

APPROVED

Minutes – One Percent SPLOST Citizen Oversight Committee Thursday, July 17, 2014

Members Present:

Dania Aponte
Johnny Brown
Bill Carver
Jay Cunningham
Marline Elkins
Lance Lamberton
John Pape
Roger Sandbothe
JoEllen Smith
Kes Stadler
Alice Summerour
Frank Wigington

Absent

Antwyn Brown
Chuck Castro
Scott Johnson

Cobb County & Other Officials Present:

Randy Crider, Fire Chief
John Reida, Director, Property Management
Scott Barfield, Division Mgr., Property Management
Tom Ford, Public Safety
Jim Wilgus, DOT, Deputy Director
Nancy Rouse, Admin, DOT
Lindy Tisdell, Accountant III, Finance

City of Powder Springs

Brad Hulsey, City Manager
Don Hicks, Croy Eng., Program Mgr.
Buddy Allison, Croy Engineering

Chairperson Alice Summerour called the 49th meeting of the One Percent SPLOST Citizen Oversight Committee to order at 3:00 p.m. on July 17, 2014, in the Board of Commissioners conference room.

As there was a quorum present, a motion was made to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2014 meeting. Motion was seconded and minutes were approved unanimously.

Lindy Tisdell, from the Finance Department, gave the monthly financial report. Year-to-date receipts total \$314 million, which is \$21.8 million over projection. The County currently has \$127.7 million cash and investments on hand. The error on last month's report was corrected regarding the Fund Net Assets – it was a formula issue on the spreadsheet.

Brad Hulsey, City Manager for Powder, sent greetings from the Mayor and City Staff and introduced Don Hicks and Buddy Alison who are part of the SPLOST Management Team from Croy Engineering.

Mr. Hulsey gave a few highlights of the Powder Springs 2011 SPLOST program:

- 7 bridge projects completed
- Road Resurfacing is an important component of the program to the City. The first resurfacing for Brownsville Road was completed in May at a cost of \$296k. Bids are being taken for the next phase of resurfacing for Marietta Street, Florence Road and Austell Powder Springs Road- this contract will be awarded this month in the amount of \$875k.
- 5 sidewalk projects completed to provide sidewalk connectivity to the Silver Comet Trail.
- Facility Improvements have been completed at the Senior Center, Cultural Arts Center and various other facilities.
- Powder Springs Park is a joint project with the County and construction should begin this fall.
- Public Safety has added computers and videos to their cars – this equipment enhances their capabilities which allows them be more efficient and makes information readily available to them in the field.
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The City has expended \$5,318.227, which is 50% of the 2011 SPLOST funding.

New restroom/concession facilities at the Linear Park on Richard D. Sailors Parkway will be open in the next 2 - 3 weeks. These were constructed with 2005 SPLOST funds and are a part of an overall City plan for the Linear Park and Trail. The City is considering a lease for operation of the concession and as part of this lease would oversee and maintain restroom area. The next SPLOST would add an active senior park. The Linear Park is located on Richard Sailors Parkway near the old Ace Hardware that is now a police station.

Several discussions were held regarding the Ford Center and Senior Center usage; and the demolition of the Powder Springs pool and its move to Wildhorse Creek Park, a mile and a half away. The Powder Springs pool has flooded on several occasions.

John Reida, Division Manager, Property Management, gave a breakdown of the SPLOST projects:

- 62 projects scheduled to be completed- 88 actually now complete
- 12 projects to be under design and is right on schedule
- 10 in construction –8 under construction

Discussion of several projects from this quarter - Windows replaced at 10 Park Square and New HVAC system at E. Cobb Service Center (mini-splits) which are small units allowing firemen to manage own temperatures - this is necessary when they come in from fighting fires.

Mr. Lamberton asked about services at the County Health department. Mr. Reida said the County is only responsible for providing facilities, does not know what is required to receive services.

Mr. Lamberton asked if the County was doing away with libraries or consolidating libraries, Mr. Reida responded that this was not in the 2011 SPLOST program.

Discussion also regarding use of in-house millworks group and the significant savings, close to 1/3 of costs doing in-house versus outside contractors.

Mr. Reida went over the planned activities for the next quarter.

Randy Crider, Fire Chief, gave an update to the Public Safety SPLOST program. There are 27 Public Safety projects in the program. It was projected that 20 projects would be complete and seven underway, actually 17 projects are complete with 10 underway.

Originally two fire engines were going to be bought in 2013 and two in 2014 but by waiting and purchasing all 4 in 2014, the Department was able to get them at a better price. These should be delivered by late-Fall. A total of seven fire engines will have been purchased with SPLOST funds.

The Department received the 9th and final Rescue Truck – these trucks are much more efficient and maneuverable. These trucks were purchase from Freedom Fire, a Cobb County company.

The Department is currently developing specifications for a Hazmat 22 vehicle (current equipment was purchased in 1991). This will be the last piece of equipment Public Safety will get from SPLOST.

Mr. Lamberton asked how often this Hazmat vehicle was dispatched. Chief Crider said it is very random but there are 2-3 calls/month. The Cobb Hazmat team developed standard operating procedures for the entire state.

Bids have been solicited for Thermal Imaging Cameras and should be delivered in the fall. This piece of equipment has the greatest impact and value to the department. Cost is \$14k per unit – last purchased in 2005 and needless to say the technology has improved.

Seven new sets of extrication equipment, also known as ‘jaws of life’, have been purchased and were placed into service in June.

Developing specifications of the Hazmat 22 vehicle and anticipating delivery of the Thermal Imaging Cameras in the fall make up the planned activities for Public Safety next quarter.

In other business, Mr. Lamberton asked what happens to the overage in the SPLOST program, that according to his research, excess proceeds could go to the general fund to lower the ad valorem tax. Several committee members stated that the Tier 2 projects had to be addressed first and there are enough projects in Tier 2 there would never be enough overage to cover all of the projects. Another member stated that projects for the excess receipts would be prioritized by the Board of Commissioners based on the dollars available.

Mr. Carver asked if when the Point of Contacts received queries do they need to be reported to anyone. It was determined this was not necessary.

As there was no further business, meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting to be held September 18, 2014.