

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2019, 6:00 P.M. AT 201 S. HAMILTON ST., 5TH FLOOR, DALTON, GA, 30720

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:

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
Citizens
Department Heads
Press

Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to amend the agenda to add item 1. a. Whitfield County Merit System Personnel Board - Re-appointment Tim Holt from the potential additional items. The motion was approved 5-0, with Chairman Laughter, and Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.

Motion was then made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the amended agenda. The motion was approved 5-0, with Chairman Laughter, and Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Laughter called for a Public Hearing to hear any comments or concerns the public may have regarding an application for a Malt Beverage License for A & S Ampak Corp. located at 4111 South Dixie Hwy, Bldg. 6000, Dalton, GA. No comments or concerns were expressed in the Public Hearing so Chairman Laughter closed the hearing.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the July 8, 2019 regular business meeting and the July 22, 2019 work session minutes. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

1. **Re-appointment to the Whitfield County Department of Family and Children's Services Board of Directors:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to re-appoint Kelly McAllister and John Helton to five-year terms to expire on June 30, 2024. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Brooker, Jones, and Robbins in agreement.
2. **Re-Appointment - Dalton Whitfield Board of Zoning Appeals:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to re-appoint Debby Peppers to the Dalton Whitfield Board of Zoning Appeals. Mrs. Pepper's term will expire on June 30, 2024. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Brooker, Jones and Robbins in agreement.
3. **Appointment to the Whitfield County EMS Quality Review Committee:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to appoint Sharrel Jones to a two-

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year term to the Whitfield County EMS Quality Review Committee to expire on December 31, 2021. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Brooker, Jones, and Robbins in agreement

4. **Whitfield County Merit System Personnel Board Re-Appointment:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to re-appoint Tim Holt to a five-year term to expire June 30, 2024. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.

FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. **Appointment of 2020 SPLOST Committee Members:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the members of the 2020 SPLOST Advisory Committee. The motion was approved 5-0, with Chairman Laughter and Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker, and Robbins in agreement.
2. **Malt Beverage License – A&S Ampak Corp.:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the Malt Beverage License for A & S Ampak Corp. located at 4111 S. Dixie Hwy, Dalton, GA. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Crossen, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.
3. **Town of Cohutta Annexation Requests:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins for no land use classification objection to tax parcel numbers 11-121-19-000, 11-121-05-000, 11-101-01-009, 11-101-01-008, 11-101-01-022, 11-101-01-021, 11-101-01-023, 11-096-09-000. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones, and Robbins in agreement.
4. **Board of Elections – Transfer of Equipment:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the equipment transfer of approximately 32 voting machines to the Secretary of States Office. The Board of Elections will be receiving new voting equipment and will no longer have use for them and they take up a large amount of space in the elections office. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
5. **Board of Elections – Ratify New Precinct Cards Postage:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the ratification of \$18,447.80 for postage to mail new precinct cards to all registered voters in the County. Hammontree explained this is due to the November 2018 voter approved ballot to elect County Commissioners by district rather than countywide. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Crossen, Brooker, and Robbins in agreement.
6. **Sheriff's Office – Tech Friends, Inc. Additional Services:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to allow Techfriends to establish a USPS maildrop handling service to deliver legal mail electronically to inmates and is offering an updated booking kiosk for \$10,000. Techfriends is also offering a revenue share on messaging, video visitation and tablet rental of 15% of net revenue. The effective rate will be 13.5% of gross revenue, with approximately \$40,000 annual commission for Whitfield County. Captain Lynch noted Tech Friends, Inc. provides several benefits to the County and Sheriff's Office, including: increased security, reduced manpower usage from moving inmates within the facility, improved communication between staff and inmates, systems of electric accountability

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and logging of inmate issues and complaints, increases ability to provide visitation services to inmates and significantly reduced printing costs as inmate handbooks and other items can be made available electronically. The entire system provides additional services to inmates such as email, an improved commissary interface, more flexible visitation hours, easy access to communication materials and easy access to account balances and information. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.

7. **Sheriff's Department – Upfitting Four (3) Animal Control Trucks:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the bid from West Chatham Warning Devices Savannah GA for \$24,971.43. Patrol Upfitters had the lowest bid but their bid was not submitted correctly and was not accepted by the Sheriff's Office. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Brooker, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
8. **Sheriff's Office – Ratify - Jail Boiler purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to ratify the purchase of two boiler systems along with labor and materials for the detention facility from Boone Plumbing in the amount of \$22,165.24. The funding will come from emergency contingency funds. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins, Brooker, and Crossen in agreement.
9. **Sheriff's Office – Emergency Repairs of Two Trane AC Units:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to ratify the emergency repairs of two rooftop A/C units from Trane, LLC for the Jail for \$14,698. The funding will be taken from emergency contingency funds. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones, and Robbins in agreement.
10. **Fire Department Hurst Hydraulic Extrication Equipment Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the purchase of Hurst Hydraulic Extrication equipment from MES Inc. for \$27,988.87. MES Inc. is the sole dealer for the State of Georgia for this product. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Brooker, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
11. **Public Works – Skid Steer Bid Approval:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the purchase of a track skid steer from Yancey Bros for \$ 56,124. Hunt noted the initial purchase for this equipment was March 2019 from Bobcat but Bobcat was not able to attach to their Caterpillar equipment and requests to the BOC to approve the second lowest bid from Yancey Bros for this equipment. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones, and Robbins in agreement.
12. **Public Works – City of Varnell Playground Demolition:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve Public Works demolishing the playground. Varnell City has said they are planning to make this a dog park. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones, and Robbins in agreement
13. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the recommendation of the planning commission approving the request of David Stansell to rezone a tract of land (parcel 09-108-03-000) containing a total of 0.64 acres located at 1301 Dawnville Rd., from General Commercial (C-2) to Rural Residential (R-5). The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Crossen, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.

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14. **December 2018 Financial Statement**: Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the December 2018 Financial Statement as presented by Finance Director James Garvin. Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) collections: Per the IGA, the County's LOST percentage for 2019 is 61.556%. It was 62.653% in 2017/2018 June, 2019 collections of \$920,276, were 11.4% greater than budgeted collections of \$825,750. June, 2019 collections of \$920,276, were 1.8% less than May, 2019 collections of \$936,746. YTD June, 2019 collections of \$5,508,312, were 8.6% greater than same-period 2018 collections of \$5,072,646. TAVT collections for June, 2019 were \$191,086, or 4.6% less than June, 2018 collections of \$200,249. YTD June, 2019 collections of \$1,301,270, were 2.2% less than same-period 2018 collections of \$1,331,004. YTD June, 2019 actual revenues of \$15,261,237, exceeded projected revenues of \$14,135,721, by \$1,125,516, or 8.0%. YTD June, 2019 actual expenditures of \$22,510,921, were less than projected expenditures of \$22,914,330, by \$403,409, or 1.8%. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones, and Robbins in agreement.
15. **Finance – 2019 Budget Amendment #1**: Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the 2019 budget amendment #1 reflecting the mid year pay adjustment. The \$274,339.29 will come out of the general fund balance. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Brooker, Jones, and Robbins in agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Nicky Starling spoke before the Board and recommended Erma Raymond to the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities for Region 1.

ADJOURN Unanimous

R. LYNETTE LAUGHTER, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /