

MEETING MINUTES FOR THE BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2018 AT 5:00 P.M. IN ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING #2, 214 W. KING STREET

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

The Chairman called the meeting to order.
Pledge of allegiance to the Flag
Roll call to determine quorum

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
Citizens

Budget Public Hearing:

Chairman Laughter noted this public hearing was advertised in the newspaper and the proposed 2019 budget is posted on the County's website. By State law a public hearing is required prior to adoption of the budget. Chairman Laughter further stated that the adoption of the proposed budget will be held on December 10th, 2018 during the regular business meeting. Chairman Laughter also noted that we held every department head and elected official budget meeting publicly. We also held a public work session on the budget. We were disappointed in the lack of citizen and press participation.

Chairman Laughter opened the 2019 Budget Public Hearing.

County Administrator Mark Gibson presented the overall status of the 2019 budget. Gibson noted that general fund revenues for the County will be \$49,153,723 with expenditures being \$46,932,098 million, the Special Tax Districts show revenues of \$11,505,390 with expenditures of \$11,501,290 showing a surplus of \$4,100 for 2019. Gibson noted that there is a \$2,221,625 surplus in the 2019 General Fund budget. The LOST agreement that became effective January 1, 2013 reduced the County's portion from 83.240% to 64.850%. The County's percentage was further decreased ever two years and was 62.653% in 2017 and 2018, and will decrease in 2019 to 61.556%.

Mr. Jevin Jensen addressed the Board. Jensen noted during the last couple of years the County has had surpluses and with the County running a surplus again in 2019, he would like for the Board to consider a property tax rate cut next fall.

Chairman Laughter explained we were trying to build up the fund balance so the County did not have to borrow funds to get through the year until taxes are collected in December.

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

ADJOURN: Unanimous

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R. LYNETTE LAUGHTER, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /