

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE COURTHOUSE BOC MEETING ROOM LOCATED AT 205 N. SELVIDGE 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
John Thomas, Member
Greg Jones, Member

Others Present:

Robert Smalley, County Attorney
Robert Sivick, County Administrator
Department Heads
Citizens
Press

Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Jones, Thomas and Robbins in agreement.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Thomas to approve the December 12, 2022 Regular Business and December 19, 2022 Special Called Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Jones, Thomas, and Robbins in agreement.

Chairman Jensen recognized Dennis Green as Employee of the Month for November 2022. Mr. Green works in the Tax Assessors Office.

Director of Tourism Margaret Thigpen presented the ISA (Independent Sports Association) Complex of the Year Award to Parks and Recreation Director Brian Chastain for Riverbend Park.

Chairman's Report: Chairman Jensen went over the Countys accomplishments in 2022.

Report from Commissioners:

Commissioners Jones, Staten and Thomas did not have any updates to report for this month. Commissioner Robbins noted the Library is now fully staffed.

County Administrator Report:

County Administrator Robert Sivick informed the Board about the upcoming Rocky Face Ridge Park day to be held on April 15, 2023.

November 2022 Financial Statement: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the November Financial Statement as presented by Finance Director James Garvin. Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) collections: November collections of \$1,263,047 were 19% greater than budgeted collections of \$1,062,500. This was .75% less than October collections of \$1,273,978. YTD collections of \$13,210,788 were 13.5% greater than PY collections of \$11,644,900 for the same time frame. TAVT collections: November collections of \$380,468 were 5.75% less than October collections of \$403,812. YTD collections of \$4,679,941 were 2.75% less than PY collections of \$4,814,950 for the same time frame. YTD actual revenues of \$32,788,993 were greater than projected revenues of \$30,545,657 by \$2,243,336 or 7.25%. YTD actual expenditures of \$46,120,075 were greater than projected expenditures of \$44,936,386 by \$1,183,689 or 2.5%. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Thomas, Jones, Staten and Robbins in agreement.

Public Comment:

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Mary Blair who resides in the McCulley Subdivision of off Cleveland Hwy presented the Board with a petition for a traffic signal to be installed at the entrance of this subdivision. County Engineer Kent Benson informed Ms. Blair that this part of Cleveland Hwy is a State Road and he would get in touch with GDOT and inform them of their concerns.

Appointment of Whitfield County Elections Supervisor: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Thomas to name Shaynee McClure as Elections Supervisor for Whitfield County. Chairman Jensen and the Commissioners congratulated Ms. McClure on her appointment. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Thomas, Staten, Robbins and Jones in agreement.

Appointment of Senior Center Director: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to name Mary Hammontree as the Senior Center Director for Whitfield County. Chairman Jensen and the Commissioners congratulated Mrs. Hammontree on her appointment. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Thomas, Staten, Robbins and Jones in agreement.

Board of Commissioners Vice-Chairman Election: Commissioner Jones nominated Commissioner Robbins for Vice-Chairman of the Whitfield County Board of Commissioners for 2023, Commissioner Staten seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. A vote was taken and Commissioner Robbins was elected 4-0 to be Vice-Chairman of the Board for 2023.

Chairman Jensen - Appointment of Commissioners to Commissions, Authorities and Boards:

Chairman Jensen appointed the Commissioners to the following:

Commissioner Staten – N. GA Community Action Group Inc., and the Dalton-Whitfield Trade Center

Commissioner Jones – Dalton-Whitfield Solid Waste Authority, Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Correctional Task Force

Commissioner Robbins – Dalton-Whitfield Library Liaison

Commissioner Thomas - Dalton-Whitfield Community Development Corporation, Whitfield County Board of Health, and Dalton-Whitfield Land Bank Authority

Chairman Jensen – Dalton-Whitfield Solid Waste Authority, Greater Dalton MPO, Northwest Georgia Regional Commission, and the Council of Chief Elected Officials, and the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve Chairman Jensens Commissioner appointments. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Jones, Thomas and Robbins in agreement.

Re-Appointments to the Dalton-Whitfield Joint Development Authority: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones to re-appoint Kevin Harris and Frank Robertson to the Dalton-Whitfield JDA. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Jones, Thomas and Staten in agreement.

