

**REGULAR SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2013 (6:00 P.M.)**

The scheduled Regular Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman on Monday, February 11, 2013, at 6:00 P.M. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room of the Administrative Building. Member of the Commission present including Chairman Thompson were Vice Chairman Sherry Miley and Commissioners Donnie Hester, Buck Rigdon, Melissa Chevers, Mike Jones and Robert Setters.

Chairman Thompson asked Commissioner Hester to give the invocation followed by the pledge to the flag.

Minutes: Motion approving the minutes of January 8, 2013 Workshop Session; January 14, 2013 Regular Session was made by Commissioner Chevers, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments:

Rufus Taylor addressed the Board with problems on Southern Avenue when we have heavy rains causing bad flooding problems. The County Manager, Jason Jordan and the Engineer rode the area a few weeks ago. We are looking at the entire drainage basin. Both the Railroad and the DOT need to upgrade their pipes to help the situation. Mr. Taylor stated that last August one of his mobile homes he owns got a foot of water. Commissioner Chevers has been out there today. The County Manager has spoken to Austin Scott and a meeting will be set up for him to come and look at the situation and see what we can do and maybe get some assistance. The whole area needs upgrading and it will be very costly and involve more entities other than just the County.

Appointments:

Tom Carmichael with the auditing firm was present to give the Audit Report for the County for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2012. He explained the firm's auditing approach. He advised the Board that at the end of the Fiscal Year the County showed a surplus of \$1.3 Million. He explained the Revenues-Budget vs. Actual as well as the Expenditures-Budget vs. Actual. The County is in very good shape in the General Fund-Unreserved Fund Balance. He gave the Fund Balances of the Special Revenue funds and Sales Tax Fund. Advised of the County's Capital Assets and Long-Term Debt. The County is in sound financial shape.

ADDITION TO AGENDA:

GEBCORP Retirement Plan Renewal (G)

Motion to add this item to the Agenda under the letter "G" was made by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Miley. Motion carried unanimously.

Excise Tax (H)

Motion to add this item to the Agenda under the letter "H" was made by Commissioners Jones, seconded by Commissioner Setters. Motion carried by a 5 to 1 vote. Vice Chairman Miley did not vote to add the item to the Agenda.

Increase Hotel/Motel Tax by 1% (I)

Motion to add this item to the Agenda under the letter "I" was made by Commissioner Rigdon, seconded by Commissioner Chevers. Motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA:

A. Hardware Maintenance Contract: This Hardware Maintenance Agreement will cover the equipment that operates the County's computer systems and will now be a regular budget item. The life expectancy of the system now is estimated up to 7 to 8 years. Motion to approve the Hardware

Maintenance in the amount of \$9,835.15 was made by Commissioner Setters, seconded by Commissioner Chevers. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Appointment/Reappointment to the Area Agency on Aging Council: Motion was made by Vice Chairman Miley to reappoint Glynda Hemby to the Area Agency on Aging Council to serve another 3 year term, seconded by Commissioner Chevers. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Appointment to Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities Council: Motion was made by Commissioner Rigdon to appoint Vice Chairman Sherry Miley to serve on the Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities Council, seconded by Commissioner Setters. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Resolution Appointing a County Legislative Coordinator: Motion to adopt the Resolution appointing Jim Carter, County Manager as the Tift County Legislative Coordinator was made by Commissioner Rigdon, seconded by Vice Chairman Miley. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Miley was excused from this meeting because she had another meeting to attend. From this point the action taken by the Board reflects the Chairman's vote which is standard procedure when a Commissioner is absent.

E. Resolution to submit for a CDBG Grant Application: Motion adopting the required Resolution for the submission of a CDBG Grant Application for the purpose of addressing drainage and street paving improvements for Sutton Circle was made by Commissioner Chevers, seconded by Commissioner Jones. Motion carried unanimously.

F. Resolution to submit Tift Lift Grant Application: Motion adopting the required Resolution for the submission of the Tift Lift Grant through the Georgia Department of Transportation was made by Commissioner Setters, seconded by Chevers. Motion carried unanimously.

G. GEBCORP Retirement Plan Renewal: Motion to approve the GEBCORP Retirement Plan Renewal for Tift County with the compliance changes and updates was made by Commissioner Chevers, seconded by Commissioner Jones. Motion carried unanimously.

H. Excise Tax: the County Manager has had some discussions with Representative Jay Roberts concerning the Excise Tax. We need to adopt the purposed Ordinance stating that Tift County wishes to continue the 2% Excise Tax. This is not an increase, it is a continuation of an existing tax and staff recommends the Board pass the Resolution. Motion to adopt the Excise Tax Ordinance to continue the 2% tax was made by Commissioner Setters, seconded by Commissioner Jones. Motion carried unanimously.

I. Increase Hotel/Motel Tax by 1%: The County Manager advised that Representative Jay Roberts has told him that the City of Tifton has before the General Assembly a request to increase the Hotel/Motel Tax by 1% and he would like to know if the County is interested in the increase for the Hotel/Motels in the County so that it would be uniform for both entities. There are only two (2) motels that are outside the City Limits so it would not be that big of a revenue change for the County. It is a Board's decision to increase. Motion was made by Commissioner Chevers not to increase the County's Hotel/Motel Tax, seconded by Commissioner Jones. Motion carried unanimously.

The County Manager also advised the Board that the City has in front of the General Assembly a homestead exempt in addition to what the State allows for Senior Citizens that will increase from \$25,000 to \$35,000 for abatement of taxes. The County does not offer this abatement and it would significantly lower the digest figures and is not a recommendation from staff to consider this tax abatement. No action was taken by the Board on this item.

Commissioners Comments:

Commissioner Chevers stated that Southern Avenue is a mess and she believes we can try to work on coming up with a solution. We need to educate our Community on not putting debris in the ditches, this is what creates and multiplies the drainage problems we are experiencing.

Executive Session: None

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Setter, seconded by Commissioner Chevers. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Grady Thompson, District 7

Vice Chairman Sherry Miley, District 4

Commissioner Donnie Hester, District 1

Commissioner Melissa Chevers, District 2

Commissioner Robert Setters, Dist. 3

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

Commissioner C. Michael Jones, District 6

Attest: _____
Glynda Hemby, County Clerk
2/11/2013