

SPLOST Questions Oct 29, 2014 Part 4

Q. Can you give us a summary of who is responsible for our SPLOST projects?

A. We have been very fortunate in that your money has been well utilized on many and varied projects. We do not feel any other county could have or has done as much with such few dollars as we have done. It has taken a lot of hard work by a lot of county employees, contractors, Carlton Colwell Detention Center Detail officers, detainees, and county staff.

Q. When did SPLOST III start and when does it end?

A. The SPLOST III began in April of 2009 and will end on March of 2015. During that time we have made many accomplishments and are still carefully spending your sales tax dollars to make Union County a better place to live, work and play and generally improve our quality of life.

Q. What has been our largest expenditure with our SPLOST III projects?

A. It is definitely roads and bridges. We have already spent over \$5 million dollars on roads and bridges and that is in addition to about \$1 million per year out of the regular budget. This makes it possible for us to have some of the best roads and equipment of any other rural county. This does not mean that every road gets paved, but it means that if you call with a road problem, it will be repaired and in the winter, we maintain and salt more roads than any other rural county as well as having more snow plows available. If there is a tree that blows down during a storm, no matter what time, a Road Dept. employee will be right there.

Q. What are some of the other projects completed with the SPLOST III?

A. I do not have the time or space to speak about each project, but just want to remind you of what has been accomplished in Union County:

- a) 11 new HVAC units installed at the jail along with security system upgrades ongoing.
- b) County Administration Annex building renovations (Old Nursing Home)
- c) Park and Recreation Facilities and Land Acquisition. This includes the Senior Center renovations and expansion, the Suches Community Center, the new Union County Arena, Amphitheater design, Old Chamber building renovations, Meeks Park ball field improvements, playground improvements, bleachers, bridges, walking/jogging trail improvements, shooting range property acquisition along with Meeks Park additional property purchases, Library Renovation, Expansion, and Books.
- d) Public Safety Facilities, Vehicles, and Equipment (includes various sub-projects, including Sheriff's Office cars and equipment, Fire Department building and equipment, payoff of fire trucks, and some ambulance payments).
- e) Solid Waste Transfer Station/Recycling Center Renovation and Expansion study along with a future property purchase.

- f) New Farmers Market, Livestock Arena, Cannery and additional property acquisition.
- g) Civic Center Complete Renovation
- h) Multi-Use Building for Economic Development Offices, Chamber, Community Center, Recreation Department and Pro Shop financed through bonds, but to be repaid with SPLOST funds.
- i) Renovations to Old Courthouse with new elevator.
- j) Choestoe two room school house renovation as Choestoe Voting/Community Center
- k) Old red roof gym renovation study and new roof replacement
- l) Byron Herbert Reece facilities and improvements,
- m) Animal Control facility site improvements
- n) City of Blairsville Projects including sewer and water improvements and expansion and street improvements.

This is not a complete listing as I am out of town while completing these questions.
SPLOST III funds were utilized either in all or a portion of the above listed projects, none of which could have been accomplished without SPLOST.

Thanks again to you, the public, who have continued to vote for and support our county and city government SPLOST projects through continuing to pass the 1 penny sales tax.