



**Fannin County Board of Commissioners  
SPLOST Workshop/Regular Meeting  
Jury Assembly Room  
June 28, 2016 6:00 p.m.**

**SPLOST WORKSHOP**

Commissioner Larry Joe Sosebee called the SPLOST workshop to order at 6:00 PM.

McCaysville Mayor Thomas Seabolt stated he was happy with the set up of the SPLOST percentage designated to McCaysville.

Alicia Stewart, Finance Director of the City of Blue Ridge, requested 8% be designated to the City of Blue Ridge. Stewart spoke of projects that the city would use the funding for and specifically about the need for water and sewer projects. Commissioner Johnson inquired about other routes the city could take if the board was unable to supply the SPLOST funds. Stewart said that without the funds they would consider rate increases. Stewart adding that with the SPLOST funds they are hoping to obtain a GEFA grant.

Blue Ridge City Council Member Angie Arp added that the City of Blue Ridge has many needs and they would be happy with anything the board could do to help.

Joe Webb inquired about the cost of the roads on the road list and asked the board to look at designating SPLOST funds towards the library instead of recreation. Webb asked the board to take advantage of TSPLOST.

**REGULAR MEETING**

Commissioner Sosebee called the regular meeting to order at 6:15PM.

Lane Bishop led the Invocation and Commissioner Earl Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Commissioner Sosebee asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2016 meeting. Motion made first by Commissioner Johnson. Second made by Commissioner Sosebee; motion passed by unanimous decision.

Commissioner Sosebee moved to awarding the contract for convenience centers and a transfer station for solid waste and recycling services. Commissioner Sosebee commented that the board had asked County Attorney Lynn Doss to review the contract. Doss said there is no contract yet and they had only received one proposal. Doss recommended that the board table the vote to see if any other proposals are received and then they can go forward with a contract. Commissioner Sosebee asked if there would be time to table to vote and Doss said there is and a decision would need to be made at the next meeting. Motion to table the vote made first by Commissioner Johnson. Second made by Commissioner Sosebee; motion passed by unanimous decision.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Sosebee moved to a variance request from Thomas and Theresa Corollo. Motion made first by Commissioner Sosebee. Second made by Commissioner Johnson; motion passed by unanimous decision.

Commissioner Sosebee shifted to a variance request from Tex Cross. Motion made first by Commissioner Sosebee. Second made by Commissioner Johnson; motion passed by unanimous decision.

Commissioner Sosebee moved to a vote on the appointment on Mark Tune to the Library Board. Commissioner Sosebee asked if Tune wanted the appointment. Clare Barton of the Fannin County Library stated Clark Adams would be coming off the board of June 30 and that Tune did want the appointment. Commissioner Johnson asked if there was a way to get the appointments before the meetings so the commissioners could speak with the nominee and verify that they want the position. County Clerk and Finance Director Rita Kirby said she try to get contact information as the recommendations are received. Motion made first by Commissioner Johnson. Motion made second by Commissioner Sosebee; motion passed by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Sosebee moved to approving the checking account with C&S Bank for the employee benefits fund. Commissioner Johnson inquired about the interest rate. Kirby stated she had contacted three banks and C&S Bank had the best interest rate. Commissioner Sosebee made first the motion. Second made by Commissioner Johnson; Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Sosebee shifted to approving invoices over \$4,500. The commissioners reviewed the invoices. Motion made first by Commissioner Johnson. Second made by Commissioner Sosebee; motion approved by unanimous decision.

Commissioner Sosebee proceeded to updates from the Fannin County Department Heads.

Land Development Department Head Marie Woody stated there had been 23 permits for the month and 3 new homes. Woody said the department is at 129 for the year, up 28 permits from the same time last year and up 53 from 2014.

Maintenance Department Head Ken Petty said the heat had been an issue as they had replaced air conditioning units for 911, Road Department, the Health Department, and two units at Station 7. Commissioner Johnson stated he had heard complaints about the restrooms at Tammen Park and Horseshoe Bend and asked for Petty's recommendation to stop the issue. Petty said he believed building more restrooms would help because the same one is being used constantly. Commissioner Johnson inquired about using portable bathrooms or another route instead of building more restrooms. Petty said unless someone is monitoring the parks at all times, it is hard to keep the issues with the restrooms down. Petty said employees check the restrooms twice a week when they mow. Commissioner Johnson asked Petty to think on a solution and said something had to be done to adjust to the number of people using the parks and restrooms. Petty said he believed a lot of the issue was taking place on the weekends and suggested having someone monitor the parks on the weekends.

Deputy Director Darrell Payne gave the update for EMS Director Robert Graham. Payne announced the following statistics for 911 calls.

Total Calls: 7,023

Law Enforcement: 1,732

Emergency Calls: 2,011

Fire: 27

EMS: 399 with 43 out of town transfers

Rescue: 116

Payne said EMS revenues were at \$88,660.44 and there were 224 EMA personnel training hours. Payne said the reimbursement for the flooding was at \$50,000 and is now at \$135,000. Payne thanked Woody for working for the reimbursement. Payne stated the new ambulance remount would be picked up in two weeks. Payne said the new 24 hour crew would be housed in another station until the Dian station was renovated for a 24 crew. Commissioner Sosebee asked if all ambulances are working properly and Payne said they are. Commissioner Johnson encouraged all department heads to think about their needs.

Recreation Department Director John Scalera stated they had finished the tournament season and had taken in approximately \$12,000 in concession and gate fees. Scalera stated there were 141 kids in the first session of day camp and they are down around 10 kids beginning the second session. Scalera said there were 21 kids in soccer camp, 17 kids in fishing camp, 13 kids in waterlogged camp, and they hosted a baseball camp. Scalera said they would have a football camp with the high school as well. Scalera commented on being proactive with the budget and itemizing each program in the coming years. Scalera said SPLOST was discussed at the recent Recreation Board meeting and they have begun discussions with architectural firms to discuss renovations. Commissioner Sosebee asked Scalera if he had enough help at the park and he said he did and the park was being maintained. Commissioner Johnson addressed ideas that recreation should not be on SPLOST and spoke on the number of children in day camp and the need to update facilities that have been the same for 20-30 years. Commissioner Johnson stated the department heads needed to let people know their needs.

Blue Ridge Mountains Arts Association Director Nicole Potzauf stated there were 1,600 guests, not including the 11,500 visitors for Arts in the Park. Potzauf stated there were 180 boots at Arts in the Park. Potzauf stated there were 150 students in the adult classes in April and 149 in the adult classes during May. Potzauf stated the BRMAA averages 1,000 active members. Potzauf said they were open 52 hours and have held 73 classes. Potzauf stated there were 44 classes scheduled so far through December. Potzauf said the rocks on the steps have been removed and she has received one quote to repair them. Potzauf stated BRMAA now has a partnership with the University of North Georgia.

Fannin Library Director Claire Barton stated the library was open 24 days in May and had 4,078 visits. Barton said the summer is the busiest time for the library and they would host summer movie nights as well as their summer reading program. Barton commented on special events taking place including Zumba and tie dye.

Animal Control employee Luther Patterson gave the monthly report in place of Department Head John Drullinger. Patterson gave the following update for May 24-June 28:

Intake: 31

Tristate Pet Rescue: 14

Cats & Dogs Rescue: 1

Blue Ridge Humane Society: 1

Adopted from Animal Control: 2

Reclaim: 7

Year to Date: 166

Last Year (May): 142

Building Inspector Keith Nicholson gave the following update:

Permits: 50

Commercial Permit: 2, New Home Permits: 14

Mobile Home Permits: 3, Power Only Permits: 10

Miscellaneous Permits: 21, Site Evaluations: 40

Foundation Evaluations: 33,

Framing Inspections: 31

Electrical Inspections: 77

Certificates of Occupancy: 9

Nicholson said that once inspections slow down he would like to be able to send Inspector Jody Barfield to school for electrical inspection certification.

Financial Director Rita Kirby stated the auditors are finishing up and will give a report at the next meeting. Kirby said all departments are on target and the overall budget for the general fund is at 48%. Kirby presented the following figures:

General Fund: \$7,300,000

SPLOST Roads & Bridges: \$2,200,000

SPLOST Capital: \$1,200,000

Kirby said SPLOST is up \$32,000 from last year. Commissioner Johnson inquired the roads planned to pave this season and asked that by the next meeting getting a report and projected budget for the roads.

Commissioner Johnson asked that the board seriously consider outsourcing the road striping.

Fire Chief Larry Thomas and Road Superintendent Charlie Collins were absent.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTARY

David Sea of Highland Hammock Drive stated he had obtained signatures from each property owner on the road and asked the board to consider adding the road to the road list as it is not a county road currently. Sea stated the road did not need paving but did need grading and gravel. Commissioner Sosebee asked if there was a Home Owners Associations and Sea said there is not. Commissioner Johnson asked if there is a county road leading up to Highland Hammock Drive and Sea said no. Commissioner Johnson said he would look at the road.

With no further comments, public commentary was closed.

#### COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTARY

Chairman Simonds was absent from the meeting.

Commissioner Sosebee stated he believed the workshops do justice to the people of Fannin County. Commissioner Sosebee said he will look at the requests extensively and do his best to what is best for everyone.

Commissioner Johnson asked Commissioner Sosebee his thoughts on SPLOST. Commissioner Sosebee said he had not had a chance to study the numbers yet. Commissioner Johnson said public safety is definitely something to be considered and they will need to figure out how much to appropriate. Commissioner Johnson said the Water Authority had asked for 7.5% originally Commissioner Johnson said he believed the Water Authority could get by on 5% and did not know when the USDA loan began. Commissioner Johnson said approximately 2% would be going towards the loan, leaving the Water Authority with 3%. Commissioner Johnson proposed giving the Water Authority 7%. The board asked members of the Water Authority if they could make 7% work and be comfortable with the percentage; the board members said they could. Commissioner Sosebee said he agreed with 7%.

Commissioner Sosebee stated the earlier request for 8% from the City of Blue Ridge was the first he had heard of it. Kirby said that since Stewart had based her figures on \$28,000,000 and not \$30,000,000 the city's percentage would come down and 7% would be \$2,100,000 but still be very close to what they were asking for in dollars. Commissioner Sosebee commented he would agree with 7%.

Commissioner Johnson commented that the Water Authority is off to a good start with a great board in place and if it does not work it would come back to the county. Commissioner Johnson commented that the board would have to decide the percentage given to recreation as well. Commissioner Sosebee said the board needs to march ahead with public safety as more people are coming to the county.

Marcella Osteen asked if the figures the board was looking at were available online. Commissioner Sosebee said they are not and they are only figures Kirby had comprised. Commissioner Johnson commented on constant interruptions during commissioners' commentary. Commissioner Johnson said none of the percentages were final. Commissioner Johnson stated he would like to hear more input from the public regarding SPLOST.

Commissioner Sosebee asked if the board needed executive session and they agreed they did not.

Commissioner Sosebee called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Johnson made first the motion to adjourn. Second made by Commissioner Sosebee; motion passed by unanimous decision

Absent

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William C. Simonds, Chairman

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Earl Johnson, Post One Commissioner

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Larry Joe Sosebee, Post Two Commissioner

Attest:

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Rita D. Kirby, County Clerk