appointment to the Whitfield County EMS Quality Review Committee:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to appoint Edward O'Brien a two-year term to the Whitfield County EMS Quality Review Committee to expire on December 31, 2017. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Brooker, Laughter, and Robbins in agreement.
2. **Appointment – Dalton-Whitfield Department of Family & Children's Services Board of Directors:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to appoint Kelly Kuhne McAllister to fill the unexpired term of Jeannie Davis that is set

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to expire on June 30, 2019. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Crossen, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the Regular Business Meeting Minutes of February 8, 2016. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Laughter, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.

**FOR CONSIDERATION**

1. **Alcohol Beverage License Application:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the Alcohol Application for a Malt Beverage/Wine License for Food Mart located at 3385 Airport Rd. Dalton. The motion was approved 4-0 with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Crossen and Laughter in agreement.
2. **January 2016 Financial Statements:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to approve the January 2016 Financial Statements as presented by Finance Director, Alicia Vaughn. In discussion, Mrs. Vaughn reported that Local Option Sales Tax for January 2016 is \$822,731, the LOST percentage for 2016 is 63.752%. Local Option Sales Tax for January 2016 show a decrease of 2.6% compared to Local Option Sales Tax Collections for January 2015; Local Option Sales Tax collections for January 2016 show 15.4% decrease from December 2015. Year to date actual revenues of \$2,428,900 for January 2016 are under year to date projected revenue \$2,539,439 by 4%. Year to date actual expenditures of \$3,018,618 for January 2016 are under year to date projected of \$3,391,785 by 11%. TAVT collections for January 2016 were \$166,933. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Laughter, Brooker and Robbins in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "A")**
3. **SPLOST – Dalton-Whitfield Regional Library Architect Services:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to postpone a fee increase for architect services for the library from KCP Architects until the April Regular meeting. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Robbins and Laughter in agreement.
4. **Ratify Fire Department Extrication Equipment Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to ratify the purchase of two sets of Hydraulic Extrication Equipment with mounting brackets to the sole bidder MES Inc. for \$52,945.08. This purchase is being funded by the 2015 SPLOST that was approved by voters March 2015. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Brooker, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
5. **Ratify Fire Department Fit Test Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to ratify the purchase of the respirator fit test system to the low bidder of MES Inc for \$7,937.00. The Fire Department is in need of an updated fit test machine to ensure compliance with proper Self Contained Breathing Apparatus fit. This item is used annually to test the accuracy of the facepiece fit on each employee. This purchase is being funded by the 2015 SPLOST that was approved by voters March 2015. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Brooker, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
6. **Fire Department Nozzle Purchase Vendor Change:** At the February 8, 2016 regular business meeting, the Board approved the bid to NAFECO for the purchase of nozzles for six new apparatus. The department contracted the vendor to make the order and they advised that they would not be able to sell the department the actual item requested at the price given. The Fire Department would like to move to the second lowest compliant bidder Ten-Eight Fire. Motion was

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made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the changing of the nozzle vendor from NAFECO to Ten-Eight Fire for \$45,408.00. This purchase is being funded by the 2015 SPLOST that was approved by voters March 2015. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Brooker, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.

