

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2019, 6:00 P.M. IN ADMINISTRATION 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:**

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 Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to amend the agenda. 1 item was added from the potential additional items; (1. SPLOST 2020 Advisory Committee; and 1 item was removed from the agenda; Board Appointment – Highland Rivers Health Governing Board of Directors). Commissioner Robbins requested removal of agenda item # 4. Demolition Contract – Administration Building #2. Chairman Laughter noted in order to add a potential additional item a unanimous vote is required. Commissioner Crossen suggested leaving item #4 on the agenda so that it can be discussed, Commissioner Robbins was in agreement. The motion was approved 5-0, with Chairman Laughter, Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement. Approval of the agenda was unanimous.**

**Chairman Laughter recognized Mr. Jonathan Hayes as Employee of the Month for February 2019. Mr. Hayes works in the Tax Assessors office.**

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the May 13, 2019 regular business meeting, May 20, 2019 work session and May 28, 2019 special called meeting minutes. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Brooker, Jones and Robbins in agreement.

**FOR CONSIDERATION:**

1. **Resolution – Board of Tax Assessors Appointment Gail Junkins-Noles:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the Resolution of Appointment of Gail Junkins-Noles to the Whitfield County Board of Tax Assessors. There was a vacancy on the Board of Assessors as a result of the resignation of Regina Johnson who was appointed on April 10, 2017. The appointment of Gail Junkins-Noles to the Whitfield County Board of Assessors shall expire on June 30, 2023. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Crossen and Jones in agreement.
2. **Pre-Event Debris Removal Contacts:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to accept the recommendation from the Emergency Management Department to enter into a pre-event contract for disaster debris removal with CERES, Crowder

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Gulf and SDR. There is no cost to be incurred by the County in entering into these contracts unless the contract is activated, due to a disaster. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.

3. **Clerk of Superior Court – Small Equipment Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the purchase of HON office furniture for the Clerk of Superior Courts offices, through National IPA, contract #R1422098, a purchasing alliance. The amount of the purchase is \$18,527.96. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.
4. **Demolition Contract – Administration Building #2:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to not accept the bid of \$341,000 from Complete Demolition Services for demolition of Administration building #2. The Board instructed County Administrator Mark Gibson to put out an invitation to bid for abatement services. The motion was approved 3-2, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, and Jones in agreement. Chairman Laughter and Commissioner Crossen were in dissention.
5. **Engineering – Project 3.7 SR 201 Extension Supplemental Design Proposal:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the supplemental design proposal from American Consulting Professionals for \$55,900. The original contract amount was \$306,500 which included concept development, geotechnical, design, plan production and environmental services. During the environmental, design and right of way acquisition phases of the project, there are other items that are out of the original scope that have been identified. The motion was approved 4-0 with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.
6. **Engineering – Project 3.7 SR 201 GA Power Utility Relocation Agreement:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the agreement with GA Power for \$236,426 for relocation of utilities. Any relocation of utilities located outside of the existing road right of way must be paid for by the County. All of the work will be done by GA Power or its contractors and the County will not be responsible for any cost over the negotiated amount, but could pay less if the actual cost is less. The motion was approved 4-0 with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.
7. **Engineering – Acceptance of GDOT supplemental LMIG funds:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the supplemental GDOT LMIG funds of \$350,000. This grant has a 30% local match requirement and will be met with the County's budget for the SR 201 Extension project. The motion was approved 4-0 with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.
8. **Engineering – Ratify Work Order/ Moreland Altobelli:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to ratify the work order

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from Moreland Altobelli in the amount of \$49,600. The work order is for intersection and signal design work on a four-way intersection at SR 71 and Maple Grove Road. A new middle school is being built on the east side of SR 71. In order to promote safety at the intersection, to have a good chance of getting a new traffic signal approved by GDOT, and for the WC school system's preferred driveway configuration to be approved by GDOT, the Maple Grove leg must be widened for a left turn lane out. A deceleration lane must also be added on SR 71. We have engaged MAAI to prepare plans for construction of the intersection improvements, as well as an updated signal warrant analysis and signal design. Right-of-way plans will also be produced. MAAI will assist the County in working with GDOT to get the new traffic signal approved. The cost of these services is \$49,600. Being a safety project, the money will come from the remaining safety funds in the 2007 SPLOST account. The motion was approved 4-0 with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.

