

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2021, AT 6:00 P.M. AT STAGE 123 LOCATED AT 123 W. GORDON 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:**

Jevin Jensen, Chairman  
Barry W. Robbins, Vice-Chair  
Robby Staten, Member  
Greg Jones, Member

**Others Present:**

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

**Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to amend the agenda adding three (3) additional items to the agenda. (1) Quit Claim Deed – Beulah Drive (2) Information Technology – Sentinel One Renewal (3) Public Works – 2021 Drainage Improvements. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Staten and Robbins in agreement.**

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the February 8, 2021 regular business meeting. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Staten, Jones, and Robbins in agreement.

**Chairman Jensen recognized Mr. Ardian Gomez as Employee of the Month for January 2021. Mr. Gomez works at the Sheriff's Office.**

**Chairmans Report:** Chairman Jensen updated the Board and attendees on the Countys continuing response to COVID-19. Jensen noted hospitalization and new cases decreased and vaccinations increased in our area. Jensen further noted that the Whitfield County Transit Service will provide free transportation for individuals 65 and older to their vaccine appointments. Jensen also noted there have been over 250 new housing developments approved this year.

**Report from Commissioners:**

Commissioner Jones did not have any updates to present to the Board.  
Commissioner Staten noted the 7-8 Girls Allstar Basketball team won the State Championship.  
Commissioner Robbins updated the Board on the Library. Robbins noted the Library is currently in Phase 2 per CDC guidelines, and said they hope to move Phase 3 soon, which will allow people inside the Library.

**Report from County Administrator:**

County Administrator Mark Gibson updated the Board on a potential sale of property at Riverbend Park Drive, a prescribed forestry burn of 55 acres at Rocky Face Ridge to be held on Tuesday March 9, the Transit department has reorganized due to fallen ridership, the Animal Shelter is offering \$20.00 spay and neutering services to qualifying households, PPE has been provided to the Dalton-Whitfield Library, Courthouse remodel update, the new intersection at Cleveland Hwy & Maple Grove is moving along with permits to be issued soon, the Building Inspectors Office along with Code Enforcement have identified approximately ten hazardous homes deemed unsafe, enforcement procedures will begin soon and action by the County can be taken.

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**January 2021 Financial Statement:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the January 2021 Financial Statement as presented by Finance Director James Garvin. Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) collections: Per the IGA, the County's LOST percentage has adjusted downward from 61.555 to 60.457%, effective January 2021. This is the final downward adjustment prior to renegotiation of LOST proceeds among the County and various municipalities. January 2021 collections of \$925,846 were 3.5% less than budgeted collections of \$958,333. YTD January 2021 collections of \$925,846 were 7% greater than same-period 2020 collections of \$863,276. TAVT collections for January 2021 were \$367,584 or statistically equal to December 2020 collections of \$367,109. YTD January' 2021 collections of \$367,584 were also statistically equal to same-period 2020 collections of \$368,454. YTD January 2021 actual revenues of \$2,012,038 were less than projected revenues of \$2,225,605 by \$213,567 or 10.5%. YTD January 2021 actual expenditures of \$2,983,601 were less than projected expenditures of \$3,911,759 by \$928,157 or 23.5%. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Staten and Robbins in agreement.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

1. Daryl Long who resides at 4310 Troy Lane asked the Board to check if any elderly homeowners properties were the ones deemed unsafe and maybe the County could help get them sold and if they can't, maybe the Fire Department can use the houses for fire training.

**Appointment for the Whitfield County seat on the Region 1 EMS Council:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to appoint Wendy Saylor to become a member of the Northwest Georgia Region 1 seat of the Emergency Medical Services Council. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Staten and Robbins in agreement.

**First Reading Ordinance – Whitfield County Broadband Ready Community:** Chairman Jensen informed the Board of creating a new article IX of Chapter 7.5 of the Whitfield County Code of Ordinances. Chairman Jensen noted this ordinance will encourage expansion of faster internet in rural areas of County. No action was taken at this time.

**Whitfield County 4-H Agent Introduction:** Brenda Jackson the Murray County Extension Coordinator introduced Ms. Meghan Corvin as the 4-H agent for Whitfield County. Ms. Corvin will become the Whitfield County Extension Coordinator when she completes her agent training.