7. **EMA – Response and Recovery Grant FY15:** Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve and accept the FY 2015 Emergency Management Response and Recovery Grant in the amount of \$30,200.00 and is a refundable grant. This grant is part of the Emergency Management Performance Grant program. The Grant has a 25% match requirement in the amount of \$7,550. These funds will be used for upgrading some of the outdated technological equipment in the operations center. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Robbins, Brooker and Laughter in agreement.
8. **911 Dispatch Console Stations:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve and accept the 911 Dispatch Console Stations from Watson Furniture under GSA GS-29F-0109G for the amount of \$150,512.46. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Robbins, Brooker and Laughter in agreement.
9. **Public Works – Free Standing Fabric Building:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to approve the low bid of Clearspan Fabric Structures for \$19,945.00 for a 65x60 Free Standing Fabric Building. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Brooker, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
10. **Public Works – 67” Asphalt Roller:** Motion was made by Commissioner Morehouse and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to approve the low bid of Reynold Warren for \$112,675.00 for a 67” Asphalt Roller. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Brooker, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
11. **Public Works – Single Axle Dump Truck Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the low bid of Premier Truck Group for \$95,298 for a Single Axle Dump Truck. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Brooker, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
12. **Sheriff’s Department – Eight (8) 2016 Ford Interceptors:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the low bid of Brooker Ford for \$199,760.00. The Sheriff’s Office received two bids one from Speedway Ford and Brooker Ford. Brooker Ford supplied the lowest bid, fastest delivery and is a local business. This purchase is being funded by the 2015 SPLOST that was approved by voters March 2015. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Brooker, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.
13. **Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails Signs Installation Bid:** Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the sole bid for marker installation to Atlanta Creative Graphics for \$338 per marker, \$239,980 in total. This bid is for installation of directional “trailblazer” signs on the Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails Atlanta Campaign and March to the Sea project. The bid for sign installation is \$338 per sign, including travel and all expenses and materials. The bid is based on 710 sign locations, but that number is most likely to be reduced to approximately 640, which would lower the total project cost proportionately to the unit price. The reduced total may be as low as \$216,000. Funding from this project comes from the 2014 GDOT LMIG grant. GDOT will send the funds in advance of the first invoice for

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the project, so no local funds will be needed. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Brooker, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.

14. **Engineer – Ratify Wetland Credits Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to ratify the purchase of wetland credits from the Etowah River Road Mitigation bank (dba ACT River Basin Group, LLC) for \$75,950. For the construction of the Carbondale Business Park Access Road, the US Army Corps of Engineers is requiring the County to purchase 2.17 wetland mitigation credits. The Conasauga Mitigation Bank does not have any credits available for sale at this time, the nearest mitigation bank with credits available is the Etowah River Road bank, located in Dawsonville, GA. They offered the credits for \$35,000 each for a total of \$75,950. Construction of the project may not commence until the credits are purchased and proof of purchase is provided to the USACE. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Robbins, Brooker and Laughter in agreement.
15. **Timber Harvesting Notice Form:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to approve the Timber Harvest Form that was implemented in Georgia by Senate Bill 199. The form substitutes the right of way encroachment form that the County was previously using for this unified state form. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Brooker, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
16. **Public Works – Right of Way Mowing:** The Board recommended for Public Works to mow the County's right of ways in one pass for the upcoming mowing season.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Eric Woodfin who resides on Standing Road spoke before the about the condition of Standing Road. Mr. Woodfin informed the Board that he recently purchased land on Standing road to begin a farm. Mr. Woodfin noted that Standing Road has a reasonable amount of traffic and is used by drivers as a short cut. The road is also narrow and several large hauling trucks will be driving this road to get to Mr. Woodfin's farm he wanted to start the discussion of the probability of fixing road and possibly also widening it. The Board asked Public Works Director Dewayne Hunt to look into the situation.

Mr. Edward Scott Pierce who resides in the Freeman Springs Subdivision came before the Board to speak about Freeman Springs Cut Off Rd and Freeman Springs Rd. Mr. Pierce would like to have these Roads widened, asphalt on both roads are approximately 14.5" wide. Mr. Pierce noted that Freeman Springs Road has a difficult left turn at the intersection of greater than 90 degrees and the majority of the people use Freeman Springs Cut Off Road, however they face the same issues as Mr. Woodfin with transfer trucks and school busses traveling along the road and the vehicles having either to wait in the Subdivision road or pulling off to the shoulder and waiting for them to pass. Commissioner Brooker recommended that Public Director Dewayne Hunt do a traffic study at both of these roads and report back to the Board.

Mrs. Debbie Peppers came before the Board to offer a suggestion for Economic Development in Whitfield County. Mrs. Peppers suggested to expand and develop the sewer system in the North and South parts of the County. Mrs. Peppers suggested that the County appoint a Task Force that would look into and identify areas of the County that would be a priority to extend the sewer system to, and to explore funding options through federal and local grants.

**ADJOURN** Unanimous

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MIKE BABB, CHAIRMAN  
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /