

## 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;

	Splost 2008	Final Expenditures	Balance	
<b>Roads, Streets, Bridges</b>	7,541,850	6,254,161	1,287,689	Underbudget
<b>Hospital Building</b>	3,500,000	3,876,165	(376,165)	Overbudget
<b>Multipurpose Arena</b>	1,500,000	2,962,495	(1,462,495)	Overbudget
<b>Health Department</b>	1,000,000	1,010,430	(10,430)	Overbudget
<b>Fire Fighting Equipment</b>	1,000,000	1,340,259	(340,259)	Overbudget
<b>Courthouse</b>	900,000	979,286	(79,286)	Overbudget
<b>Intergovernmental</b>	3,708,000	3,708,000		
	19,149,850	20,130,796	(980,946)	<b>Paid for from other County Taxes</b>

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.