

Local Option Sales Tax Citizen Committee
March 26, 2019
Milton, Florida

The Local Option Sales Tax Citizen Committee met at 9:00 a.m. on the above date with the following members present: Chairman Ed Carson, Tony Alexander, Scott Kemp, Dean Easterwood, Colton Wright, Stuart Viator, Amy Cozart, Frederick Barrow, and Edwin Henry. Also present were the County Administrator (Dan Schebler), Assistant County Administrator (Mark Murray), Budget Director (Jayne Bell) and Administrative Coordinator (Sabrina White).

- 1) **Call to Order-** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ed Carson in the Santa Rosa County Administrative Center, Board Room at 9:00 a.m.
- 2) **Approval of Minutes from June 19, 2018-** Wright moved approval of the minutes for the June 19, 2018 Local Option Sales Tax Citizen Committee meeting, the motion was seconded by Alexander and approved by the Committee.
- 3) **Project Discussion-** Schebler discussed the over view of projects and recapped all that has been done since the surtax was implemented. Schebler also discussed the full-cent referendum and outlined what surtax funds can be used to purchase:
 - Capital equipment
 - Infrastructure projects and public facilities
 - Law enforcement, fire and public safety facilities and equipment
 - Recreation/natural resources
 - Transportation and drainage improvements

Schebler further explained that the surtax funds cannot be used for:

- Employee insurance costs
- Employee retirement expenses
- Salaries, position upgrades, merit increases or Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA)
- Operating expenses like fuel.

Schebler continued to review the project update and stated that revenues received to date were on track at approximately \$8M a year. The update then moved to a review of the specific projects. Kemp asked about the status of the Navarre Beach Public Restrooms and Schebler stated it would be out for bid for construction in the next 30 days and is located next to the pier.

Carson asked if the full-cent referendum passes, will the project list stay the same? Schebler explained that there are currently \$280M of unfunded projects that were discussed at the February 2019 Planning Workshop and from that a specific list of priority projects is being developed.

Kemp questioned the lease payment for the public safety communication system and asked if it would be better to pay out of the General Fund. Bell responded that the lease ends in two or three years. Schebler also explained that there will be a need to update the system in a few years and the lease payment will change, recommending that it continue being paid from local option sales tax funds.

Henry asked for clarification of the unprogrammed amounts identified on the project update document. Schebler explained that these amounts are what is available in each category and has not been allocated to a specific project. Henry then asked what funds have been used as a match to grants. Schebler stated that the \$22M allocated from LOST funds also has an additional amount of \$10M in grant revenue which results in \$32M of projects being completed.

Carson requested that the leveraged amounts be added to the report.

Schebler then moved to discussion of the fiscal year 2019 project list. Kemp asked how the funds were being used for ADA updates in the recreation projects. Schebler explained that those funds were used to make improvements for projects that were underway. The county is currently developing an ADA compliance plan and the funds will be used to make some of those identified improvements as well. Some of the funds were used for the Chumuckla Community Park playground upgrade as well as the improvements to Floridatown Park.

Alexander asked for clarification of the amount of the Edgewood Drive project. Schebler explained that the project amount listed in fiscal year 2017 was only for the widening improvements and did not include pedestrian features. The fiscal year 2019 includes all the necessary improvements.

Schebler then moved to discussion of the fiscal year 2020 project list. He led with an update of the Fidelis Community Facility and explained that the original funds allocated may be reallocated to provide updates to the park other than the community center. The building may be beyond repair and further assessment needs to occur as well as community input. A second project discussed was the installation of a fitness park at Santa Rosa Sportsplex. The county has been awarded a \$30,000 grant for the park and needs the additional funding for match. This is a potential project for the fiscal year 2020 list.

Schebler then discussed the unprogrammed amounts and recommended no reallocation of funds.

- 4. Other Business/Discussion** Kemp expressed a need to provide the forecasting information for future projects to further educate the citizens of the need for the additional half-cent.

Alexander expressed that there may be an issue with the current category allocations: 52% for Transportation and Drainage, 27% Public Safety, 10% Recreation/Natural Resources, 4% Public Facilities, 2% Capital Equipment and 5% Unallocated. Schebler stated that the current category allocations were established based on citizen input from several public workshops. A recommendation could be ~~made~~ to the Board of County Commissioners to change the allocation if the majority of the ^{citizen} committee approved the request. *made*

Wright asked for clarification on the scope of work for the southend parking lot project. Schebler stated the project was currently for repaving and striping and did not include additional capacity. Wright suggested that redesign could address capacity issues and prevent individuals from parking on the grass.

Wright asked for more information on the acquisition of property at the Pensacola State College (PSC) southend campus. Schebler stated the acquisition was a land swap. Economic Development was in the process of assisting PSC in obtaining property in the Industrial Park to establish a CDL and lineman school.

Carson stated he feels the category allocations should be a topic of discussion at the budget workshops.

Kemp asked for an update of the soccer fields behind the Moors. Schebler stated that it is still a viable option; however, the PSC expansion and Chumuckla Football expansion will alleviate some of the overcrowding and reduce the need in the central portion of the county.

Cozart asked for clarification on the full-cent referendum language. Schebler stated that the referendum explained that the full-cent would begin January 1, 2020 and the half-cent would end the same day.

Randy Jorgenson, City Manager for the City of Milton, asked that the committee consider redevelopment of the courthouse building in downtown Milton once the staff had moved to the new location on Avalon Boulevard.

Wright asked for Jorgenson to explain what the City of Milton would like to see in the facility. Jorgenson stated a business office would be desirable.

- 5. Adjournment**-With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned.



Chairman