

**REGULAR SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, June 10, 2013 (6:00 P.M.)**

The scheduled Regular Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman on Monday, June 10, 2013, at 6:00 P.M. in the Commission Meeting 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, and Robert Setters. Commissioner Mike Jones was on vacation and was not present at this meeting however; he did listen in on the meeting by phone in some areas requiring a vote as will be reflected in the body of the minutes below.

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

Minutes: Motion approving the minutes of May 7, 2013 Workshop Session; May 7, 2013 Executive Session and May 13, 2013 Regular Session was made by Commissioner Hester, seconded by Commissioner Chevers. Motion carried unanimously with the Chairman voting in the absence of a Commissioner.

Public Comments: None

Appointments:

Mr. C. Wade Clark addressed the Board regarding the proposed bypass going down Carpenter Road. He was the designated spokesperson for a host of residents in this area that were also present at the meeting. Mr. Clark stated that they did not come out in numbers tonight to intimidate just simply to let the Commissioners know that they do not want they bypass where it is being proposed and cited safety issues, peace and tranquility and diminished of their property values was just some of the reasons for their being at this meeting tonight. The project as it is proposed now would affect six (6) subdivisions. Mr. Clark gave the number of parcels in each subdivision stating that over 1,000 people would be affected by the construction of this project as it is proposed now. Several Commissioners including Commissioner Hester, whose District these subdivisions are located in spoken against the proposed route of the bypass also. The County Manager spoke on behalf of the Board stating that the study is being conducted by the Department of Transportation to discover what would be a preferred route. Commissioner Rigdon stated that this route was not suggested by any elected official of the County. The County Manager said that he thinks you will see the DOT has changed where the preferred route will be and with that, it's \$60 to \$70 million dollars project that has been on the horizon more than twelve (12) years. There is no money allocated by the State, Federal or Local Government to build the bypass. He said that does not mean there will never be a bypass in Tift County, just not in the foreseeable future and based on the opposition, certainly not down Carpenter Road. The residents were assured that they could go home and sleep knowing there won't be a bypass on this proposed route. The Department of Transportation will hold a public hearing on the proposed bypass on August 22nd at the Moultrie Technical College. Commissioner Hester urged the citizens to bring the same number as is here tonight to that meeting and more.

Public Hearing:

Tift County Operating Budget for FY 2013-2014:

The County Manager briefly went over the proposed budget highlighting the differences, up or down, in each departments budget. He stated that the Department Heads have been very receptive to continuing to hold the line on spending and continuing to try to do more with less. The Sheriff was very outstanding in his first budget with the County. A public copy of the budget is available in the Administrative office for public review. Staff was commended for doing a good job with the budget again this year, balancing the budget without having to use any reserve funds or raise taxes.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Miley to open the Public Hearing, seconded by Commissioner Chevers. Motion carried unanimously.

There were no public comments.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Miley to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Commissioner Chevers. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Motion authorizing the purchase of a 2013 Chevrolet G4500 Type III Excalibur ambulance from Custom works specialty Vehicles in the amount of \$121,000 to be paid from SPLOST IV

B. Motion to award the Base and Paving Contract for T C Gordon, Palmetta Road & Cassetta Road to The Scruggs Company in the low bid amount of \$395,077.19 to be funded through a CDBG Grant and SPLOST IV

C. Motion to award the Oak Ridge Church Road and Southwell Blvd. resurfacing project to The Scruggs Company in the low bid amount of \$971,193.22 to be funded through SPLOST IV, Development Authority and Georgia Department of Transportation

E. Motion approving the renewal contract with Behavioral Health Services of South Georgia for the Tift County employee Assistance Program

Motion approving the CONSENT AGENDA, items A, B, C & E was made by Commissioner Rigdon, seconded by Vice Chairman Miley. Motion carried unanimously with the Chairman voting in the absence of a Commissioner.

Commissioner Mike Jones is now reached by phone for the remainder of the meeting.

REGULAR AGENDA:

D. Equipment Bid for the purchase of a motorgrader: Jason Jordan advised the Board of the bids that have been received for the motorgrader and stated that staff recommends the purchase of the Caterpillar. Vice Chairman Miley commended both vendors for their presentations of their respective machines; she had several conversations with both representatives and thanks them for answering all her questions and understanding so that she would be able to make a clear decision on the machine. Motion was made by Commissioner Setters to purchase the Caterpillar Motorgrader from Yancey Brothers on a five (5) year lease to include the buyback of \$129,000 at a monthly lease payment in the amount of \$1,555 for 60 months, seconded by Commissioner Jones. Motion carried with a 5 to 1 vote. Commissioner Chevers voted against the motion.

F. Appointment to the Board of Elections: The County Clerk advised that a letter of recommendation has been received from the Board of Elections for the appointment of Stephanie C. McKee to serve a 4 year term effective July 9, 2013 and expiring July 9, 2017. The Chairman opened the floor for nominations. Vice Chairman Miley nominated Stephanie C. McKee. There were no further nominations and the Chairman closed the nominations. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Miley to appoint Stephanie C. McKee to the Board of Elections to serve a 4 year term expiring July 2017, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

G. Beer & Wine License Application for Nilesh Patel for the Chevron on South Central: the County Clerk advised that the application has been properly processed. Motion approving the Beer & Wine License for Nilesh Patel for the Chevron Station located on South Central was made by Commissioner Hester, seconded by Commissioner Chevers. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners Comments:

Commissioner Chevers stated that she would like to express why so voted against the motion on purchase of the caterpillar motorgrader. She stated that we often talk about the lowest bid and that we still have to look at the lowest bid when dispensing County funds. Chairman Thompson agreed with her statement. Commissioner Setters stated that he understands however sometime ago this Board made a conscious decision based on recommendation from staff to keep the motorgrader fleet the same because of maintenance and the preference of staff and the operators and his vote for the purchase of the caterpillar was based on that theory.

County Manger Comments:

Reminded the Board of the June 18, 2013 scheduled called meeting at 12 Noon to adopt the Budget and set the tentative millage rate.

Executive Session: None

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Hester, seconded by Commissioner Setters. 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
6/10/2013