

**Minutes – One Percent SPLOST Citizen Oversight Committee**  
**Thursday, March 17, 2016**

**Members Present:**

Alice Summerour  
Bill Carver  
Dee Gay  
Frank Wigington  
James Brock  
Joe Profit  
John Pape  
Johnny Brown  
Karin DeAmicus  
Kenneth Jones  
Lindsay Edwards  
Marline Elkins  
Ray Higginbotham  
Roger Sandbothe  
Tom Cheek

**Absent:**

None

**Cobb County & Other Officials Present:**

John Reida, Property Management Director  
Scott Barfield, Property Management Div. Mgr.  
Sam Heaton, Director of Public Safety  
Erica Parish, DOT Deputy Director  
Sheri Kell, Communications Director  
Sharon Stanley, Information Services Director  
Kimberly Lemley, Information Services Div. Mgr.  
Sherry Millette, IS Technology Services Manager  
Judy Sheppard, Information Services  
Lindy Tisdell, Finance Department

**City of Kennesaw:**

Jeff Drobney, City Manager  
Miranda Jones, Assistant to City Manager  
Billy Warren, Building & Facilities Manager

Chairperson Alice Summerour called the 63rd meeting of the One Percent SPLOST Citizen Oversight Committee to order at 3:00 PM on March 16, 2017. Ms. Summerour asked new members of the Committee to introduce themselves. New members present for the meeting were Ray Higginbotham, Joe Profit, Lindsay Edwards, and Tom Cheek. Ms. Summerour recognized John Reida, Property Management Director, who was attending his last meeting due to his impending retirement and thanked him for his service.

As there was a quorum present, a motion was made to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2017, meeting. Motion was made and seconded; minutes were approved unanimously.

Lindy Tisdell of the Finance Department gave the financial report. Collection of 2016 SPLOST revenue as of March 10, 2017, totals \$150.9-million which is \$16.3-million more than projected. Expenditures to date total \$118.7-million. Available funds are \$68.9-million.

Miranda Jones, Assistant to the City Manager of **Kennesaw**, distributed a written report on the status of the City's 2016 SPLOST in the areas of Facilities, Technology, and Public Safety. Total budget for Facility and Technology Improvement Projects is \$1,950,000. Projects include buildout of office space on the second floor of City Hall, repairs to the roof at City Hall, and some exterior and interior projects around City Hall. The unfinished second floor of the Public Works facility on Moon Station Road will be built-out and used for additional office space. The roof of the Carriage House at Smith-Gilbert Gardens will be replaced and is expected to be complete by May 2017. Technology projects include upgrades to the Court AV equipment, upgrading the city-wide phone system, and security camera upgrades. The project to purchase new vehicles for the Police

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Department is complete. Comment made by Committee member that the City needs to provide an update on how all SPLOST funds are spent, including 2005, 2011, and 2016, and Ms. Jones said that the information would be provided.

Jeff Drobney, Kennesaw City Manager, provided updates on road construction projects. A roundabout is under construction for Stanley Road/Collins Road. The roundabout for Dallas Street/Watts Road is scheduled to be finished this fall. A Notice to Proceed has been issued for utilities on Pine Mountain Road Project and the bid should be awarded in June 2017. Cherokee Street Improvements Project is in the right-of-way acquisition phase. Several segments have been completed at Depot Park and more will be scheduled as SPLOST funds become available. A Splash Pad is under construction at Cantrell Park. The Skate Park, which is a 2011 SPLOST project, is complete and has a big event coming up. Engineering is complete and land acquisition is in final stage for the Old Highway 41 project. The project will likely go to bid in summer 2017. There will be also be upgrades to dog parks as part of SPLOST.

**Questions/Answers for City of Kennesaw projects:**

Q. Is the new phone system to be an internet-based system? Will it include a maintenance agreement in the bid? Will disaster recovery (DR) be included in the telephone system? Do you already have DR off-site?

A. Yes, the phone system will be internet-based. The RFP is currently under development to include not only upgraded technology but also disaster recovery options. Maintenance will be included. The City has DR off-site now.

Q. Will the camera system be integrated with the phone system?

A. The process is just starting for replacing the security cameras through development of a replacement schedule. Implementation of the first round of upgraded security cameras is anticipated to be in FY 18. The City will look for the most cost-effective system that meets its needs.

Q. Who do we need to contact to arrange a site visit to look at projects in the City of Kennesaw?

A. Contact Miranda Jones, Assistant to City Manager, [mjones@kennesaw-ga.gov](mailto:mjones@kennesaw-ga.gov), 770-424-8274.

John Reida, Property Management Director, provided an update on 2011 and 2016 SPLOST Cobb County **Facilities Projects**. All 2011 SPLOST projects are complete. Director Reida explained there are two projects that fall in the “Other” category: a fleet facility and cabinet shop. Health Department projects include Acworth/Kennesaw facility for which a contract has been awarded, renovations of the Smyrna Health Department two-story building, and the Health Department Headquarters building. Several “buckets” of funding totaling \$5.9-million are earmarked for security, roofing, equipment, exterior restoration, interior restoration, and paving parking lots and entrances to County facilities. A major paving job was completed at the Health Department last

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year. Interior renovation completed at the South Cobb Tag Office enlarged the customer service lobby area and provided new cabinetry for employee workstations. The East Marietta Library project is currently underway with completion scheduled for early 2018.

**Questions/Answers for Facilities Projects:**

Q. How short is the budget that is needed for the Medical Examiner?

A. We are waiting for the architect's estimate.

Q. When will the security entrance to Building A be ready?

A. The end of May.

Q. Do the County's construction contracts include a right to audit provision?

A. Yes.

Q. Can I get copies of the County's procurement procedures?

A. Yes. That information is available on the Purchasing Department's website. The County holds seminars several times a year on how to do business with Cobb.

Q. Are there any problems with the East Marietta Library project?

A. Construction is progressing with steel columns and roof work underway. Underground utilities are being relocated which affects the parking lot.

Sam Heaton, Director of Public Safety, presented the update for 2011 and 2016 **Public Safety Improvements**. Director Heaton stated that all projects in the 2011 SPLOST are complete and \$309,300 in Excess Collection Revenue was used for cameras at precincts, HVAC in offices at Animal Control, Shoot House, and security fencing at Precinct 2. Director Heaton showed two types of radios—one used for Police and one for Fire. Current project includes 233 cars for Police and 25 cars for Sheriff. The cars are Ford Taurus police interceptor vehicles with all-wheel drive (AWD). So far, they are holding up well. The model is not available without AWD and there hasn't been a marked change in gas mileage. Next Director Heaton spoke about a new Mobile Command Unit which is estimated to cost \$1.5-million. The County has a small unit now, but it is not comparable to the new unit which is expected to be delivered in August 2017. The one the County currently has may be repurposed to use in emergency situations, possibly as a heating and cooling area. The Public Safety Training Center was built in 1992. Since that time, the number of firefighters and police officers who are trained there has doubled. We are looking for a location of a new training facility. A Needs Assessment was completed in January 2017 for the Police Headquarters project. \$16-million in SPLOST funding is available, but will not be enough for building a new facility. With the funding that is available, preliminary work can be done. The County is also looking to acquire land in the Cumberland area for Fire Station #29. Construction

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for Fire Station #1 in Mableton is slated to begin in late 2017. The County has a 5-year strategic plan for fire stations and will work on a 5-year plan for Police when a new Police Chief is selected.

**Questions/Answers for Public Safety Projects:**

Q. Has overtime been reduced as a result of having more vehicles?

A. Overall, overtime has not gone down, but the overlap required between shift changes has gone down.

Q. What type of battery will be in the new Mobile Command Unit? There is a military type battery that can keep a generator going for days.

A. The mobile unit will have a built-in generator. Will check into the military type battery mentioned.

Q. Where is the current Police Headquarters?

A. Cherokee Street at North Loop.

Q. Is any supplemental funding available for the Police Headquarters project from federal or other sources?

A. No, not at this time. We do receive grants that help with equipment, especially for SWAT, the bomb squad, etc.

Q. Do you anticipate changes in security needs with opening on SunTrust Park?

A. No more than with everyday growth. With more development, there is always the need for more security. In our 5-year plan, we anticipate adding 40-60 officers at various locations as development occurs.

Q. Have the emergency sirens been upgraded?

A. With the system, warnings can be sounded for specific areas based on weather conditions.

Q. Do you plan to use drones in the future?

A. We have a couple now that are used by the drug task force. Also, in the event of an accident, they can fly above the accident and take pictures which are helpful for traffic management. We are not using SPLOST funds for the drones.

Q. What about the plans for Public Safety Training? Have you considered a regional center with other entities?

A. Yes, that was a consideration. We invite other agencies in now when we have special training events.

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Q. Have you considered holding some training sessions in other facilities? The FAA has some large rooms that could be used for events/training.

A. Yes, we have held training in other locations.

Q. Is the new precinct in NE Cobb still in Tier 1?

A. Yes, near the end of SPLOST. We will have to build and staff.

Sharon Stanley, Information Services Director, provided an overview of **Technology Improvements** included in the 2016 SPLOST. Technology Improvements include two components: Data Center Build & Technology Modernization and Business Technology Transformation. The current Data Center does not support the increasing technology needs of Cobb County. Expandable storage has been purchased with SPLOST funds and installed in the Data Center, and that storage can be moved to the new Data Center. Business Technology Transformation consists of many projects that will provide convenient access to County services and information 24x7—anytime, anywhere, any device.

Requirements gathering is currently underway for a Unified Court Case Management System, which is partially funded from 2016 SPLOST. The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) is interviewing court staff to document business requirements to develop an RFP for the new system. A contract has been signed to develop a Business Continuity Plan for the County. It will be a hosted system that will be available should the County's network fail in an emergency. Another project that is planned is a Dashboard to present a wide array of information to citizens through a public-facing website. The contract for the Dashboard is under review now. Information Services and the Communications Department are working together to review proposals from 10 companies for development of a new Web portal for Cobb County. SPLOST funds in the amount of \$5-million were earmarked for Building Security, Emergency/Life Safety Upgrades. To date, two projects have been completed: 1) installed access control system for Purchasing Department, and 2) moved Superior Court parking deck onto same access entry system as Cherokee Street and Lawrence Street parking decks. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) has been issued to pre-qualified vendors to provide design, installation, and maintenance for an enterprise video surveillance and access control system with a single access card. The County will enter Master Agreements with all pre-qualified vendors and issue Task Order contracts for individual projects to provide flexibility and efficiency.

**Questions/Answers for Technology Improvements Projects:**

Q. Does the NETAPP All Flash Array storage system include maintenance?

A. Yes

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Q. Is the NCSC a consultant? Are they a stand-alone vendor?

A. Yes, they are the consultant writing the requirements for the new system. NCSC is a non-profit organization that sets standards for State Courts. They specialize in judicial administration. We contracted with the consulting services arm of the organization.

Q. Will the system have a component for taking testimony offsite?

A. Yes. We have a separate system that does this now.

Q. Since the court system will be a consolidated system, if one goes down, will all go down?

A. Redundancy will be a requirement of the new system.

Q. For the Dashboard citizen-facing capability, will we be able to request Open Records data? Some entities have a citizen-facing Open Records tool that you can go in via a citizen portal and request information about a particular topic.

A. The Dashboard can help provide information. The County Attorney's Office has a new tool for handling Open Records requests that that was not funded by SPLOST.

Q. How clean is the data that you can view using the Dashboard?

A. You will be able to spot anomalies easily.

Q. We are excited about what you are telling us. We need to get the word out about how Cobb is spending on technology.

A. Information Services wants to get the word out and come up with a logo for Technology.

Q. Will a user need to sign in to the Dashboard?

A. It will be on the Cobb website. We will get information out about the Dashboard so people can use it.

Q. Will Cobb let users know when the site will be unavailable due to maintenance?

A. Maintenance will occur in a scheduled window of time.

Q. With the Dashboard, what about when the power goes down?

A. The system will have redundancy.

Q. Is it like Tableau?

A. We also demo'd Tableau. We preferred Qlik.

Q. What kind of firewall will it have?

A. The same as our network.

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Q. How long would it be before the Dashboard would have to be upgraded?

A. It will be a hosted system that will be updated continuously.

Q. On the Web Portal project, is the RFP on the street now?

A. We advertised in the paper multiple times and held a public hearing. Proposals have been received with 10 vendors qualified.

Q. Is local presence part of the selection criteria?

A. Yes, it is factored in the procurement process.

**Committee Discussion**

Tom Cheek spoke about transportation improvements in the area of SunTrust Park. He asked that the Citizens Oversight Committee consider asking commissioners not to use SPLOST funds for projects that were not approved by voters. A short discussion followed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.