

Local Option Sales Tax Citizen Committee
July 9, 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, Scott Kemp, Colton Wright, Stuart Viator, and Edwin Henry. Also present were the County Administrator (Dan Schebler), Assistant County Administrator (Mark Murray), Budget Director (Jayne Nicholas) 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 March 26, 2019-** Wright moved approval of the minutes for the March 26, 2019 Local Option Sales Tax Citizen Committee meeting, the motion was seconded by Kemp and approved by the Committee.
- 3) **Project Update-** Schebler discussed the overview of projects and recapped all that has been done since the surtax was implemented.

Schebler continued to review the project update and stated that revenues received to date were approximately \$18.2M. Over the last two years we have spent approximately \$16.2M. Leveraged projects are listed separately and provided an additional \$9M in funding toward these projects. The update then moved to a review of the specific projects. Kemp asked about easement acquisition for Ranchette. Schebler stated we do have an agreement with one property owner to sell us the portion of the property for the stormwater pond. This is contingent upon the acquisition of the additional easements. The ROW acquisition consultant is working with all the other property owners for the necessary agreements.

- 4) **FY2019 Project List Modifications-** Schebler discussed a couple minor changes to the 2019 fiscal year. The network infrastructure upgrades in the FY19 for \$20,000 was funded from the General Fund. Schebler discussed the Supervisor of Elections had \$11,672 allocated for the purchase of computers; due to timing the purchase was made from the General Fund. Schebler discussed the auditorium new roof was planned for this Fiscal year out of the LOST of \$91,000, it became apparent the South Service Center was a greater need and has been funded from the General Fund.

Kemp asked if there is a plan for the maintenance on the auditorium, Schebler explained one of the things in the proposed budget is a facilities manager/department. He further went to explain this was not an additional position, but something that is being added to help manage with building maintenance. Carson discussed the use of the auditorium for events and how dated the building is, expressed concerns on updates and maintenance. Schebler explained some of the updates and upgrades that have already been completed to the auditorium, the restrooms and front entrance is next on the list.

- 5) **FY2020 Draft List-** Schebler discussed what is currently in the Capital Improvement plan and being funded from the LOST.

Kemp asked if there was a need analysis done for the new firetrucks for the 12 fire departments. Schebler explained there is a need for them to properly maintain the level of safety, and that it is a planning figure. A more detailed analysis will be conducted later in regards to the order and type of trucks needed.

Kemp expressed concerns in regards to the money allocated for road paving, and the amount of road being paved. He also expressed his concerns in the Bagdad Mill project, the cost and use of the floating dock. Schebler clarified the allocations for resurfacing of roads and the source.

Henry explained the construction costs increase of 15% over the last two years should be considered also.

Wright concurred and added labor cost have significantly increased as well.

Wright stated he his glad to see money spent on the surgical suite for Animal Services, and believes the spay/neuter program will be beneficial. He asked if this program is intended solely for animals within the shelter or is it something that would be offered to the citizens for their pets? Schebler explained the service would be offered as a low cost option to low income families, if they provide documentation. It would service the animals that come in to the shelter. He also outlined other benefits of the service.

Carson stated an animal that is spayed/neutered has a higher rate for adoption. Schebler explained there are promotions as in spay/neuter is included with the adoption and low cost adoption events.

Henry asked for clarification on the Eastbay culvert upgrades. Schebler explained it is replacing and upsizing some culverts under Eastbay Blvd.

Carson applauds the efforts put forth in the ADA Compliance.

Motion was made by Wright to approve the FY2020 Draft List and was seconded by Viator.
Motion passes 4-1 with Kemp in opposition

6) Full-Cent Priority List- Schebler discussed the priority projects, provided in back up documents.

Kemp suggests the Automated Traffic System would be the best investment for the county. Schebler explained the process for this program and the application for funding by FDOT through the BUILD program.

Kemp expressed concerns in the Fidelis Park project.

Carson asked about the widening of Woodbine Rd. Schebler explained the challenges in finding the amount of funds this project would require and an estimated timeline.

Carson asked what the list looks like if the additional sales tax does not pass and impact fees are implemented. Schebler explained the difference in impact fees and the sales tax and the revenue generated. Carson finished with the importance in clarifying the different in the sales tax and an impact fee.

Henry explained there are other limitations on impact fees, such as the collected impact fee can't be used on a deficiency that existed prior to the collection of the impact fee. Schebler states you can't use an impact fee to get well, or on an existing problem.

Kemp expressed his concerns in the growth and development in the county and the traffic issues. He also mentions the coming issues not in the plans.

- 7) **Other Business/Discussion** Schebler discussed the performance audit required by the state prior to any new infrastructure sales tax or local option sales tax.

Carson asked if the October 8 date was confirmed. Schebler confirmed that is the date for the special election. Schebler discussed the special election.

Carson asked when the next meeting would be. Schebler discussed the upcoming meetings, and recommended meet again after the start of the new fiscal year. Schebler asked when the committee prefers to meet again, Carson states after the special election.

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



Chairman