

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2016
5:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman, John Nugent called the special called meeting of the Berrien County Board of Commissioners to order on Thursday, January 28, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. Members of the Board of Commissioners present were, Commissioner Jimmy Parker, Commissioner Robert Griner and Commissioner Steve Sumner. Commissioner Doc Sumner was absent.

Chairman John Nugent, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that this meeting is for the purpose of starting the process of SPLOST being on the ballot with a new SPLOST starting in 2018. The municipalities were invited to this special called meeting with all municipalities present and participating in the meeting. A sign-in sheet was distributed.

Chairman John Nugent explained the two documents distributed which were the SPLOST Resolution and the SPLOST Intergovernmental Agreement. He explained that both documents were the same as the previous SPLOST documents and that the only changes the County made were adjusting the dates and the dollar amounts based on 2010 census population. The SPLOST is calculated on an estimated \$9,000,000.00. He asked that each municipality look at their projects and let the County know if they want their projects to change. Chairman Nugent asked if there were any questions.

Michelle Cooper, City of Enigma Clerk, provided Brenda Ferrell, County Administrator/Clerk, with a project list for the City of Enigma.

Commissioner Steve Sumner explained the thought process of why we selected the May 24th election. Scott Stalnaker, City of Nashville, said it is an excellent idea and reminded everyone that the \$9 million is projected. He stated we need to stick together on this.

Mayor Wayne Gulley, Ray City, asked what we are going to do about advertising. Commissioner Steve Sumner explained the process and that the county or municipality cannot advertise. The Chamber of Commerce can drive the campaign and have indicated they are willing to do that. Mayor Gulley said that citizens think it is a new tax. They just don't understand it so he feels it is important we get the word out. Brenda Exum, Ray City Clerk, stated that Ray City had a committee that was formed that educated the public on the last SPLOST. It turned out really good. Commissioner Robert Griner stated he believes the Board of Education also formed committees. Commissioner Jimmy Parker stated that the newspaper can address SPLOST in the Council Meeting Articles and County Commission Articles.

Mayor Cecil Giddens, City of Enigma, stated the more people that vote the less chance it has of passing. Mayor, Waymond Smith, City of Alapaha, said we need to explain it is the same penny not an additional penny. The earliest we can get the process done would be for the May election. Mayor Cecil Giddens asked when the Administration Building would be paid off. County Administrator, Brenda Ferrell, said April 2031. Commissioner Steve Sumner asked Ray City to look at their project list on the general obligation bonds. Ray City said that was for the sewer system but that can be removed. Commissioner Steve Sumner stated the only thing the County changed was adding animal control facilities improvements. Eric Gaither, City of Nashville, said he agreed with the May date. Mayor Waymond Smith agreed with the May date. Commissioner Steve Sumner asked if everyone is good with moving forward with the May 24th election date. Everyone was in agreement. Commissioner Jimmy Parker

stated that the first thing citizens think is that it is a new tax. Brenda Exum, Ray City Clerk, stated to add City Building Improvements to their project list.

Chairman John Nugent asked if there are any other comments and discussions. There were none.

ADJOURN

With no other business to come before the Board, Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. Meeting was adjourned.

Chairman, Jimmy Parker

Vice Chairman, John Nugent

Commissioner, Steve Sumner

Commissioner, Robert Griner

ABSENT

Commissioner, Doc Sumner

ATTEST

County Clerk