

Minutes SPLOST V Committee

Monday, July 23, 2018 – 6:00 P.M.

Henry County Administration Building, Conference Room B, McDonough, Georgia

The Henry Herald was notified of the meeting via email.

Committee Members Present:

Clayton Carte (County Chair Appointee)

Tom Israel (District 1)

David Linton (District 2)

Mike Elrod (District 3)

Carlotta Harrell (District 5)

Claud Spinks (County Manager Appointee)

*District 4 Appointee is pending

City Representatives Present:

Randy Knighton (City of Stockbridge)

Keith Dickerson (City of McDonough)

Tim Young (City of Locust Grove)

SPLOST Staff Present:

Roque Romero, SPLOST Transportation Director

Lynn Planchon

Chae Yi

Dana Holder

Other County Staff Members Present:

Cheri Hobson-Matthews, County Manager

Patrick Jaugstetter, County Attorney

David Smith, Financial Services Director

Angie Sorrow, Budget Director

Melissa Robinson, Public Information Director

Ron Burckhalter, Public Works Director

Stephanie Braun, County Clerk

Commissioners Present:

June Wood, County Chair

Johnny Wilson, District 1

Gary Barham, District 3

MEETING AGENDA (SEE ATTACHED AGENDA)

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ron Burckhalter, Henry County Public Works Director.

Welcome – Ron Burckhalter/Roque Romero

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Ron Burckhalter, Henry County Public Works Director. Mr. Burckhalter opened the meeting by thanking the staff and public for attending. Mr. Burckhalter stated that through this committee process county staff would continually be available to answer all questions and provide information as requested. Mr. Burckhalter continued by introducing Roque Romero, SPLOST Transportation Director, and Cheri Hobson-Matthews, County Manager.

County Manager Comments – Cheri Hobson-Matthews

Mrs. Matthews stated how excited she was regarding meeting turnout and conveyed the importance of the committee. The committee will be responsible for listening to the citizen's requests and communicating their considerations and recommendations to the Henry County Board of Commissioners for the SPLOST V Referendum. Mrs. Matthews encouraged the committee to utilize the county staff as a vital source of information and knowledge regarding past SPLOST programs and future projects for the SPLOST V Referendum. If the SPLOST V Referendum does pass, then this SPLOST V Committee will also serve as the SPLOST V Oversight Committee to ensure that the SPLOST projects are completed and within budget. There will also be a SPLOST V Technical Committee consisting of representatives from the Henry County Water Authority and cities as well. The Technical Committee will work in helping to develop the SPLOST V project list and will be essential in providing necessary cost elements as applicable. Mrs. Matthews emphasized the importance of the committee and encouraged them to reach out to the citizens to hear their issues and concerns. The SPLOST Committee is also responsible for deciding what the SPLOST V program will consist of regarding transportation and capital projects.

Introduction of Henry County Board of Commissioners

Mrs. June Wood, Commission Chair, was present along with Commissioners Johnny Wilson, District 1, and Gary Barham, District 3.

Introduction of Staff Members

Patrick Jaugstetter (County Attorney), David Smith (Financial Services Director), Angie Sorrow (Budget Director), Melissa Robinson (Communications Director), Stephanie Braun (County

Clerk), Dana Holder (SPLOST), Chae Yi (SPLOST), and Lynn Planchon (SPLOST) were also in attendance and introduced by Mrs. Matthews.

Introduction of Committee Members

Mr. Romero asked each committee member to introduce themselves starting with Claud Spinks (County Manager Appointee), Tom Israel (District I Appointee), Mike Elrod (District 3 Appointee), Carlotta Harrell (District 5 Appointee), David Linton (District 2 Appointee), and Clayton Carte (County Chair Appointee).

SPLOST IV Overview

Please see the attached handouts that were provided at the meeting. SPLOST Transportation Director, Roque Romero, gave a brief summary of the current SPLOST IV program, as well as, the previous 3 SPLOST programs. The first SPLOST program was implemented in 1996 and managed by a private firm. Collections for the SPLOST I program totaled \$72 million, SPLOST II collections totaled \$131 million, and SPLOST III collections totaled \$173 million. Growth and development within Henry County have contributed to each SPLOST program increasing in revenues. The first two SPLOST programs were both 5 year programs and did not include the cities. SPLOST programs III & IV were both 6 year programs that included the cities. Collections for the SPLOST IV program are projected to be around \$190 million. The construction of the Senior Centers throughout the county was one example given to the benefits of the SPLOST program. Under the current SPLOST IV program there are 17 total countywide projects, 13 have been completed and 4 are in progress. District 1 has 20 total projects, with 13 being completed and 6 in progress. District 2 has 26 total projects, 14 have been completed and 9 are in progress. District 3 has 26 total projects, 17 have been completed and 3 are in progress. District 4 has 14 total projects, 7 have been completed and 5 are in progress. District 5 has 12 total projects, 4 have been completed and 4 are in progress. Of the \$190 million in projected SPLOST IV collections, 75% (\$142.5 million) will remain with the county, and the remaining 25% (\$47.5 million) will be divided amongst the cities. To date, the county has collected \$144 million in SPLOST IV revenue, \$108 million has remained in the county and \$36 million has been distributed amongst the cities. A list of all SPLOST projects, current and past, are accessible on the Henry County website and is available to the public. Current SPLOST IV projects are attached to these minutes along with SPLOST IV collection and expenditure information; this information will also be available on the county website. Ron Burckhalter reiterated that all SPLOST Committee meetings are open to the public. All meeting dates, times, and locations will be published in the Henry Herald, posted on the Henry County website, and advertised on county social media as well; message boards will also be placed throughout the county so that the public can be made aware of the meetings. Mr. Burckhalter also took the time to acknowledge the importance of the SPLOST staff. He encouraged public involvement and comments throughout the SPLOST V campaign.

Discussion – District 4 Representative

Mrs. Matthews spoke regarding all districts having representation on the committee with the exception of District 4. Mrs. Matthews and Commission Chair Wood have appointees to the committee as well. Regarding the absence of District 4 representation, Mrs. Matthews recommended that the current committee members may possibly want to collaborate and solicit representation within the 4th District. Mrs. Matthews advised on the importance of making sure each district had adequate representation. Mrs. Matthews stated that committee appointees can bring their recommendations before the committee, as a whole, and hopefully make a selection.

Selection of Committee Chairperson

Discussion was made regarding the selection of a Committee Chairperson. Mr. Clayton Carte, County Chair Appointee, expressed interest in this position, motion was made by Mr. Spinks for approval, seconded by Mr. Elrod. Motion passed, unanimously.

Selection of Committee Vice-Chairperson

The nomination and appointment of a Vice-Chairperson was the next item of discussion. Mr. Israel stated that he would like to see some experience in this position and made the motion to nominate Mrs. Carlotta Harrell, seconded by Mr. Spinks. Motion passed, unanimously.

Discussion of future meeting dates, times, and locations

Please see the proposed schedule handout attached. Discussion was had regarding future meeting dates, times, and locations. Mr. Romero stated that in the past, Thursday nights always seemed to work well. The committee can review the proposed list and get back with SPLOST staff regarding a set schedule. SPLOST staff will be responsible for securing the meeting sites for the requested dates and times. Meetings will be scheduled to be held throughout each district in Henry County, including the cities. It is understood that circumstances may arise where a committee member may not be able to attend all scheduled meetings; it is encouraged that members attend the meetings scheduled within their district and city as they are the representation and the voice of their community. If a committee member is unable to attend a meeting, it is asked that they inform Mr. Burckhalter, Mr. Romero, and/or fellow committee members ahead of time. Mr. Carte asked that committee meetings not be scheduled on the Thursdays when the cities have their workshop meetings, as well as scheduled Henry County Zoning Advisory Board meetings. Mr. Carte recommended that all meetings be held at locations that are, or have been, SPLOST funded such as the Locust Grove Senior Center. Mr. Carte also recommended the possibility of an Open House type of tour prior to meetings at each location. Mr. Linton questioned the role and responsibility of each district appointee, as well as the Chair and Vice-Chair, regarding district specific meetings. Mr. Romero stated that regardless of location, all meetings were still open to the public; for example, citizens who reside in District 3 can still voice their issues and concerns at a meeting held in District 2. Mrs.

Matthews stressed the importance of committee representatives communicating with the citizens within their districts as well as the Commissioners. Mrs. Matthews emphasized the understanding that SPLOST V is not a new penny tax, but a renewal of an existing penny tax. Mrs. Matthews also highlighted the importance of committee members meeting with their appointed Commissioner before and after every meeting to discuss issues, concerns, and recommendations for SPLOST V. Mrs. Matthews also asked committee members to think “countywide” regarding projects, in terms of logistics and improvements to our county as a whole. Mrs. Harrell encouraged her fellow committee members to promote their districts to get citizens involved. Mrs. Harrell also inquired as to hearing from County department heads, such as Public Safety, regarding each department’s needs and recommendations. Mr. Burckhalter stated that the committee can certainly hear from the County department heads if they so wish to. Mr. Elrod questioned if the committee would be able to see the projects that did not get completed in the past SPLOST programs. Mr. Burckhalter answered affirmatively and spoke of sharing the county’s transportation plan. Mrs. Matthews stated that there is certainly nothing wrong with committee members reaching out and communicating with county department heads and staff regarding their needs and priorities. Mrs. Matthews reiterated that the biggest role of the committee is to get out into the community and hear the wants, issues, and concerns of the citizens that county representatives and staff aren’t always able to hear. Mr. Burckhalter stated that after all the meetings, the SPLOST V Committee will present to the Henry County Board of Commissioners their recommended final SPLOST V list for the Board to vote on and approve. It is the ultimate goal that the approved SPLOST V list be on the November 2019 election ballot. Mr. Israel asked if the meeting time of 6:30 p.m. would be agreeable for all future meetings. The time of 6:30 p.m. was agreed upon for the remaining meetings to allow county staff and citizens of the county sufficient time to arrive. The next SPLOST V Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, August 9, 2018, 6:30 p.m. at the Locust Grove Senior Center, 280 Mose Brown Drive in Locust Grove.

Public Comments

Mr. Carte asked if there were any public comments. Two individuals had signed up for public comments.

Mr. John Page spoke regarding alleviating the truck traffic on State Route 155, he also had questions regarding the 1-75 managed lanes through Henry County, the money spent on John Elliott Road between East Lake and Crumbley, the need of an intersection improvement project at East Lake Road and Airline Road, the traffic light at the new Kroger entrance on East Lake Road, the completion of Campground Road across State Route 20, the bridge replacement project on Elliott Road at Walnut Creek, and the widening of Jodeco Road.

Mr. Doug Gjertsen, with the Kensley Grace Foundation, spoke of the need of an aquatic center in Henry County and requested help with funding the Kensley Grace Aquatic Center through the SPLOST V program.

Adjournment

Mr. Carte made the motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Mr. Elrod. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

**Minutes were prepared by Dana Holder, Henry County SPLOST staff.*