

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2010, AT 4:30 P.M. IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING #2, 214 W. KING STREET

WORK SESSION

1. THE WORK SESSION WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIRMAN
2. Line Item Budget Presentations:
 - a. Presentation given by Mike McCarthy for the Public Defender's Office
 - b. Presentation given by Haynes Townsend for the Magistrate Court
 - c. Presentation given by Melica Kendrick for the Clerk of Court
3. Adjourn

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 (ABSENT)
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 Jones. Approval of the agenda was unanimous.

CONSENT AGENDA #1:

1. **July Financial Statements:** Motion was made by Commissioner Cowan and seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept the July Financial Statements as presented. Ron Hale, Financial Director, began by commenting on the County's sales tax revenues. Mr. Hale stated that the County is still maintaining a remarkable level of consistency in sales tax revenues, since that is normally the County's most variable source of revenue. In 2009, there were a lot of big drops and jumps from month to month in sales tax revenue, the numbers have remained more consistent this year, with this being the first month in 2010 where the County has fallen below 2009 sales tax levels. Mr. Hale also informed the Commissioners that Whitfield County is currently slightly below budget with sales tax revenues. Mr. Hale's overall projection is that the County will be \$.5 Million short in sales tax revenues by the end of the year unless the Christmas holidays increase spending. As an overall budget comment, Mr. Hale stated that at this point in the year, Whitfield County is \$1.5 Million ahead of budget and that the departments are still being very conservative in their spending. Next, Mr. Hale addressed the current millage rate in Whitfield County (5.061), and projected that if the current millage rate is held constant for FY2011, the result will be about \$1.5 Million in loss of property tax revenue from 2009 because of the devaluation of properties. Prompted by questions from the Commissioners, Mr. Hale further explained that, based on composite millage rates in the state of Georgia, Whitfield County is currently the fourth lowest taxing County in the State. However, when comparing economic rankings across the State, Whitfield County is the 23rd largest County in the State. With that being said, it is conclusive that Whitfield County's millage rating is far lower than that of other comparable counties. At this point, Mr. Babb reiterated that if sales tax and property taxes are both dropping, tough financial decisions will have to be made soon. The motion was

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approved 3-0, with Commissioners Cowan, Jones and Waskul in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "A")**

2. **Sublease for Prater's Mill Gin House:** Motion was made by Commissioner Waskul and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign a lease agreement between Whitfield County and the Prater's Mill Foundation, Inc. The purpose of the agreement was to correctly describe the property that was leased to the Prater's Mill Foundation Inc. from Whitfield County effective January 1, 2010 and the sublease to the Prater's Mill Foundation, Inc. the property leased by Whitfield County from Kenneth Edwin Boring under a lease dated August 9, 2010. The subleased property is commonly known as the Gin House. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Cowan, Jones and Waskul in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "B")**
3. **Resolution to Close Road – Cronan Drive:** Motion was made by Commissioner Waskul and seconded by Commissioner Cowan to initiate a road closing procedure for the drive beyond the County-maintained portion of Cronan Drive. Cronan Drive is a single-lane asphalt road in the northern part of Whitfield County, just east of the intersection of Barnard Road and Cleveland Highway. The road has historically been maintained by the County to a point marked by a sign which reads "End of County Road." A drive continues beyond this point which serves several houses. Cronan Drive is paved beyond the County's sign because the Public Works Department placed extra asphalt on it at the end of the paving job. Because the road is only 8-10 feet wide, the extra asphalt extended over 100 feet beyond the sign. There have been questions by citizens on Cronan Drive concerning whether the County owns the portion of the drive beyond the County's sign. Based on the fact that no County road maintenance is performed past the sign and that no right-of-way deeds exist for the road, the Whitfield County staff contended to the Commissioners that the County does not own the portion of the road past the County's sign. In order to clear the matter of ownership, staff recommended that the Commissioners initiate a procedure to close as a public road the drive beyond the point to which the County maintains on Cronan Drive. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Cowan, Jones and Waskul in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "C")**
4. **Purchase of Parcel X-Ray Scanner:** Motion was made by Commissioner Cowan and seconded by Commissioner Waskul to accept the bid for a parcel X-ray scanner for courthouse security from The Astrophysics Inc. Company. The purchase of a parcel X-ray scanner for courthouse security will be made through funds reimbursement from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act Byrne JAG Circuit Grant (Subgrant B82-8-194). One bid was received for the Invitation to Bid on this item (ITB# SD10-005) and was within the allotted amount for reimbursement through the Grant. The bid received was from The Astrophysics Inc. Company. They submitted their bid with their product model, the XIS-5335 Parcel X-Ray Scanner. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Cowan, Jones, and Waskul in agreement.
5. **Approval of CHIP Grant Project:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Cowan to affirm the payment of \$8,000.00 to Neal Southerland Concrete Finishings, Inc. for house repairs to be paid for with the CHIP Grant. In June, the Dalton-Whitfield Community Development Corporation (DWCDC) took written quotes for some house repairs to be paid for with the CHIP Grant. After evaluating the quotes, the DWCDC selected the low quote of \$6,500.00, submitted by Neal Southerland Concrete Finishings, Inc. However, during the process of laying concrete slab they found that areas of the ground and foundation

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had rotted away – leaving a large hole that had to be filled before the work could be completed. This resulted in the price of the work increasing to \$8,000.00, which is over the authority of the department spending. The DWCDC asked that the Board approve the payment to Neal Southerland Concrete Finishings, Inc. for the work completed. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Cowan, Jones and Waskul in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “D”)**

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

ADJOURN: Unanimous

MIKE BABB, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SAMANTHA BEARDEN, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /