

D R A F T

Minutes – One Percent SPLOST Citizen Oversight Committee Thursday, February 16, 2012

Members Present

Lee Berg
Bill Borden
Johnny Brown
Mike Carver
Marline Elkins
Virginia Gregory
David Hong
Murray Homan
Michael Rhett
Alice Summerour
Connie Taylor

Cobb County & Other Officials Present

Eddie Canon, Director – PRCA (Parks)
Faye DiMassimo, Director - Cobb DOT
Bob Galante, Construction Eng - Cobb DOT
Sam Heaton, Fire Chief & Acting Dir. Public Safety
Dan McDuff, Deputy Director - Cobb DOT
Virgil Moon, Agency Director, Support Services
Bill Volckmann, Division Manager, Finance
Diana Belanger, Finance, Accountant III
Nancy Rouse, Admin, Cobb DOT

Various County employees from DOT, Parks, Support Services, and Public Safety were also in attendance

Absent:

Dania Aponte
Scott Johnson
Frank Wigington

Chairperson Alice Summerour called the meeting of the One Percent SPLOST Citizen Oversight Committee to order at 3:00 p.m. on February 16, 2012 in the Board of Commissioners Conference Room. Ms. Summerour introduced the newest committee member, Bill Carver, who was appointed by Commissioner Ott.

Each Committee member also introduced themselves for the benefit of the new member and visitors.

As a quorum was present, the minutes from the October 27, 2011 meeting were approved.

Faye DiMassimo, Director DOT, began the presentation with an overview of the 2011 SPLOST program and the various components of the program, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs (PRCA); Transportation, Facilities; and Public Safety. Ms. DiMassimo reviewed Transportation's project categories and anticipated expenditures. The DOT staff was introduced.

Eddie Canon, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts (PRCA), reviewed PRCA's approach to the program, scheduling challenges working with over 70 volunteer organizations, their program management team, and anticipated expenditures and schedules for the next four years. Mr. Canon also introduced staff and gave contact information.

Sam Heaton, Fire Chief and Acting Director of Public Safety, presented the Public Safety program, which consists of projects for 911, Police, and Fire. The Public Safety portion of the program is \$11.4 million total or 2% of the 2011 SPLOST program. Chief Heaton reviewed the different items and schedule for each area. Chief Heaton gave contact information for staff.

Virgil Moon, Support Services Agency Director, gave a presentation of Support Services which includes facility improvements for the Public Library facilities, Senior Services Centers, Judicial facilities, Public Health Department facilities and other Cobb County facilities. The projects for this component of the program include roofs, HVAC equipment, window replacements, electrical projects, and renovations

associated with court system and other relocations. They have over 150 projects and will take 5-6 years to complete. Most of the work will be done with in-house resources, to save on costs, which is why the projects will take 5-6 years to complete.

A question was asked whether any preference was given to Cobb businesses. Mr. Moon and Ms. DiMassimo explained Commissioner Birrell's "Keep It in Cobb" program. During proposal evaluations extra points are awarded to firms with offices in Cobb County (5 points for projects under \$100,000 and 3 points for projects over \$100,000).

During Chief Heaton's presentation he mentioned that "old" equipment (i.e. fire engines) past their useful life were sold. A committee member asked if these monies go back to the SPLOST fund. Chief Heaton said responded with no, the monies go back into the fire fund, since they were purchase from that fund.

Mr. Moon was asked why did there seem to be so many window replacements. Mr. Moon responded that windows were being replaced because of rot and leaks not just energy efficiency, but the replacement will increase energy efficiency.

The Committee suggested it would be helpful if each department could provide information, presentations and reports electronically prior to the Committee meetings. This would give them a chance to review and prepare better questions and comments.

The Committee would like to continue receiving agenda summaries in advance of the Board meetings. Nancy Rouse, DOT, will be the point person and email the agenda summaries by Friday prior to the Tuesday Board of Commissioner meetings.

Bill Volckmann, Finance, reported the County was notified this week by the State that the January payment was the last payment for the 2005 SPLOST. The January payment was \$4.4M above projections, but since there will not be an additional February payment it brings us approximately \$7M short of projections for the program. The State is saying two disbursements were made in May 2009. The State did notify the County back in May of 2009, that there would be two disbursements – one from the old system and one from their new system but never anything to indicate it would be 2 months worth of disbursement. A discussion ensued about this issue.

A schedule for this year's meetings was presented and approved by the Committee (schedule attached).

A motion was made, and seconded, that the Committee, as a group, recommend Chairman Lee send a letter to the Dept of Revenue (State) and the Governor requesting clarification and documentation of how the monthly sales tax payments were calculated.

In the meantime, the County will move forward with an internal plan to compensate for reduced revenues and work with the cities regarding their deficits.

Bob Galante, DOT, gave an update on the 2005 SPLOST projects. He went over projects recently let for construction and the status of those currently under construction. He mentioned that the 2005 & 2011 SPLOST programs, along with the LMIG (Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant), have let for resurfacing 352 roads, 95 miles total, at a cost of \$16.5 million just since last fall. Resurfacing is the

largest component in the 2011 program for transportation. There will be 4 more resurfacing contracts let in the next 4 to 5 month.

The question was asked now that all of the revenue from the 2005 SPLOST was received, the Program should be over. Box explained there was approximately \$100M left to spend in the next 2-3 years to complete the 2005 SPLOST.

Another question asked if all the deferred projects in the 2005 SPLOST program were in the 2011 program. Bob explained that when the program was cut from a 6 year program to a 4 year program several deferred projects did not make it into the 2011 SPLOST.

There was discussion about the 2009 September floods, and a committee member asked how much SPLOST funding was used for the flood repairs. Bob said we would get the information to the committee and added that FEMA/GEMA funding covered a large portion of these repairs.

Bob mentioned t the Cumberland Community Improvement District was holding a groundbreaking for the Cobb Parkway bridge over the Chattahoochee River on March 9 at the Chattahoochee Recreation Area. An invitation will be sent to all committee members.

Lee Berg lead a discussion regarding the Cedarcrest Road project and his concerns about why the project was being done. Dan McDuff, Bob Galante, Scott Jordan and Murray Holman explained the 2003 earmark of \$3 million, various planned major developments, and that despite the economic downturn new development was coming back in the area and with the Wellstar expansion and City of Emerson sports complex more traffic will be coming to the area.

The Committee discussed and approved the meeting schedule for the year (attached).

The election of officers was then conducted. Bill Borden was nominated for Vice-Chairman, Michael Rhett for Secretary, and Alice Summerour for Chairman. The nominations were seconded. The Chair called for a vote and the motion carried.

Bill Borden mentioned he would be interviewing Chairman Lee on the Transportation Investment Act (TIA) and Voter Education on his radio show, Biz Radio 1190AM on Saturday morning.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 19th at 3:00pm. There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

SPLOST COC Meeting Schedule

(3rd Thursday of the month – every other month at 3:00pm)

February 16, 2012	Regular 2005 Program Update Overview of 2011 SPLOST program DOT, Parks, Facilities and Public Safety present plans/schedules (Introduce representatives responsible for providing info to Committee from the four departments) Committee give direction to departments on information they would like to see presented
April 19, 2012	Transportation and Parks Update City of Austell Report
June 21, 2012	Facilities and Public Safety Update City of Powder Springs
August 16, 2012	Transportation and Parks Update City of Acworth
October 18, 2012	Facilities and Public Safety Update City of Smyrna
December	No meeting until January
January 17, 2013	Transportation and Parks Update City of Marietta
March 21, 2013	Facilities and Public Safety Update City of Kennesaw

A different City will attend each meeting to give their annual report (except the February meeting).