**Litter Program Update:** Chairman Jensen noted he spoke with Keep Dalton-Whitfield Beautiful, Dalton Public Schools, Whitfield County Schools, and the current Dalton Leadership class to come up with suggestions and ideas on creating new ways to help curb our litter problem.

**Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the recommendation of the planning commission to approve the request of Vicki Alexander to rezone from General Agriculture (GA) to Rural Residential (R-5) a tract of land totaling 5.84 acres located at 1932 Mill Creek Road, Rocky Face, Georgia. Parcel (12-342-34-000). The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Staten, Jones and Robbins in agreement.

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**Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the recommendation of the planning commission to approve the request of Ken and Ryan Hostetler to rezone from Single Family Residential (R-2) to Rural Residential (R-5) a tract of land totaling 0.48 acres located at 3620 Hurricane Road, Rocky Face, Georgia. Parcel (12-345-04-000). The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Staten, Jones and Robbins in agreement.

**Fire Department Surplus:** Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to surplus a 1988 International 4400 School Bus current mileage 165,482 and the interior parts from F250's, center seats, plastic console parts and metal braces and to be placed on GovDeals.com. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins and Staten in agreement.

**Fire Department Emergency Lights and Sirens for SPLOST Vehicles:** Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the bid from West Chatham for the Emergency Lights and Siren for (3) F250's. 1) ProLogic ITS: \$6,959.53 per vehicle and a total of \$20,878.59. 2) West Chatham: \$7,624.40 per vehicle and a total of \$22,873.20. 3) Dana Safety and Supply: \$7,481.74 per vehicle and a total of \$22,445.22. ProLogics failed to supply all equipment and wanted to rebid at \$22,928.87. They are not compliant. Dana Safety and Supply did not meet specs outlined in the ITB. They are not compliant. West Chatham meets all specs as outlined in the ITB. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Staten and Robbins in agreement.

**Timberghost Road No Thru Trucks:** Chairman Jensen briefed the Board about the possibility of putting up a No Thru Trucks sign on Timberghost Road. Public Works Director Dewanye Hunt noted the road has several general agricultural zoned homes that may utilize this road if they have business on their property. The Board tabled this item, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins and Staten in agreement.

**Public Works Zero Turn Mowers Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the purchase of four (4) Ferris ISX-2200 60" zero-tum lawn mowers from Bailey Outdoors of Dalton, GA, in the amount of \$33,396.00 each. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins and Staten in agreement.

**Public Works Boulders and Wall Construction for Rocky Face Ridge:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the bid from Northwest Georgia Paving, DBA as Outer Elements, Inc., Calhoun, GA, to construct a stackable boulder wall and to purchase boulders from Riverside Stoneworks at \$95.00 per ton for the Rocky Face Ridge Park entrance wall. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins and Staten in agreement.

**Public Works Skid Steer Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the purchase of a 73hp Track Skid Steer from Yancey Bros Calhoun, Ga for \$57,900. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins and Staten in agreement.

**Public Works Department Annual 2021 Bids:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the following:

- a. Tandem Dump Trucks with Operators / Primarily to support paving operations / Typically paid from LMIG or SPLOST funds. Wheat Trucking from Chatsworth, GA @ \$70.00 / \$70.00 per hour.

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- b. Road Striping / Both striping after paving and re-striping for maintenance / Few contractors in our region budget estimate IS \$126,000. Roadside Specialties from Cummings, GA.
- c. Gravel & Crushed Stone / Historically supplied by Vulcan Materials (formerly Dalton Rock), no other quarry is within a reasonable haul distance budget estimate is \$150,000.
- d. Concrete and Concrete Accessories / Typically bid by 1-2 local vendors / Quantities are small and random budget estimate is \$30,000. Murray Mix Concrete from Chatsworth, GA.

The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Staten and Robbins in agreement.

**Rocky Face Ridge Advisory Committee Appointment:** Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to appoint Mike Babb, Dewayne Hunt, Brian Chastain and Mark Gibson on the Rocky Face Ridge Committee. They will discuss options for keeping all stakeholders informed when the park opens. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins and Staten in agreement.

**Finance – 2020 Budget Amendment:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the 2020 budget amendment as presented by Finance Director, James Garvin. The motion was approved 3-1, with Chairman Jensen, and Commissioners Staten and Jones in agreement. Commissioner Robbins abstained.

**Finance – 2021 Budget Amendment:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the 2021 budget amendment as presented by Finance Director, James Garvin. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Staten, Robbins and Jones in agreement.

**Quit Claim Deed – Beulah Drive:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the quit claim deed for the unopened Right-of-Way of Beulah Drive described as follows: beginning at the intersection of the north right-of-way of Beulah Drive (50 foot right-of-way) and the east right-of-way of Cleveland Highway. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Staten and Robbins in agreement.

**Information Technology:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Staten to renew the Anti-virus SentinelOne with End Point Protection from WrightCore for the yearly amount of \$24,496.00. SentinelOne is an End Point Protection Solution that will protect against new viruses, malware, and other forms of malicious cyber-attacks. This proposed solution stops zero-day-attacks which is a vulnerability that is unknown to the vendor and exploited by hackers. SentinelOne is the only End Point Protection that offers a ransomware guarantee up to \$1000 per end point or \$1million per company. We have used this product for several years and have not had any data loss due to viruses, malware, or other forms of cyber-attacks. This solution covers all County computer devices and protect them on and off of the County's network. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Staten and Jones in agreement.

**Public Works – 2021 Drainage Improvements:** Motion was approved by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Staten to enter into contract for professional services with Southeastern Engineering, Inc. (SEI) in the amount of \$108,000 for surveying, design, drainage design, utility coordination & engineer's construction, cost estimation, contract management support and construction engineering and inspection for eight (8) existing Corrugated Metal Pipe (CMP) drainage cross pipe replacements. This is a SPLOST 2020 project. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Staten and Jones in agreement.

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**Whitfield County Department Goals Presentations:**

1. Public Works – Director Dewayne Hunt presented the departments goals for 2021 to the Board. Hunt noted the departments goals of adjusting the permit fee for driveway installations to more closely cover the cost of materials, any second driveway request will be contracted by the resident, utilize alternative road surfacing products and continue to take advantage of our LMIG credit, PW paving & milling.
2. Fire Department– Chief Edward O’Brien presented the departments goals for 2021 to the Board. O’Brien noted the departments goals are improve life safety measures for the benefit of citizens, review and update career path for employees growth, implement an internal safety program to review and reduce on the job injuries.
3. Tax Assessor – Chief Appraiser Ashley O’Donald presented the departments goals for 2021 to the Board. O’Donald noted the departments goals were to expand and promote web based taxpayer services, create and submit an accurate, equitable, and timely digest and to streamline internal processes.
4. 911 – Deputy Director David Metcalf presented the departments goals for 2021 to the Board. Metcalf noted the departments goals were to promote job satisfaction through employee training, each employee complete 4 training classes, create a new career path for telecommunicators, continue to reduce overtime, reduce overtime by 3%, improve community relations and promote more awareness in the school system and provide material for 10 elementary schools.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

1. Shannon Bearfield who resides at 1715 Van Way NW, Dalton Georgia asked County Administrator Mark Gibson what type of PPE was provided to the Library. Gibson noted surgical masks, anti-bacterial wipes and gloves were given. Bearfield then asked Chairman Jensen how committees are created. Chairman Jensen noted the Board can create boards and committees at their discretion.

**Executive Session – Personnel and Real Estate:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Staten to go into executive session to discuss Personnel and Real Estate Matters. Present for the meeting were Chairman Jevin Jensen, Commissioners Robbins, Jones, and Staten, County Attorney Robert Smalley, County Administrator Mark Gibson, Human Resources Director Jacqueline Carlo, and County Clerk Blanca Cardona. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Jones, and Staten in agreement.

Motion was then made by Commissioner Jones and Staten to come out of executive session. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Jones and Staten in agreement.

**ADJOURN** Unanimous

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JEVIN JENSEN, CHAIRMAN  
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /