

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, JUNE 28, 2010, AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING #2, 214 W. KING STREET

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

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

The following members were present:

Mike Babb, Chairman
Harold Brooker, Vice Chairman
Greg Jones, Member
Randy Waskul, Member
Mike Cowan, Member

Others Present:

Citizens
Robert McLeod, County Administrator
Robert Smalley, County Attorney
Dept Heads
Press

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Waskul and seconded by Commissioner Brooker. Approval of the agenda was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Motion was made by Commissioner Cowan and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the minutes for the Special Called Meeting of June 7, 2010 and the Regular Business Meeting of June 14, 2010. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Cowan, Jones, and Waskul in agreement.

PUBLIC HEARING – Increase of Hotel/Motel Tax:

1. Chairman Babb motioned that the meeting be opened for a public hearing on the use of the increase of \$.01 in hotel/motel tax that was just passed by the Georgia General Assembly in House Bill 1447. The increase raises the hotel/motel tax from 6% to 7%. The public hearing was opened to get any comments from the public on possibly using the 1% increase to amend the 2010 budget for the Dalton Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. The Dalton Area Convention and Visitors Bureau will use the extra revenue to help the economy in the Dalton area through the promotion of trade shows and hosting events, among other advertising and marketing ventures. There were not any public comments on the matter. After hearing no comments, Chairman Babb closed the public hearing.

CONSENT AGENDA #1:

1. **Appointment to the Whitfield County Department of Family and Children Services Board – Detective John Helton:** Motion was made by Commissioner Waskul and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to appoint Detective John Helton to the Whitfield County Department of Family and Children Services Board. Board member, Detective Barry Woods resigned from the Board effective June 10, 2010. His term to serve on the Board would not expire until June 30, 2014. Detective John Helton was selected to serve out the remainder of Detective Barry Woods' term. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Cowan, Jones and Waskul in agreement.

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2. **Reappointment to the Whitfield County Board of Assessors – Amee Killion Combs:** Motion was made by Commissioner Cowan and seconded by Commissioner Jones to reappoint Amee Killion Combs to the Whitfield County Board of Assessors. Mrs. Combs' current term will expire on June 30, 2010. The Board of Commissioners reappointed Mrs. Combs to a six-year term, effective as of July 1, 2010 and expiring on June 30, 2016. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Cowan, Jones and Waskul in agreement.
3. **Approval of a New Budget Plan for the Convention and Visitor's Bureau:** Motion was made by Commissioner Cowan and seconded by Commissioner Waskul to approve a proposed 2010 budget amendment to the Dalton Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. New revenue figures were submitted for approval as projected funding increases to the 2010 DACVB budget. The funds for the budget increases will be generated by the revised hotel/motel tax increase of 1%. The increase of 1% to the hotel/motel tax is the result of House Bill 1447. It was established that the motion to approve a new budget for the Dalton Area Convention and Visitors Bureau would be contingent upon the arrival of the 1% increase in hotel/motel revenue to Whitfield County. The increased funds for the Dalton Area Convention and Visitors Bureau will be used to increase the economic impact for the Dalton area through promotion at trade shows and hosting events, advertising in select publications of target markets, and sales through personal sales calls and trade show attendance. The targeted markets for expenditures include the group meeting market, sports market, and leisure travel market. The City of Dalton recently passed a corresponding budget amendment for the Dalton Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Cowan, Jones and Waskul in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "A")**
4. **Amendment to the Code or Ordinances for a Hotel/Motel Tax Revision:** Motion was made by Commissioner Waskul and seconded by Commissioner Cowan to approve an ordinance amending Chapter 8 of the *Whitfield County Code of Ordinances*. Chapter 8 is known as the "Finance and Taxation" Chapter. The amendment will include striking, deleting, and repealing Section 8-9 captioned "Imposition and Rate" in its entirety and substituting in lieu thereof a new section 8-9 captioned "Tax Rate; Use of Tax". The amendment also provides for the striking of section 8-31, captioned "Proceeds of the Tax". The Resolution increases the current hotel/motel tax in Whitfield County from 6% to 7%. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Cowan, Jones and Waskul in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "B")**
5. **Insurance Renewal with ACCG-IRMA for Liability, Law Enforcement, Public Officials, Auto, Property, Equipment & Crime:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Waskul to authorize the Chairman to sign the renewal form for County general insurance coverage, (liability, law enforcement, public officials, auto, property, equipment & crime), in the amount of \$392,478.00 for the policy year starting July 1, 2010 with ACCG-IRMA. This motion was a renewal of the insurance that the County already has with ACCG-IRMA. The renewal form showed a Safety Credit of \$5000.00. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Cowan, Jones and Waskul in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "C")**

CONSENT AGENDA #2:

1. **Georgia Emergency Management Agency FY2010 Performance Partnership Agreement Award:** Motion was made by Commissioner Cowan and seconded by Commissioner Waskul to authorize the Chairman to sign the FY2010 Performance Partnership Agreement Award with the

