

**Town of Alto  
Called Meeting  
Habersham County & Municipalities  
January 22, 2025  
Minutes**

**Those in attendance:**

**Gail Armour, Mayor  
Eddie Palmer, Mayor Pro Tem  
Allen Fox, Post 3  
Debbie Turner, Post 5  
Lisa Turner, CFO/HR  
Representatives from Habersham County and all municipalities  
Absent: P.J. Huggins, James Turner, Penny Rogers, Chief Josh Ivey**

**The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gail Armour. In alphabetical order each of the other municipalities called their meetings to order. The invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Baldwin Mayor Stephanie Almagno.**

**Public Comments:**

**There were various comments and questions about the exemption, millage rates and the FLOST from the public and other municipal officials which carried on until Phil Sutton began the PowerPoint presentation that he prepared for the meeting.**

**New Business:**

**The discussion that began in the public comments continued with questions pertaining to the floating exemption and its effect on property tax revenues in the County and the municipalities. The FLOST (Flexible Local Option Sales Tax) was discussed, and it was stated that it would have to be approved by referendum later and added to the ballot for the voters to decide. Mr. Phil Sutton then presented his PowerPoint presentation with numbers from the Habersham County tax digests showing possible effects from the exemption being implemented and the possible outcomes per the county and each municipality. It was strongly encouraged for everyone to be opted in so that we can try to pass the FLOST later to help recover some of the funds lost. Most will have to raise their millage rates to offset the losses. After the discussion was closed, each of the municipalities were asked to approve a resolution to show the intent to opt in to the HB581 mandated exemption.**

**Councilman Allen Fox made a motion to adopt the HB 581 Resolution of Intent. Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Palmer seconded the motion. Approved by all.**

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**Councilman Allen Fox made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Debbie Turner seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 pm.**

**Approved by all.**

**Respectfully submitted by:**

**Lisa K. Turner**

**Deputy Town Clerk**