

**MINUTES FOR THE WORK SESSION OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD MONDAY APRIL 23, 2018, AT 5:00 P.M. IN ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING #1, 301 W.
CRAWFORD STREET**

WORK SESSION

The Chairman called the work session to order.

The following members were present:

R. Lynette Laughter, Chairman
Harold Brooker, Vice Chairman
Barry W. Robbins, Member
Roger Crossen, Member
Greg Jones, Member

Others Present:

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

Work Session:

Chairman Laughter called the work session to order.

Chairman Laughter addressed the Board and Citizens about a community meeting that former City of Dalton Mayor David Pennington recently held. Laughter informed the Board about some of the topics that were discussed during the meeting. One of the main topics was that the per capita income and median household income in Dalton and Whitfield County are some of the lowest in the State of Georgia and Nationwide. Laughter also noted that education, the economy and the condition of homes and buildings within the City of Dalton were brought up during the meeting. Laughter further noted that Pennington's end goal is a consolidated government between the City of Dalton and Whitfield County.

Whitfield County Schools Assistant Superintendent for Operations Mike Ewton informed the Board of their plans to add five more School Resource Officers (SRO). Ewton noted that currently there are five SRO's for 23 schools, they are based at the high schools but also go to the middle schools and elementary schools. Ewton noted that the additional SRO's will be based at the middle schools, which in some cases are in close proximity to the elementary schools. Ewton also noted that he has been in contact with the Sheriff's Office about this request. Ewton asked the County to cover half of the cost for the SRO's. Currently Ewton said the County Schools pay 75% of the salaries and overtime and 25% of the benefits cost for the SRO's. Commissioner Brooker recommended Ewton meet with County Commissioner Mark Gibson and County Attorney Robert Smalley for further discussion.

Assistant Finance Director Melva Andrews presented the Board with 2017 budget amendment #5. Andrews noted that this budget amendment is to realign budget allocations within the general fund as well as other funds to meet projected expenditures and revenues for the year ending December 31, 2017. This item will be on the May Board meeting.

EMA Director Claude Craig informed the Board about an update to the Uninterrupted Power Source system that will complete the communications project, the install will be done by Motorola. This item will be on the May Board meeting agenda.

Parks and Recreation Director Brian Chastain informed the Board that Advantage Sports had the low bid for sports uniforms. This item will also be on the May Board meeting agenda.

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The work session was adjourned.

R. LYNETTE LAUGHTER, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /