

**2023 SPLOST Oversight Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, April 20, 2026, at 6:15 pm
CE Steele Community Center, 1040 Oakland Ave SE, Conyers, GA 30012**

Present Members: Arthur A. Vaughn, Bill Hughey, Charles Staples (SPLOST Chairperson), Charlotte Gellert, Jeffery Allen Spencer I, John van der Spek, Josh Bettenhausen, Joy Douglas, Mary Greco, Michael Sellers, Nichele Ford, Robin Berry, Pamela Laysaght, Roger Cannon, Sandra Weatherly, Thomas C. Dean III (SPLOST Vice-Chair), Vinette D'Andrade.

Not Present: Aviella Williams Gayden, Bill Campbell, Dexter Bowman, Doug Smith, Elaine Nash, James Stone, Shawn Bilak, Tanya Cobb.

1. **Call to Order:** Chairperson Charles Staples called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Chairperson Charles Staples requested to add a line item to the agenda for Rockdale County Chair Van Ness before the SPLOST Chair remarks. A motion was made by John van der Spek, to approve the agenda with the recommended revisions, seconded by Mary Greco, and was passed unanimously. **Motion Carried.** *See the revised agenda attached.*
3. **Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Mary Greco to approve the meeting minutes of February 2, 2026, seconded by Mike Sellers, and passed unanimously. **Motion Carried.**
4. **Rockdale County Board of Commissioner Chair Remarks:**
 - a. Chair JaNice Van Ness delivered opening remarks, thanking SPLOST Oversight Committee members for their volunteer service and continued commitment. The remarks emphasized that, in addition to developing new facilities, the county's priority is to maintain and preserve existing infrastructure. Noting that Rockdale County is experiencing significant growth and improvements, and leadership remains dedicated to sustaining current assets while supporting new development.
5. **SPLOST Chair Remarks:**
 - a. SPLOST Chair Charles Staples addressed a committee member's question regarding excused versus unexcused absences. He explained that when a member notifies leadership in advance, the absence is recorded as excused. SPLOST member Sandra Weatherly added that the bylaws specify that if a member requests permission for an absence, it should be granted and documented accordingly. SPLOST members were also encouraged to review their contact information prior to leaving the meeting.
6. **Subcommittee's Reports:**
 - a. **Courthouse:** Courthouse Subcommittee Co-Chair Nichele Ford reported that there was no formal update for this meeting. Courthouse Subcommittee members recently completed a guided tour of the new courthouse to review construction progress. The JAC (Judicial Administrative Complex) remains on budget.

- b. **Finance:** Finance Subcommittee Co-Chair Mary Greco presented the report on SPLOST collections. She explained that revenues continue to be higher than expected, including money from online sales. If this trend continues, the county is on track to meet its SPLOST revenue goals by December 2026. Finance Subcommittee Co-Chair Greco reminded all subcommittees to complete their updated priority project lists by June 1, 2026, so a combined report can be prepared for the June meeting (*Special Called meeting by the Finance committee*). *Financial reports are attached.*
- c. **Fire/E911:** SPLOST Fire subcommittee Bill Hughey presented the update. Reporting that the subcommittee met on April 2, 2026, at Station 7 (1496 Rockbridge Road, NW, Conyers GA 30012). The Training Center is waiting on Phase 1 drawing approval, and the contractor is preparing to begin work in late April. Engineering contracts for the redesign of Station 4 are still pending, and the station will be relocated to East Fairview Road. Additionally, it was noted that the new fire apparatus, including ladder trucks, squad vehicles, and rescue units are currently in the production queue, with expected manufacturing timelines of 24 to 36 months. For 911 operations, Motorola is reviewing possible updates to the center's operating system, but discussions are still in the early stages. *See the report attached.*
- d. **Parks & Recreation:** SPLOST Parks and Recreation Subcommittee Co-Chair Joy Douglass presented the report. (*Wheeler Park - 1400 Parker Rd SE, Conyers, GA 30094*). Sharing that the Wheeler Park Splash Pad is about 50 percent complete. The Skate Park is approximately 90 percent complete, with a ribbon-cutting plan for May 4, 2026, at 11 a.m. (*Legion Fields - 1260 South Main St. Conyers, GA 30012*) SPLOST Parks and Recreation Subcommittee Co-Chair Joy Douglass reported that Legion Park has a new scoreboard on order and that the renovation scope of work is being finalized. (*Earl O'Neal - 2709 Old Covington Road, Conyers, GA 30013*) At the Earl O'Neal Sports Complex, the softball facilities are about 90 percent complete, and renovations of the football facilities are underway, with lighting cost estimates still being reviewed. (*Costley Mill Park - 2455 Costley Mill Road Conyers, GA 30013*) For Costley Mill Park, the pedestrian bridge has been installed, though additional work is required before it can open, and the loop trail remains in the engineering and design phase.
- e. **Sheriff:** SPLOST Sheriff Subcommittee Chair Mike Sellers presented the update. Reporting that the most recent meeting had to be postponed and has been rescheduled for May 12, 2026.
- f. **Transportation:** A motion was made by Transportation Subcommittee Chair Arthur Vaughn, seconded by Bill Hughey, and passed unanimously. The motion recommendation is to allot funding for the 2025 LMIG Match for \$338,621.79 and the 2025 LRA Grant Match of \$221,563.84. The total for both GDOT matching funds required is \$560,185.63 as funds are available. **Motion Passed.** SPLOST members also requested that road project lists be made more easily accessible to the public in support of greater transparency.
 - i. Special Presentation – Rockdale Comprehensive Transportation Plan – presented by Zack Adriaenssens and RDOT Transportation Director Brian Kelley. *See the PowerPoint attached.*

7. **Public Comments:** No public comment.

8. **SPLOST Members' Comments:**

a. Josh Bettenhausen submitted a statement to be added to the minutes. *See the statement attached.*

9. **Next meeting:** The next Oversight Committee meeting is scheduled for **July 20, 2026**, at **JP Carr Community Center, 981 Taylor St. Conyers, GA 30012.**

10. **Adjournment:** There being no further business or discussion, Arthur Vaughn made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Joy Douglass. **Meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.**

Approved:

SPLOST Committee Chair

Date

2023 SPLOST Oversight Committee

Meeting Agenda – April 20, 2026

6:15 P.M.

C.E. Steele, 1040 Oakland Ave SE, Conyers, GA 30012

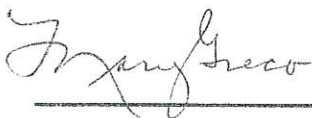
- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Agenda of 4/20/2026
- III. Approval of Minutes of 2/02/2026
- IV. SPLOST Chair Remarks
 - a. Attendance report
 - b. Update Contacts
- V. Subcommittee's Reports
 - a. Courthouse
 - b. Finance
 - c. Fire/E911
 - d. Parks & Recreation
 - e. Sheriff
 - f. Transportation
 - i. Comprehensive Transportation Presentation
- VI. Public Comments
- VII. SPLOST Committee Members Comments
- VIII. Next Meeting July 20, 2026
- IX. Adjournment

<https://www.rockdalecountyga.gov/splost-oversight-committee/>

SPLOST Finance Subcommittee Report

April 20, 2026

- The SPLOST Finance Subcommittee last met on Wednesday, April 8, 2025.
- As of February 2026, SPLOST Sales Tax Collections have provided \$70.700m - an average of \$2.020m per month and exceeded our monthly goals by an average of \$782K per month.
- An Allocated Funds Report as of March 27, 2026, has also been provided.
- The Finance Committee has met with each of the Subcommittees within the past two weeks. During these meetings, the Finance Committee has encouraged each of the Subcommittees to review their priorities and provide an additional list of projects that meet the SPLOST guidelines and might be considered for overage funding. This list has been requested by June 1, 2026.
- Once this list is received, a meeting will be held with the Chairs of each of the Subcommittees to draft a proposal that will recommend - the distribution of overage funds (once our \$89.1M goal is met). The plan is to present a proposal to the SPLOST Oversight Committee during our quarterly meeting on July 20, 2026.
- If overage funds are not available to meet these requests, these items will be used as a starter list for the 2029 SPLOST.



Mary Greco, Finance co-chair

Rockdale County 2023 1% Special Local Option Sales Tax
(in thousands 1,000's)

Debt Service Requirements Series 2024

Period	Debt Service	Paid (Yes/No)
June 1, 2024	83,416.66	Paid
December 31, 2024	2,811,250.00	Paid
June 1, 2025	279,500.00	Paid
December 31, 2025	3,824,500.00	Paid
June 1, 2026	190,875.00	NO
December 31, 2026	3,915,875.00	NO
June 1, 2027	97,750.00	NO
December 31, 2027	4,007,750.00	NO
	<u>\$ 15,210,916.66</u>	

Monthly Remit		Sales Tax GOAL	Sales Tax ACTUAL	Variance
1	Apr-23	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 1,962.0	\$ 724.5
2	May-23	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 1,990.6	\$ 753.1
3	Jun-23	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 2,124.8	\$ 887.3
4	Jul-23	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 2,073.9	\$ 836.4
5	Aug-23	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 1,928.2	\$ 690.7
6	Sep-23	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 1,957.0	\$ 719.5
7	Oct-23	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 1,994.4	\$ 756.9
8	Nov-23	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 1,877.5	\$ 640.0
9	Dec-23	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 2,167.6	\$ 930.1
10	Jan-24	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 1,817.3	\$ 579.8
11	Feb-24	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 2,076.7	\$ 839.2
12	Mar-24	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 1,936.9	\$ 699.4
13	Apr-24	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 1,983.8	\$ 746.3
14	May-24	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 2,063.4	\$ 825.9
15	Jun-24	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 2,108.5	\$ 871.0
16	Jul-24	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 2,045.9	\$ 808.4
17	Aug-24	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 1,992.6	\$ 755.1
18	Sep-24	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 1,885.5	\$ 648.0
19	Oct-24	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 1,941.1	\$ 703.6
20	Nov-24	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 1,927.0	\$ 689.5
21	Dec-24	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 2,220.5	\$ 983.0
22	Jan-25	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 1,814.6	\$ 577.1
23	Feb-25	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 1,957.5	\$ 720.0
24	Mar-25	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 2,048.0	\$ 810.5
25	Apr-25	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 2,205.9	\$ 968.4
26	May-25	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 2,021.5	\$ 784.0
27	Jun-25	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 2,062.1	\$ 824.6
28	Jul-25	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 2,049.6	\$ 812.1
29	Aug-25	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 2,146.1	\$ 908.6
30	Sep-25	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 2,065.4	\$ 827.9
31	Oct-25	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 1,982.8	\$ 745.3
32	Nov-25	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 2,164.3	\$ 926.8
33	Dec-25	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 2,349.4	\$ 1,111.9
34	Jan-26	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 1,869.8	\$ 632.3
35	Feb-26	\$ 1,237.5	\$ 1,885.2	\$ 647.7
36	Mar-26	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
37	Apr-26	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
38	May-26	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
39	Jun-26	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
40	Jul-26	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
41	Aug-26	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
42	Sep-26	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
43	Oct-26	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
44	Nov-26	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
45	Dec-26	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
46	Jan-27	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
47	Feb-27	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
48	Mar-27	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
49	Apr-27	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
50	May-27	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
51	Jun-27	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
52	Jul-27	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
53	Aug-27	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
54	Sep-27	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
55	Oct-27	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
56	Nov-27	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
57	Dec-27	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
58	Jan-28	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
59	Feb-28	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
60	Mar-28	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
61	Apr-28	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
62	May-28	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
63	Jun-28	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
64	Jul-28	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
65	Aug-28	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
66	Sep-28	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
67	Oct-28	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
68	Nov-28	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
69	Dec-28	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
70	Jan-29	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
71	Feb-29	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
72	Mar-29	\$ 1,237.5		\$ -
				\$ -
Total		\$ 89,100.00	\$ 70,697.16	\$ 27,384.66
Month Average		\$ 1,237.50	\$ 2,019.92	\$ 782.42

ALLOCATED FUNDS REPORT

COUNTY PROJECTS	%	AUTHORIZED AMOUNT	(REVENUE) FUNDS ALLOCATED TO DATE	FUNDS OBLIGATED BY EXECUTED CONTRACTS	Splost Bond Series 2024 Debt Service Payments	FUNDS PAID TO CONTRACTORS	UNOBLIGATED FUNDS REMAINING
			-	-		-	-
Transportation	39.51%	35,199,846	25,939,050	10,397,077	-	12,222,906	3,319,067
Fire & E911	9.00%	8,019,000	5,908,356	4,517,195	-	1,231,305	159,856
Sheriff	6.00%	5,346,000	3,939,289	176,510	-	1,792,105	1,970,674
Parks & Recreation	5.00%	4,455,000	3,283,187	606,289	-	2,121,461	555,437
Courthouse	22.00%	19,602,000	14,444,952	4,106,750	6,998,667	-	3,339,536
County Total	81.506%	72,621,846	53,514,834	19,803,821	6,998,667	17,367,777	9,344,569
City Total	18.494%	16,478,154	13,074,733	-		12,726,080	348,653
Grand Total	100.00%	89,100,000	66,589,567	19,803,821	6,998,667	30,093,857	9,693,222
			NOTE (1)	NOTE (2)	NOTE (2)		

NOTE (1): Report shows tax receipts allocations through February 28, 2026
NOTE (2): Report shows Obligated Funds & Payments to Contractors as of March 27, 2026
NOTE (3): OSC approval 10.21.2024 allocate 1st overage funds \$4.4M to match City of Conyers Funds for Parking Deck

Interest earned	2023 total	209,425.87
	2024 total	1,522,709.50
	2025 total	1,955,011.80
	2026 to date	256,014
Grand Total Interest		3,943,161.25

SPLOST 2023

911/Fire Service Subcommittee Report

April 20, 2026

The 911/Fire Service Subcommittee met at Station 7, Fire Headquarters, 1496 Rockbridge Rd, on Thursday April 2, 2026.

1. The Subcommittee reviewed updates on the Fire Training Center at 2329 Smyrna Rd.

General Services is waiting the approval of the drawings for phase 1 of the center project; the Contractor is tentatively ready to start work on April 27th

2. General Services is waiting for the new engineering contracts to be awarded for civil and architectural engineering for Fire Station 4 design on East Fairview Rd near South Rockdale Park.

3. Fire apparatus update: The ladder truck and a squad vehicle unit are in production, and a second Ladder truck and Heavy Rescue vehicles are in the queue to be built.

A reminder, the production for these vehicles can take 24 to 36 months

4. Myisha Callaway Deputy Director of the 911 Center discussed the potential changes to the centers operating systems coming from Motorola in the next several years.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00PM

2023 SPLOST Oversight Committee

Recommendation Memo

Date of SPLOST Meeting: 4/20/2026 Subcommittee: Transportation

Action Recommended to Board of Commissioners:

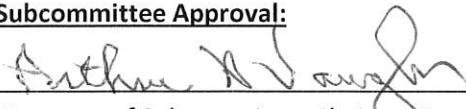
Motion to allot funding for 2025 LMIG Match for \$338,621.79 and the 2025 LRA

Grant Match ~~discussions~~ of \$221,563.84. The total for both GDOT matching funds required is

\$560,185.63 as funds become available.

Budgeted amount for action: \$560,185.63

Subcommittee Approval:

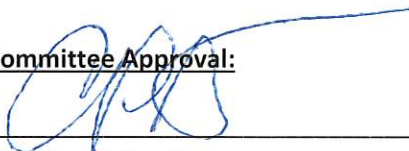


Signature of Subcommittee Chair or Vice Chair

April 20, 2026

Date

Oversight Committee Approval:



Signature of Chair or Vice Chair

4-20-24

Date

Joshua Bettenhausen
2023 Rockdale County SPLOST Committee
April 20, 2026
SPLOST Committee Members Comment

Written Testimony for Inclusion in Minutes

I am speaking today because I am deeply concerned about the legal integrity of this body and the lack of guidance we have received regarding our obligations under the Georgia Open Meetings Act.

Specifically, I want to address two major red flags. First, on October 21st, 2024, this committee conducted a secret written ballot on the parking garage project. This was a direct violation of O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1, which requires that every member's vote be recorded by name in the minutes.

Second, during our April 9th meeting, I was initially blocked from participating. It took a private, behind-the-scenes discussion between leadership before I was finally allowed to observe. This confusion occurred because SPLOST leadership has failed to educate us on the law. A public meeting is not an "invite-only" event.

I am concerned that upon further examination, many of our "tours" since 2023 will be legally classified as secret meetings. This vacuum of guidance from the county creates a perception of corruption that contradicts everything this commission says about transparency.

We are here to serve the taxpayers. If we continue to operate in the shadows—whether through secret ballots or restricted tours—we risk having our decisions voided by a Superior Court judge. We must demand proper training and total transparency immediately to protect the legitimacy of the SPLOST program.

Thank you.