Re-Appointment to the Dalton-Whitfield Trade Center: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones to re-appoint Cathy Snyder to the Trade Center Authority. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins, Thomas and Staten in agreement.

Finance – 2022 Budget Amendment: Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the 2022 budget amendment as presented by Finance Director, James Garvin. 2022 Budget amendments (expense side) for Sheriff, Buildings, Superior Court,

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Coroner, Rec, Inspections and Engineering for \$2.02 million. Offsetting savings and revenue amendments at next meeting. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Thomas, Staten, Robbins and Jones in agreement.

Superior Court – 2023 Interpreter Contract: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the annual contract with KRNW Inc., for court interpreter services for Superior Court. The contract is for \$98,750.00 per year, and the end date is December 31, 2023. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins, Thomas and Staten in agreement.

UGA Contract - Whitfield County Extension Office: Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve a new contract position to the County Extension Office. In the 2023 General Fund budget, the BOC approved a new contract position for the County Extension office for which the County will pay 50% of the salaries and benefits totaling \$33,184. This position is a Family and Consumer Sciences Educator who will be instrumental in providing new services for the Sr. Center and will also enhance the general community services being provided by the Extension office. UGA requires an amended contract and budget to include this new position. Since UGA's fiscal year ends June 30, this contract and budget is only for 6 months of 2023 and thus only 1/2 of the costs. The costs for July-December 2023 will be included on the new FY2024 contract to be presented later in the year. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins, Thomas and Staten in agreement.

Information Technology – Virtual Server Upgrade: Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the purchase of Hardware and Professional Services from WrightCore through State Contract #99999-SPD-T20120501-0012 for the amount of \$113,806.60 to replace existing backup hardware and keep existing hardware under maintenance. The Whitfield County IT Department has been running a virtual environment for nearly 15 years. Virtualization saves the County money by reducing hardware cost and maximizing resources. This year we are requesting an upgrade of the most needed resources and to keep hardware, licensing and support current. Our Backup hardware which is essential to protecting all of the County's data, needs new hardware which will provide data protection against ransomware. Additional memory for four servers with support renewal on seven existing servers. Support coverage on network storage devices. Professional Services to install memory and setup new backup hardware. These upgrades will have three-year coverage on the backup hardware and two-year coverage on the servers and storage devices with an option for a third year of coverage. This will push the major virtualization refresh out three years. Server Memory for 4 HP servers \$15,140, Backup Hardware DO3300 (3-year warranty) \$55,017 Nimble Storage support (2 year) \$23,945, HPE Server Support Renewal \$2,604, Professional Services \$17,100. TOTAL COST \$113,806.60. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Staten, Thomas and Jones in agreement.

Public Works Department Annual 2023 Bids: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Thomas to approve the following: a. Concrete and Concrete Accessories – \$18,000, Murray Mix Concrete from Chatsworth, GA. 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. Tandem Dump Trucks with Operators- Jackson Trucking and Wheat Trucking both half day \$85hr. Jackson Trucking \$80hr full day hourly rate. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Staten, Thomas and Robbins in agreement.

City of Tunnel Hill Annexation – parcel 12-038-15-000: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Staten for no land use classification objection to tax parcel number 12-

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038-15-000. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Jones, Robbins and Thomas in agreement.

Town of Cohutta Annexation – parcel 11-024-06-007: Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Robbins for no land use classification objection to tax parcel number 11-024-06-007. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Jones, Robbins and Thomas in agreement.

City of Varnell Annexations: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones for no land use classification objection to tax parcel numbers 11-155-01-037, 11-264-08-002 and 11-155-01-004. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Jones, Robbins and Thomas in agreement.

Juvenile Court – Court Attorney Contracts: Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the Independent Contractor's Agreement between Whitfield County Juvenile Court and Jerry Moncus, Bryan L. Rayburn, and Joshua J. Smith. Mr. Moncus, Mr. Rayburn and Mr. Smith will provide legal representation in all indigent cases as determined by the Whitfield County Juvenile Court. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Jones, Robbins and Thomas in agreement.

