

# Fink to Rotary: 'Clayton will receive SPLOST'

By Tommy Culkin

Staff Writer

CLAYTON — In 2012, the City of Clayton was left out of Rabun County's Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax agreement, preventing the city from receiving any of the funds. However, at the Clayton Rotary Club's meeting March 22, County Commissioner and Rotarian Bob Fink told attendees that Clayton would not be left out of the agreement again.

A SPLOST is an optional one percent county sales tax used to fund capital outlay projects proposed by the county government and participating qualified municipal governments.

When negotiations for the previous SPLOST cycle took place in 2012, Clayton was told to consolidate its water and sewer systems, or lose SPLOST. The city didn't budge, and true to their word, the county withheld the funds.

"About six years ago, five people, your county commissioners, they figured out a way to punish five other people — that's the Clayton City Council," Fink said.

Fink described the action as



Tommy Culkin/The Clayton Tribune

**County Commissioner Bob Fink spoke to the Clayton Rotary Club at the group's March 22 meeting.**

both "childish" and "draconian" and said it resulted in years of resentment forming.

However, planning for the next SPLOST cycle began earlier this year, and Fink added that the county will not leave Clayton out of the SPLOST plan again.

"Now, we've got another

SPLOST coming up," Fink said. "Whoa, what are we going to do? Do we punish them again? No, we're not going to. We are going to have Clayton participate in the SPLOST, as it should be."

How this story was discovered: Attended the meeting  
Who/what our sources were: Rabun County Commissioner Bob Fink