

**WORKSHOP SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013 (6:00 p.m.)**

The scheduled Workshop Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Grady Thompson on Tuesday, March 5, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Administrative Building. Members of the Commission present including Chairman Thompson were Vice Chairman Sherry Miley and Commissioners Robert Setters, Mike Jones, Donnie Hester, and Melissa Chevers. Commissioner Rigdon was sick and was not present.

Public Comments: None

Appointments: None

Public Hearings: None

Items to be discussed for Regular Session on March 11, 2013:

A. Public Works Facility: Jason advised the Board that his request is for the Board to award the successful contract for the construction manager of the new Public Works Facility to Jones Construction Company from Tifton. In this phase the successful company will take the plans and do a value engineer process of the entire project and come back to us with their plans of where we can save money on what was designed for the facility. Staff recommends the award to Jones construction even though they were not the low bid but they are local and are within the percentage which the Board has set in order to award local vendors bids. There has been a little more than \$7,000 included in the total cost figure of the facility for the value engineering to be done on the project.

B. Beer License for Manish Patel for EZ Mart in Brookfield: The County Clerk reported that Mr. Patel already owns and holds a Beer License for Brookfield General Store. He is now purchasing EZ Mart in Brookfield and has applied for a Beer License for this store. The application has been properly processed, criminal history and fingerprints have been run and has been approved by the Sheriff.

C. Resolution to adopt approved Short-Term Work Program Updates: The County Manager advised that in a previous meeting the Short-Term Work Program Updates were discussed and the required public hearing was held. A Resolution of transmittal to send to DCA for approval was adopted. The Short-Term Work Program has now been approved by DCA and the last step in the process is to adopt the Resolution of the approved updates.

D. Request from Tax Commissioner to change Refund Amount Policy: The County Manager reported that the Tift County Tax Commissioners' office refunds and collects amounts of \$2.00 and over. They are requesting a change in the policy to refund and collect amounts starting at \$5.00 which would follow the guideline the State uses for their refunds and collections. This action would also be a more efficient and effective manner for our process of refunds and collections and be in accordance with the Code Section of Georgia O.C.G.A. 48-3-21.1.

E. Text change in Personnel Policy Manual: Mike Walker, Human Resource Director request the Board to approve some changes in the Personnel Policy under Selection Process Policy 4.06 (a) & (5) (b). The current policy automatically excludes anyone who has simply been arrested for one of the listed offenses from employment by Tift County. This prohibition does not make allowances for individuals who were arrested and whose charges were subsequently dismissed, who were adjudicated not guilty, or convicted of a lesser, non-prohibited offense. Additionally, a typographical error exists in 4.06 (5) (a) (3) and 4.06 (5) (b) (1) and will be corrected by the action of the Board. The proposed text amendment provides relief from the current policy constraint and typographical errors.

Executive Session: None

Commissioner's Comments:

Commissioner Chevers stated that sometimes we fail to let our employees know how valuable they are. She commended Jason Jordan and the Road Department staff for their dedication and hard work last week when we were experiencing the heavy rainfall. The County Manager added Tommy Nash, Building and Ground Department. He received a call from the District Attorney's office on Saturday during the rains concerning some roof leaks and stated that Tommy was present to see about the leaks and doing preventive measures. We do have some of the best employees we could possibly have.

Vice Chairman Miley agreed with the comments about the Road Department doing a good job through the excessive rains. She does hope that by the springs the pot holes in the County Roads will be gone.

Commissioner Jones made comment that we are a lot more fortunate than some of the other counties and made

mention that we are going to have to spend some money on resurfacing roads in the County.

Commissioner Setters mentioned that the hot mix trailer does not look new anymore, the Road Department has been using it a lot and it was a good investment. He not only commended the Road Department through the rain and storms but also E-911 and EMA for their dedication, long hours and keeping everyone informed for the weather situation.

Commissioner Hester stated that County staff is doing a tremendous job with the results that the heavy rains left behind but we have to let our constituents know they need to have patience. Staff is diligently doing all they can to take care of all complaints and problems but we must be patient.

The County Manager advised the Board that he, staff members and Commissioner Chevers met with Congressman Austin Scott and toured the Southside Districts. We are looking for some money to help with the project.

The County Manager also that we had a situation arise in Tift County last week of a caller claiming a bomb was planted at a school. It is gratifying to see folks come together and work so hard toward a resolution and the problem was settled within 1 ½ hours thanks to the work of E-911, EMA and the Sheriff’s Department.

Chairman Thompson adjourned the meeting.

Chairman Grady Thompson, District 7

Vice Chairman Sherry Miley, District 4

Commissioner Donnie Hester, District 1

Commissioner Melissa Chevers, District 2

Commissioner Robert Setters, District 3

_____absent_____
Commissioner F. W. (Buck) Rigdon, District 5

ATTEST:

Commissioner C. Michael Jones, District 6

County Clerk 3/5/2013