

AUGUST 29, 2011
CITY OF SENOIA
JOINT MEETING WITH COWETA COUNTY AND MUNICIPALITIES
CALLED MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL
33 PERRY STREET
NEWNAN, GA
6:00 PM

ATTENDING: R. BELISLE, B. GRAHAM, M. GROVER

ALSO: Chairman Rodney Brooks, Commissioner Paul Poole, Commissioner Tim Lassetter, Commissioner Bob Blackburn, and Commissioner Al Smith. The following staff members were present: County Administrator Theron Gay, Administrative and Operations Director Tom Corker, Assistant County Attorney Jerry Ann Conner, Public Affairs Director Patricia Palmer, and Deputy Clerk Shannon Zerangue. The following were also in attendance: Mr. Jim Sells, Mayor of Grantville Mr. Mike Renshaw, Grantville City Manager Mr. Mark Mithell, Attorney for Grantville and Moreland Mr. Johnny Cooks, Grantville Councilmember Mr. Barham Lundy, Grantville Councilmember Mr. Ted Bateman, Mayor of Haralson Mr. Josh Evans, Mayor of Moreland Mr. Keith Brady, Mayor of Newnan Mr. Cleatus Phillips, Newnan City Manager Mr. Brad Sears, Attorney for Newnan Ms. Della Hill, Clerk of Newnan Mr. Clayton Hicks, Newnan Councilmember Mr. Ray DuBose, Newnan Councilmember Mr. George Alexander, Newnan Councilmember Ms. Cynthia Jenkins, Newnan Councilmember Mr. Robert Coggin, Newnan Councilmember Mr. John Miller, Mayor of Palmetto Mr. Terry Todd, Palmetto City Manager Ms. Lorraine Allen, Palmetto Councilmember, Mr. Wendell Staley, Mayor of Sharpsburg Ms. Celine Davenport, Sharpsburg Councilmember, Ms. Connie Turner, Sharpsburg Councilmember Ms. Donna Camp, Sharpsburg Town Clerk/Finance Officer Mr. Alan Starr, Mayor of Turin

SPLOST AND SPLOST RELATED PROJECTS (DISCUSSED)

The various municipalities called their council meetings to order.

County Administrator Gay explained that the purpose of the meeting is for the discussion of the continuation of SPLOST, which is the first step before calling for a referendum to go before the voters. He explained that the general consensus of the entire group is to have the 2013 SPLOST vote on the ballot in conjunction with the Presidential Preference Primary, which will be held sometime in February or March 2012. He also explained that the division of 2013 SPLOST revenues, which are estimated at \$120 million [over a six (6) year period] needs to be discussed along with the various projects that will be included on the referendum. He clarified that the municipalities will need to determine if they are interested in advanced funding. If they do not indicate in the referendum that they are interested in advanced funding, they cannot exercise that option at a later date. He presented each municipality with a draft intergovernmental agreement (IGA) and explained that each of them will need to consider execution of said agreement, which will provide for a six (6) year term for the 2013 SPLOST [versus a five (5) year term if no IGA is executed]. He asked that the municipalities review the draft IGA for any changes that need to be made and explained that they would need to execute the IGA in September because the Board of Commissioners will have to adopt all pertinent documents and call for the referendum no later than October 18, 2011. He emphasized that the timeline to call for the referendum is critical.

Regarding the distribution of the estimated \$120 million, Mr. Gay explained that the division of those funds is recommended to be based upon the 2010 census information. He further explained that according to the census, the population percentages for some of the municipalities actually decreased. The Board of Commissioners is proposing to take the 2010 base funding level and guarantee those levels of funding for those towns that lost population percentages (not those towns that increased population percentages) for the first two (2) years of the 2013 SPLOST. He explained that this subsidy for the first two years will come from the County's proceeds. After those two years, funding will revert back to the straight division of revenues based on the census. Mr. Gay informed the Board and the municipalities that with the previous two (2) SPLOSTS there were Level I projects (i.e. Justice Center project and Historic Courthouse rehabilitation) to which SPLOST funding was allocated prior to being divided among the County and the municipalities. With the 2013 SPLOST, there are no Level I projects that will require said allocation prior to the division of funds. Mr. Gay gave a brief outline of the County's proposed SPLOST projects. In closing, he restated that the IGA will allow for a six (6) year term for the 2013 SPLOST, the critical timeline to execute the IGA and to call for the referendum, and the importance of determining the need for advanced funding. Mayor Ted Bateman stated that the 2010 census shows that Haralson grew, but they will receive a decrease in funds with the proposed 2013 SPLOST distribution. He questioned the reason for the decrease. Mr. Gay explained that in the overall population of Coweta, the County, City of Newnan, and others grew faster, so a City can grow in population, but lose in population percentage. City Manager Mike Renshaw, City of Grantville, asked about a provision/clause in the IGA that allows funds to be transferred from a completed SPLOST project to another category. Administrator Gay and Attorney Conner verified that the transfer of funds from a completed SPLOST project to another category is allowed by State law. Ms. Conner stated that this provision could easily be added to the IGA if the group desires. Mr. Renshaw confirmed that the City of Grantville would like for said provision/clause to be added to the IGA. It was the consensus of the entire group to review the division of the proceeds, project lists and the IGA for approval and execution in September.

The various municipalities adjourned their council meetings.