

Who: Debbie Fisher, Jan Barton & members of the Citizens Accountability Taskforce

What: Citizen Town Hall - The Real Truth about Your Taxes

Where: 799 Roswell Street, Marietta, Georgia 30060 (Across from Roswell Street Baptist Church)

When: Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at 7 PM

Why: Holding Government Accountable - SPLOST and Taxation

RSVP: https://www.facebook.com/events/2661544023887941/

It all began when Cobb Commission Chairman Tim Lee and the Board of Commissioners voted to spend \$400M of your tax dollars on the Braves stadium without a voter referendum. Tim Lee was subsequently replaced with a new chairman, Mike Boyce who ran on transparency and low taxes. However one of Mike's first actions was to raise taxes and not long after transparency went by the wayside where spending was concerned.

Starting in 2017 our group made every effort to show the commissioners why they did not have to raise taxes. One of the solutions was using excess SPLOST funds to pay down debt and avoid a tax increase. The county scoffed at this viable suggestion, claiming all excess funds were encumbered and not available.

Our research uncovered multiple ways in which the county was not following Georgia statutes which included but was not limited to comingling of funds, adding projects not on the original voter referendum; project categories without specific project list and not properly reporting SPLOST revenues, to name but a few. All findings and discrepancies were brought to the attention of the BOC, County Manager, Finance Director, and the County Attorney in an effort to hold them accountable. Our efforts brought a few reporting improvements but proved to be futile on changes on the infractions that have to do with spending your money!

After all attempts failed the citizen group hired attorney Josh McKoon, former Georgia Senator who successfully won a SPLOST Supreme Court case; Rothschild II vs. Columbus Consolidated Govt. A notice of intent to file an Ad litem action was sent to the County Attorney and Chairman. The County chose not to respond favorably. Now our next step is to have our case heard in the court of public opinion prior to filing an expensive suit against the County.

We will present the real story about our findings and your Cobb County SPLOST taxes. You will hear how we are attempting to hold the County accountable and what you can do to help.