Minutes – One Percent SPLOST Citizen Oversight Committee
Thursday, November 20, 2014

Members Present:
- Dania Aponte
- Johnny Brown
- Bill Carver
- Jay Cunningham
- Marline Elkins
- Scott Johnson
- Kenneth Jones
- John Pape
- Roger Sandbothe
- JoEllen Smith
- Kes Stadler
- Alice Summerour
- Frank Wigington
- Absent: Chuck Castro

Cobb County & Other Officials Present:
- Sam Heaton, Director, Public Safety
- Jim Wilgus, DOT, Deputy Director
- Willie Hopkins, Director Support Services
- Mark Reida, Public Safety Facilities Supervisor
- Scott Barfield, Division Mgr, Property Mgmt
- Lindy Tisdel, Accountant III, Finance
- Nancy Rouse, Admin, DOT
- Eric Randall, City Engineer, Smyrna
- Don Hicks, Croy Engineer
- Darian Dunn, Croy Engineering
- Bob Roth
- City of Smyrna & Others

Vice-Chairperson, Frank Wigington, called the 51st meeting of the One Percent SPLOST Citizen Oversight Committee to order at 3:00 p.m. on November 20, 2014, in the Board of Commissioners conference room.

Mr. Wigington welcomed Bob Roth as a guest at the meeting.

As there was a quorum present, a motion was made to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2014 meeting. Motion was seconded and minutes were approved unanimously.

Lindy Tisdel, from the Finance Department, gave the monthly financial report. Cash on hand is $123.2 million. Year to date receipts total $359.5 million, which is $25.9 million over projection.

Eric Randall, City Engineer, Smyrna, gave an update on the City’s programs. Mr. Randall discussed several active projects:

- Concord Road Improvements was let in 2012 and is a $11.5M project that should be complete by April 2015. Project consists of landscaped median and multi use trail from South Cobb Drive to Atlanta Road.
- Windy Hill Boulevard, which is in both the 2005 and 2011 programs, is a boulevard design on Windy Hill Road, from South Cobb Drive to Atlanta Road, which includes road widening, medians and intersection improvements. Phase 1, includes modifications to the Atlanta Road and Windy Hill Road intersection to accommodate the future widening of the Windy Hill Road corridor will go to bid 1st quarter of 2015.
- Resurfacing is ongoing with $4.8M in the 2011 SPLOST budget. To date expenditures total $2.7M. Discussion was held regarding the 1-5 point grading system and how resurfacing was prioritized.
- Bridge Rehabilitation – The Spring Road pedestrian bridge near Argyle Elementary School is currently being repaired to fix cracks in columns and new paint. Repairs to Spring Road vehicular bridge will be completed by Spring 2015. There are 6 additional bridges what will begin in the Spring 2015.
• Smyrna Public Safety purchased two new fire trucks, which were delivered in August 2014.
• Enhancements to the City’s Recycling Facility are underway and should be complete by January.
• Mr. Wigington interrupted to welcome another guest to the meeting, Larry Savage.

Completed Projects

• Belmont Hills Connector Road involved construction of a new 2-lane road to be utilized by the new Belmont Hills development and completed in June 2013. Discussion was held about the Belmont Hills development and its funding.
• Ward Street Improvements modified the street from a 4-lane to a 2-lane road with landscaped median and was completed in May 2014. Discussion was held on why road was changed from 4-lane to 2-lane. Mr. Randall mentioned it was for a traffic calming effect, as it is multi-use for bikes/pedestrians and is near a school.

Pending Projects

• Various Traffic signal timing
• Path and Sidewalk improvements to include “fill in the gaps” sidewalks.
• Studies for signal analysis and transportation planning

Scott Barfield, Division Manager for Property Management, gave an update to the County’s Facilities program.

62 projects projected to be completed –98 actually complete
4 projects projected to be underway –10 actually underway
8 projected to be in design/engineering – have 11 in design

Two new Department of Drivers Services (DDS) facilities are being constructed – one near North Cobb High School and one on County Services Parkway. Discussion was held regarding these facilities and how they are being funded. There was $300,000.00 earmarked in the SPLOST program to renovate the existing DDS facility with new HVAC, roof, etc., since this facility is now being replaced, the County is leveraging the SPLOST dollars, the $300,000 is going toward the new facility costs with General Fund monies being used for the balance of the construction. The County is financing with the State leasing back the properties.

The gold glass windows at 10 East Park Square have been replaced and it has made a tremendous difference to the efficiency of the HVAC systems as well as the look of the building.

Mr. Barfield continued with projects underway or completed: various windows, lighting, roofs, HVAC replacements. Discussion was held regarding the various type lighting – LED vs fluorescent.

Upcoming activities planned for 4th Quarter include Magistrate Court, Renovation of the Health Department, and new HVAC systems at Senior Centers in East Cobb, West Cobb and at Freeman Poole.
Sam Heaton, Director of Public Safety, gave an update for Public Safety. Of the 27 Public Safety projects 23 are complete. The last four are new fire engines which have been ordered and should be delivered by March 2015. A total of seven new engines were purchased in the SPLOST program.

The last Rescue Truck went into service in June 2014. A total of five Rescues were purchased with SPLOST. These trucks were purchased from a Cobb county firm, Freedom Fire.

The Department is currently developing the specifications for a new Hazmat 22 truck and bids should go out for this in 2015. Discussion was held about the use of these trucks.

Sixty thermal imaging cameras are anticipated to be delivered in January 2015. The previous cameras are over 10 years old and have old technology. The new ones are lighter, have new technology and are ruggedized. These cameras are not just used for fires (they allow you to see through smoke for rescues) but are also used to locate people who are lost in the woods or to confirm all people are rescued from accidents.

Upcoming activities include finalize specifications for Hazmat 22 trucks and delivery of thermal imaging cameras.

The question was asked about recalled ladder trucks – two of the trucks have been recalled. Mr. Heaton explained reason for the recall and said one has gone for the repair and when it comes back the other vehicle will be sent.

For benefit of the new members, a explanation on the service time of fire trucks was given – engineers have a service life of 10-12 years front line plus 5 years in reserve and new engineers cost $500k each. A ladder truck cost $1.1M and has a service life of 20 years – 15 front line and 5 in reserve.

If not for the SPLOST would not have been possible to replace some of the old trucks and then you get behind and the costs begin to snowball.

Other Business

A meeting schedule was handed out for the year 2015, with the committee moving to quarterly meetings. There was not further business, the meeting was adjourned.