

**MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL CALLED WORK SESSION MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY OCTOBER 24, 2016, AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING #1, 301 W. CRAWFORD STREET**

**SPECIAL CALLED WORK SESSION**

The Chairman called the work session to order.

**The following members were present:**

Mike Babb, Chairman (Absent)  
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  
Press

**Work Session:**

Joe Cook from the Coosa River Basin Initiative spoke to the Board regarding a resolution to call upon the General Assembly to update the 1975 Oil and Natural Gas and Deep Well Drilling Act. Cook noted that currently there are very limited regulations for obtaining a permit to drill for natural gas in Georgia. Cook noted there is not public comment period or notification for adjacent landowners, local governments or agencies and he permits are issued within a fifteen-day period from the Environmental Protection Agency. Cook also noted that there are no provisions for an operator to identify ground water around the well or monitor the wells for contamination. Vice Chairman Brooker thanked Mr. Cook for bringing this resolution to the Board and asked County Attorney Robert Smalley to review the resolution and report back to the Board.

Chief Appraiser Ashley O'Donald spoke to the Board regarding the proposed Property Audit for personal property in Whitfield County. O'Donald noted that currently personal property taxes are self-reporting meaning that the business tax payers report their personal property tax to the Tax Assessors office. O'Donald has received bids from two audit firms to do on-site complex to verify personal property assets Taylor Business Services (Kennesaw, GA) and Municipal Audit Professionals (Atlanta, GA). O'Donald noted that these audit firms look into tax returns, financial reports, balance sheets, verify inventory to make sure the tax payers report what they are supposed to be reporting. O'Donald noted that a benefit to contracting this service out to a third party vendor is that they are impartial. Vice Chairman Brooker asked O'Donald to get with County Administrator Mark Gibson about bringing this topic before the Board during a regular meeting.

Information Technology Director Rick Lovelady presented to the Board a contract with Dalton Utilities for hosted rack space for data storage. Currently the County has backup data and backup hardware at the Admin 1 building and at the Sheriff's Office. Lovelady noted that since Admin 1 and the Sheriff's Office are in close proximity to each other that another location be chosen for backup hardware. Dalton Utilities rents rack space for hardware. Lovelady noted that is for security reasons. The Board will consider the contract at the upcoming regular business meeting in November.

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County Administrator Mark Gibson presented the Board with the Sheriff's Office HVAC contract for maintenance of the HVAC units. Gary Brown Director of Buildings and Grounds noted that there are a total of forty-nine units at the Sheriff's office. Trane is the current provider for maintenance for the HVAC units at the Sheriff's Office. The Board will consider the contract at the upcoming regular business meeting in November.

The work session was adjourned.

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MIKE BABB, CHAIRMAN  
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /