

Rabun County SPLOST 5 Finally Ends

(February 22, 2019) SPLOST 5, which began in 2008 has now closed per a County report requested by the Rabun County Alliance and the Rabun Coalition for Concerned Citizens. In the report all categories are now shown as completed. SPLOST 5 was expected to generate \$19,149,850 over its six-year life. The report indicates the 1% tax received \$18,991,424 during this period or a shortfall of \$158,426 in sales tax collected. A condensed summary of the County report is shown below;

2008	*Provided by Rabun County				
RABUN SPLOST # 5	Estimated Cost	*Spent as of January, 2019	Final Cost Over Estimate	Balance Left	Project Status
Roads, Streets, Bridges	7,541,850	6,254,161		1,287,689	Complete
Hospital Building	3,500,000	3,876,165	376,165		Complete
Multipurpose Arena	1,500,000	2,962,495	1,462,495		Complete
Fire Fighting Equipment	1,000,000	1,340,259	340,259		Complete
Health Department	1,000,000	1,010,430	10,430		Complete
Courthouse	900,000	979,286	79,286		Complete
TOTALS	15,441,850	16,422,796	2,268,635	1,287,689	

Transfer Remaining Balance from Roads, Streets, Bridges (1,287,689) ←

Balance Paid from General Fund (mostly property taxes) 980,946

The report above does not include intergovernmental payments from the SPLOST in the amount of \$3,708,000. These payments are fixed and relate to payments agreed to in advance to the local cities.

Several categories were overbudget, three by significant amounts. The largest category being the Multipurpose Arena, now known as the Rabun Arena was overbudget almost \$1.5million. The total overbudget for all categories was \$2.2million. Roads, Streets and Bridges absorbed \$1.3million while the County Tax budget comprised of mostly property taxes absorbed the difference of approximately \$1million. The results of SPLOST 5 show that SPLOSTs can indeed cost taxpayers more than the 1% they are voting on. If projects run overbudget, like these did then taxpayers have in effect voted themselves a higher property tax. In addition, the category Roads, Streets and Bridges also suffered in that somewhere in the County approximately \$1.3 of infrastructure was not built.

Operating Budget Footnote for Rabun Arena;

The Operating cost for the Arena in the fiscal year ending 6-30-2018 was \$157,410. No revenue from the Arena is shown in the operating statements so it is unknown what they are. The budget for the Arena in Fiscal Year 2018/2019 is \$190,576.

Rabun County SPLOST 6 Continues

(February 22,2019) SPLOST 6, which began in 2013 is still ongoing and will continue until September 30,2019. A report requested by the Rabun County Alliance and the Rabun Coalition for Concerned Citizens shows cumulative activity through January 2019. In the report only one category, Senior Center, is shown as complete as of this date. SPLOST 6 collections through this date were approximately \$17million. We have projected future collections through September 2019 and we anticipate that the collections will fall short of the \$20million budgeted originally in the SPLOST. This will leave a shortfall of approximately \$600k in the projected remaining balance of future County expenditures of \$8.5million shown below. We project the County currently holds in its bank account about \$5.7million on January 31,2019 unspent on several categories. A condensed summary of the County report is shown below;

	Splost 6 2013 Budget	Spent as of January,2019	Balance Remaining	Project Status
Water & Sewer	9,100,000	7,174,541	1,925,459	Unknown
Parks & Recreation (Note1)	2,000,000	789,919	1,210,081	Unknown
Solid Waste Management	300,000	-	300,000	Unknown
Senior Center	200,000	198,683	1,317	Complete
Fire (Note2)	1,500,000	594,823	905,177	Unknown
Roads, Streets Bridges	5,000,000	750,070	4,249,930	Unknown
	18,100,000	9,508,036	8,591,964	
Intergovernmental	1,900,000	1,900,000	-	Complete
	20,000,000	11,408,036	8,591,964	
SPLOST 5 Collections to Date per County	17,175,135			
Unspent Collections in Bank as of January,2019		5,767,099	Collections Minus Spent	
RCA Projected Collections (Feb/19 to Sept/19)	2,200,000	2,200,000		
Estimated total SPLOST 6 Collections on September 30,2019	19,375,135			
RCA Projected Collection Deficit on September 30,2019	(624,865)	7,967,099	RCA Projected Cash Available on September 30,2019	

It is unknown if the balances remaining to spend in each category will be adequate. If history repeats itself the County will reduce the Roads, Street and Bridges category by the potential collection shortfall and any overbudget amounts in other categories. The County has not reported any overbudget categories at this time. It is noted however that this is a significant amount of money remaining unspent after 6 years. The County's own budget for fiscal year 2018/2019 projects \$1million to be spent from Roads and as of the report above dated January ,2019, \$750k had been spent. If they spend another 250k per the budget that will leave \$4million still unspent on September 30, 2019 in this category after 6 years.

Note 1. Recreation projects include the following per an ad placed by Rabun County in the Clayton Tribune on March 13,2013. Tennis courts, New multipurpose field, additional parking, air conditioning for gyms and for the Golf Course, improve Golf Pro Shop, irrigation and capital equipment. It is our current understanding that a new Golf Pro Shop is planned vs the items published in 2013. We will confirm this at the Forum.

Note 2. Fire projects noted in the same ad stated rebuilding five existing Volunteer Fire Departments including, Warwoman,Tallulah-Persimmon,Cherchero,Satolah and Lakes.