9. **Engineering – Sanitary Sewer Easement purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the purchase of a permanent 20 foot sanitary sewer easement from Carbondale Land Company, LLC in the amount of \$17,000.00. The sanitary sewer that runs across this property ties in the gravity sewer in the business park to the main sewer line along US 41. The motion was approved 4-0 with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.
10. **Information Technology:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the low bid for access controls for security in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> floors at the Wells Fargo building for \$39,013 from G-Tech. Two quotes were received for this service, Intec submitted a quote of \$43,115.77 and G-Tech \$39,013. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Crossen, Brooker and Jones in agreement.
11. **Resolution – Designate Finance Officer to request information for GA DOR:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the resolution appointing Finance Director James Garvin to receive information from the Georgia Dept. of Revenue to validate which political subdivision a taxpayer is in with a business located within the County who has remitted sales and use taxes for a designated period. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.
12. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve recommendation of the planning commission to approve the rezoning request of Jeff McDonald to rezone a tract of land (parcel 11-267-04-000) containing a total 1.042 acres located at 628 Good Hope Road, from General Agriculture (GA) to Low-Density Single-Family Residential (R-2). 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 Brooker to approve the recommendation of the planning commission to approve the request of Ruben Rodriguez Et. Al. to rezone a tract of land (parcel 12-333-01-077) totaling 0.36 acres located at 248 Shepard Lane from Heavy Manufacturing (M-2) to Rural Residential

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(R-5). The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones, and Robbins in agreement in agreement.

14. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the recommendation of the planning commission to approve the rezoning request of Henry and Deborah Smith to rezone a tract of land (parcel 11-167-06-000) totaling 0.75 acres located at 468 McGaughey Chapel Road from General Agriculture (GA) to Rural Residential (R-5). The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones, and Robbins in agreement.
15. **April 2019 Financial Statement:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the April 2019 Financial Statement as presented by Finance Director James Garvin. In discussion, Mr. Garvin noted 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. April 2019 collections of \$942,051 were 14.1% greater than budgeted collections of \$825,750. April 2019 collections of \$942,051 were 3.0% less than March 2019 collections of \$971,212. YTD April 2019 collections of \$3,651,291 were 11.4% greater than same-period 2018 collections of \$3,278,703. TAVT collections for April 2019 were \$229,407, or 33.5% less than April 2018 collections of \$345,082. YTD April 2019 collections of \$938,663 were 3.9% greater than same-period 2018 collections of \$903,104. YTD April 2019 actual revenues of \$11,347,905 exceeded projected revenues of \$10,618,912 by \$728,993 or 6.9%. YTD April 2019 actual expenditures of \$13,444,357 were less than projected expenditures of \$14,213,832 by \$769,475 or 5.4 %. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Brooker, Jones, and Robbins in agreement.
16. **Public Works Dept. – Declaration of Surplus:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the surplus declaration of vehicle and equipment from Public Works and to be placed on GovDeals.com. This will include a 2001 GMC tar distribution truck, 2001 Caterpillar 216 skid steer unit and a 1999 Broce broom unit. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones and Robbins in agreement.
17. Ms. Kathryn Sellers addressed the Board regarding possible funding for the Dalton Whitfield Library. Ms. Sellers asked the Board to consider raising their funding amount during the upcoming County budget process and to consider including the Library in the proposed 2020 SPLOST list of projects. Ms. Sellers noted per capita funding in the City of Dalton is \$7.56 and Whitfield County is \$3.47 with the average state per capita funding at \$16.00, Whitfield County is the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest in per capita funding in the entire state.
18. **SPLOST 2020 Advisory Committee:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the guideline and application forms for the 2020 SPLOST Advisory Committee. To serve on the committee, a person must be a Whitfield County resident and have voted in three of the last four elections. A person appointed by a city council must reside in that city. A person appointed by a commissioner must reside in that commissioner's district. Elected officials and candidates for elected office may not serve on the commission. The committee will be comprised of 16 people and two alternates. Each commissioner will appoint two members to the committee. And the board will appoint one alternate. The Dalton City Council will appoint three members and one alternate, and the smaller cities will appoint one member each. Commissioners

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and Councils of each of the four cities in Whitfield County -- Dalton, Cohutta, Tunnel Hill and Varnell -- will each develop lists of projects to be funded and bring them to the advisory committee, which will discuss the projects and make recommendations. Then each of the local governments will put together a final list to be placed on the ballot. The motion was approved 5-0, with Chairman Laughter, Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ed Painter addressed the Board regarding the 2020 SPLOST Advisory Committee. Mr. Painter voiced his concern about projects being added to the SPLOST list after the Advisory Committee has deemed them unnecessary.

**ADJOURN** Unanimous

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R. LYNETTE LAUGHTER, CHAIRMAN  
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /