



GORDON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPLOST PLANNING SESSION
July 7, 2023

Gordon County Administration Building
Conference Room
3:00 PM

PRESENT: Commissioners M.L. “Bud” Owens, Chair, Kevin Cunningham, Vice-Chair, Chad Steward, and Bruce Potts; County Administrator and Attorney Jim Ledbetter, County Clerk Hollis Barton, Executive Assistant Keith King; Blake Silvers, Brandi Owsczarz

NOT PRESENT: Commissioner Kurt Sutherland

I. Call To Order

Chair Owens called the meeting to order.

II. SPLOST Discussion

Mr. Ledbetter gave an overview of the current status of SPLOST planning and stressed the importance of SPLOST for the community. Stated the 2018 SPLOST had an estimated collection of \$48 million, however \$60 million has been collected. Mr. Ledbetter attributed that to several factors, such as inflation and new businesses that have increased revenue coming into Gordon County. Mr. Ledbetter then gave an update on 2018 projects.

Mr. Ledbetter then went over the adopted distribution to each entity within Gordon County on the previous SPLOST; stated the City of Plainville would be included in this distribution agreement.

Mr. Ledbetter then gave a summary of the process beginning in February, stating County departments and Constitutional Officers were solicited for SPLOST proposals. Stated there have been discussions with departments, the public, and other entities and are estimating collections of \$77 million over a six (6) year period. Clarified this was a conservative estimate that does not account for much growth, if any; however, it has not hurt to estimate conservatively in the past. Stated out of the \$77 million, the County would be proposing a distribution based on the most recent Census of 2020 which would be based on population. In addition to that division, there have been discussions of special purpose projects with the Cities that would originate from County funds. Stated the total departmental requests they received were in excess of \$65 million, just within Gordon County, which has been trimmed to a 51-52 million dollar estimate. Stated the County is working on an estimated project list.

Mr. Ledbetter then discussed the proposed Intergovernmental Agreement. Stated if the collections are higher than the estimate, that amount would be divided pro rata based on population, and if collections were lower than the estimate, it would be treated the same. Division of proceeds would be made based on the County projects proposals. Stated he is inclined to incorporate flexibility in the referendum incase adjustments are needed for projects or demographics.

Mr. Ledbetter stated August 15th is the final date to have the Intergovernmental Agreement and Resolution adopted to submit to the Board of Elections, with an anticipated completion date of August 1st. After reviewing the steps following an approval, Mr. Ledbetter stated he would need to discuss legal matters that would be best served in an Executive Session.

III. Executive Session to discuss litigation, property acquisition, and personnel

Chair Owens asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session. Commissioner Potts made a motion to enter into Executive Session, seconded by Vice-Chair Cunningham. The motion carried 4-0.

IV. Adjourn

Upon adjourning the Executive Session, with no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned by common consent.