Juvenile Court – Guardian Ad Litem/Attorney: Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the Independent Contractor's Agreement between Whitfield County Juvenile Court and Matthew Thames. Mr. Thames will provide legal representation in all indigent cases as determined by the Whitfield County Juvenile Court. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Jones, Robbins and Thomas in agreement.

Rezoning Recommendation: Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the recommendation of the planning commission approving the request of Lewis Dixon to rezone from Estate Residential (R-1) to General Agriculture (GA) a tract of land totaling 22.63 acres located at 189 Sloan Road, NW, Resaca, Georgia. Parcel (13-241-07-000). The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Thomas, Staten, Jones and Robbins in agreement.

Rezoning Recommendation: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the recommendation of the planning commission approving the request of Jaime Paucay and Alberta Alvarade to rezone from General Commercial (C-2) to Rural Residential (R-5) a tract of land totaling 2.30 acres located at 4398 S. Dixie Hwy, Resaca, Georgia. Parcel (13-171-02-000). The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Thomas, Staten, Jones and Robbins in agreement.

Rezoning Recommendation: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the recommendation of the planning commission approving the request of Ricardo and Maria Salaises to rezone from Heavy Manufacturing (M-2) to General Commercial (C-2) a tract of land totaling 0.54 acres located at 1525 NW Waring Road, Dalton, Georgia. Parcel (12-143-02-000). The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Thomas, Staten, Jones and Robbins in agreement.

Rocky Face Ridge – Hay Bid: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to renew the lease agreement from Josh Land to maintain the Hay Fields on approximately 70 acres of Rocky Face Ridge. The hay will be cut, baled and removed and Land will pay an annual amount of \$350.00 to Whitfield County. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Staten, Thomas and Robbins in agreement.

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County Lease – Rocky Face Ridge House: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the renewal of the lease for the Rocky Face Ridge house with Lennie C. Holbert. The house is located at 2231 Crow Valley Road. The lease will terminate on December 31st, 2023. The motion was approved 4-0 with Commissioners Jones, Thomas, Staten and Robbins in agreement.

EMA - Hazard Mitigation Plan Update: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the 2022 Hazard Mitigation for Whitfield County. The Hazard Mitigation Plan becomes part of the foundation for emergency management planning, exercises, training, preparedness, and mitigation within the County. Such a plan sets the stage for long-term disaster resistance through identification of actions that will, over time, reduce the exposure of people and property to identifiable hazards. This plan provides an overview of the hazards that threaten the County and what safeguards have been implemented. The plan has to be updated every five years. This grant is designated for the update of the plan to meet the federal requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and will be the County's 2022 update. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins, Staten and Thomas in agreement.

Fire Department Furniture Bid: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the budget continuation of funds for their 2023 budget to complete the Capital Project. WCFD presented ITB#22-02 Fire Station Furniture to the BOC on March 14, 2022. The BOC approved the purchase but asked that we only buy enough for daily staffing to make sure we like them. We received the first order in October after numerous delays due to supply chain issues. The staff is pleased with the furniture and we made a second order for 22 more to complete the original request and were told they would be here by years end. In late October/early November we were contacted by the vendor and were told that the manufacturer Lane had closed all seven plants and laid off 2700 employees. With that news he would not be able to get us the remaining chairs. The vendor has agreed to selling us a better chair at the same price as last time. The new manufacturer is an American company and delivery is expected in 8 weeks. WCFD requests that you grant us a budget continuation of the previously approved expenditure item. Once complete we will be under our original request by \$6,225.00 dollars. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Thomas, Jones, Robbins and Staten in agreement.

Fire Dept. Assistance to Firefighters Grant Application: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones to apply for the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG). The Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program is one of three grant programs that constitute the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) focus on enhancing the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. The application deadline is February 10, 2023. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins, Staten and Thomas in agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Vicky Alt addressed the Board regarding the sewer IGA with Dalton Utilities.

Matt Coker addressed the Board regarding the large subdivisions planned for the North end of the County.

Tammy Williams who resides at 109 Timberland Drive addressed the Board regarding the Sheriff Office Policies.

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ADJOURN Unanimous



JEVIN JENSEN, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: 2/13/2023