

HEARD COUNTY 2013 SPLOST – QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. IS THE HEARD COUNTY 2013 SPLOST PROGRAM A “BLANK CHECK” FOR THE COUNTY?

NO. THERE ARE SPECIFIC REGULATIONS ON THE USE OF SPLOST FUNDS, WHICH IS ALSO VERIFIED IN THE ANNUAL AUDIT. IN ADDITION, THE MUNICIPALITIES AND THE COUNTY MUST FULLY DISCLOSE AND AGREE ON THE CAPITAL PROJECTS AND PURCHASES FOR WHICH THE FUNDS WILL BE USED.

2. IF THE MAJORITY VOTE FOR THE 2013 SPLOST IS “NO”, WHAT IS THE RESULT?

THE CURRENT SPLOST PROGRAM WILL CONTINUE AND HEARD COUNTY WILL HAVE THE OPTION TO RE-ISSUE THE BALLOT QUESTION WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN NOVEMBER 2012. IF AT THAT TIME THE MAJORITY VOTE IS “NO”, THEN THE SPLOST WILL NO LONGER BE COLLECTED AFTER MARCH 2013 AND THE PUBLISHED CAPITAL PROJECTS AND PURCHASES WILL NOT BE FUNDED FOR BOTH THE COUNTY AND MUNICIPALITIES. IN SHORT, THE MONETARY BURDEN OF ESSENTIAL PROJECTS SUCH AS ROADS AND BRIDGES WILL POTENTIALLY FALL ON PROPERTY OWNERS.

3. IS SPLOST ACTUALLY CONSIDERED A “FAIR TAX”?

SPLOST IS A SALES AND USE TAX THAT IS COLLECTED AT THE POINT OF SALE FROM HEARD COUNTY CONSUMERS AT LARGE. EVERYONE WHO MAKES PURCHASES WITHIN THE BOUNDARY OF HEARD COUNTY CONTRIBUTES IN THE FUNDING OF THE SPLOST PROGRAM.

4. HOW ARE THE SPLOST FUNDS ALLOCATED TO THE MUNICIPALITIES FOR THEIR SPLOST PROJECTS?

EACH MUNICIPALITY RECEIVES A POPULATION BASED DISTRIBUTION EACH MONTH BASED ON THE AMOUNT OF SALES TAX COLLECTED. THE CITY OF FRANKLIN RECEIVES 9%, THE TOWN OF CENTRALHATCHEE RECEIVES 5%, AND THE CITY OF EPHEBUS RECEIVES 5% OF EACH MONTHLY SPLOST CHECK RECEIVED FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE.

5. CAN SPLOST REVENUES BE USED FOR ANYTHING OTHER THAN CAPITAL PROJECTS?

NO. STATE LAW SPECIFICALLY STATES THAT SPLOST REVENUES CANNOT BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSES. ONGOING MAINTENANCE, OPERATION, AND/OR EMPLOYEE COSTS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO BE FUNDED BY SPLOST PROCEEDS.