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Georgia Emergency Management Agency. The Georgia Emergency Management FY2010 Partnership Grant reimburses the County for the Emergency Management Agency Director's salary and benefits. The Federal Award is for \$25,058.00 and there is a required local match of \$25,058.00 making the total project worth \$50,116.00. The fiscal year 2010 Performance Partnership Award is funded by the Department of Homeland Security Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Award and includes a minimum of fifty percent match requirement. In order to earn the Award, Whitfield County had to meet the terms for the 2009 Performance Partnership Agreement and had to show satisfactory progress on the 2009 Performance Partnership Agreement work plan. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Cowan, Jones, and Waskul in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "D")**

2. **Approval of Two New Bank Accounts:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Cowan to approve the opening of two new bank accounts with BB&T for the receipt of bond proceeds. All new accounts for Whitfield County require the Board of Commissioners' authorization. Under the terms of the two recently approve bond issues (2010 Aeries A & B), Whitfield County is required to open a bank account for each bond. This requirement is to keep the unspent funds separated from our general operating funds. These funds are for site plans, road and entrance construction, utilities, etc. After these remaining items are completed, these accounts can be closed. As soon as the bond proceeds are received, the County can reimburse the regular account for those funds that have already been expended. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Cowan, Jones and Waskul in agreement.
3. **Family Support Council – CASA: Commitment of Matching Funds:** Motion was made by Commissioner Cowan and seconded by Commissioner Waskul to increase the matching fund amount given to the Murray/Whitfield Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) to \$8,000.00 for fiscal year 2011. Murray/Whitfield CASA advocates for the best interest of children who have been adjudicated as deprived. They operate under the umbrella of the Family Support Council, a 501 C 3 agency. Their program is primarily funded by Promoting Safe & Stable Families federal money through a grant which requires a twenty-five percent match. In fiscal year 2010, Whitfield County provided a match of \$7,000.00 for the grant. Whitfield County is CASA's primary service area. For fiscal year 2011, CASA requested an increase from \$7,000.00 to \$8,000.00 for this grant cycle. The total amount of grant money requested is \$63,796.00. Murray County, as the secondary service area, provided a \$3,000.00 match in money for fiscal year 2010 and will be asked for an increase to \$4,000.00 for this grant. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Cowan, Jones and Waskul in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "E")**
4. **Cisco Hardware Maintenance Renewal:** Motion was made by Commissioner Waskul and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to award the bid for Cisco hardware Maintenance Renewal to Prosys in the amount of \$49,494.79. This renewal is part of the operating budget. Prosys was the low bidder out of three received bids (Prosys, Teklinks, and Multiven). Prosys was also awarded the contract last year. They will be expected to provide maintenance for the Cisco switches and phone equipment. Prosys is also on the State Contract list for Cisco Service and Support. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Cowan, Jones and Waskul in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "F")**
5. **GA Department of Corrections Inmate Labor Contracts:** Motion was made by Commissioner Waskul and seconded by Commissioner Cowan to approve an annual contract with the Georgia

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Department of Corrections for inmate labor for four inmate crews. The cost for each crew is \$39,500.00 per year for a total of \$158,000.00. Each crew will consist of up to 10 inmates. Presently, Whitfield County contracts for four crews. Two of the crews work with the County's concrete crews, one crew performs general maintenance and light construction for the County's Public Work's and Recreation Departments, and the remaining crew is used for trash pickup and mowing assistance. In discussion, there was debate concerning the cost effectiveness of inmate labor. Commissioner Brooker made a motion to only approve three crews for that reason. His motion failed for a lack of a second. Commissioner Jones then motioned to approve only one inmate labor crew contract. Commissioner Jones' motion also failed for a lack of a second. Commissioner Brooker clarified his motion by saying that while he does not have a problem with the inmate crews performing trash pickup, maintenance and mowing, the concrete work can be bid out cheaper than the inmate labor costs. Commissioner Brooker also expressed concern about the work schedule of the crews because they show up at odd times or sometimes not at all. Commissioners Cowan and Waskul urged that inmate labor is cost effective, and referenced a cost-benefit study on inmate labor that was done in the County years ago. During the discussion, Chairman Babb agreed that he could see both sides of the debate. Whitfield County's Public Works Supervisor, Alex Baker was also asked to present his opinion. Mr. Baker had mixed feelings about the inmate labor crews because, while he agreed that there was a cost-benefit, he qualified that sometimes the inmate crews may not have the knowledge and expertise necessary for the concrete work required. Summarizing the Commissioners' discussion, Chairman Babb suggested that the Commissioners go with the original motion to approve all four inmate labor crews and revisit the issue at their next meeting after doing more research on the crew's cost effectiveness. The Commissioners are able to cancel or amend the contract, which begins July 1, at any point by giving a seven day's notice. The motion was approved 3-1, with Commissioners Brooker, Cowan, and Waskul in agreement. Commissioner Jones opposed the motion. **(SEE EXHIBIT "G")**

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to enter into an executive session to discuss real estate acquisition. Those present for the executive session included: Chairman Babb, Commissioner Brooker, Commissioner Cowan, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Waskul, Robert McLeod (County Administrator), Robert Smalley (County Attorney), Jimmy Leonard (Leonard & Associates – Land Appraisals), and Samantha Bearden (County Clerk).

ADJOURN: Unanimous

MIKE BABB, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SAMANTHA BEARDEN, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /