

**WORKSHOP SESSION  
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, June 4, 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, May 7, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioner's 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, Buck Rigdon and Melissa Chevers.

**Public Comments:**

William C. Kelly addressed the Board and stated that he is the current Chairman of the Tifton/Tift County Public Library Board. He stated that they have a very good Board and it is a working Board and wanted to advise the Commission that they are there to make the Library the best it can be along with any other issues and at any time questions arise to please contact them. He respectfully asked the Board to hold the line on the budget funding for the Library and praise staff members for their work and dedication to the Library. He was asked about the status of the Green House owned by the Library that is across the street from the Administration Building. Mr. Kelly reported that a Committee has been appointed to deal with this issue and come up with a plan/recommendation and feels the Board will be pleased with the recommendation that will be coming on that property. Commissioner Chevers passed along compliments to the Library for the Gathering they had there on Saturday morning, she attended and it was lots of fun and encouraged them to keep up the good work.

**Appointments: None**

**Public Hearings: None**

**Items to be discussed for Regular Session on June 10, 2013:**

**A. Purchase of a new Ambulance:** Craig Grace advised the Board that the Tift County Ambulance Fleet has gone from 6 units to 4 units but with the last purchase of an ambulance it is back up to 5 units. One of those units was involved in an accident on May 19, 2013 that we are still waiting on a settlement from the insurance company and even then it will be approximately 2 months before it will be back on the road due to extensive damage to the vehicle. The situation has caused him to be below his comfort level with the number of ambulances we are currently able to operate at this time. Staff has looked at DEMO models so that we can get an ambulance quickly and have contacted five ambulance vendors to gather information on chassis types, available warranties and modular unit sizes. Each ambulance considered shared comparable specifications. Each ambulance is equipped with a Chevrolet G4500 chassis and a Duramax 6.6 L diesel engine has a GM factory 5 year/100,000 mile power train warranty and has a modular unit box with comparable dimensions. Each unit is fitted with LED lighting throughout. The vendor's prices are below:

|              |           |     |           |            |           |
|--------------|-----------|-----|-----------|------------|-----------|
| Custom Works | \$121,000 | AEV | \$124,387 | Excellance | \$143,013 |
|--------------|-----------|-----|-----------|------------|-----------|

Staff recommends the purchase of the ambulance from Custom Works. We have an established relationship having purchased the two previous trucks from them and the customer support we received is outstanding. They offer a lifetime warranty on the modular unit.

**B. Award Bid for Street & Drainage Improvements on T C Gordon Road:** Jason Jordan advised the Board that the base and paving for T C Gordon, Palmetta Road and Cusseta Road had been properly advertised and the bid opening was held at the designated time and bids are as follows:

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| The Scruggs Company       | \$395,077.19 |
| Reames & Son Construction | \$447,689.80 |
| Littlefield Construction  | \$487,625.04 |

Staff recommends awarding the contract to the low bidder, The Scruggs Company in the amount of \$395,077.19. This project will be funded through a CDBG Grant and SPLOST IV.

**C. Award Bid for Oakridge Church Road and Southwell Blvd:** Jason Jordan advised the Board that the Resurfacing Project for Oak Ridge Church Road and Southwell Boulevard had been properly advertised and the bid opening was held at the designated time and bids are as follows:

|                           |                |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| The Scruggs Company       | \$ 971,193.32  |
| Reames & Son Construction | \$ 999,963.78  |
| Reeves Construction       | \$1,033,693.86 |

Staff recommends awarding the contract to the low bidder, The Scruggs Company in the amount of \$971,193.22. The project will be funded through SPLOST IV, the Development Authority and Georgia Department of Transportation.

**D. Equipment Bid for a motorgrader:** Jason Jordan advised that the 5 year buyback is up on a motorgrader in operation at the Road Department. Bids are as follows:

|                | Flint Equipment | Yancey Brothers |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Purchase Price | \$171,000       | \$199,605       |
| Buy Back       | 125,000         | 129,000         |
| Total Cost     | 46,000          | 70,605          |
| 60 Month Lease | \$ 1,025        | \$ 1,555        |

Staff recommends the Caterpillar motorgrader even though it is a higher price however; the County is currently operating all caterpillar motorgraders and would like to keep the fleet all the same. The motorgrader operators prefer the caterpillar motorgraders over the John Deere.

Bill Murphree spoke on behalf of Flint Equipment and the John Deere motorgrader and gave some points for the consideration of the purchase of the John Deere.

Jim Rodgers spoke on behalf of Yancey Brothers and the Caterpillar motorgrader and gave some points for the consideration of the purchase of the Caterpillar.

**E. EAP Agreement with Behavioral Health Services:** Mike Walker, Human Resource Director advised the Board that Behavioral Health Services of South Georgia has been the provider for Tift county Employee Assistance program for many years. The proposed agreement extends the current relationship with two substantive changes: the elimination of any annual fee to administer the program paid by Tift County in exchange for no rental rate increase for the Tifton Mental Health Facility located on Tifton Eldorado Road and a provision that renews the agreement for up to two consecutive one year terms. Staff recommends the renewal of the contract for this service.

**F. Appointment to the Board of Elections:** The County Clerk advised that a letter of resignation has been received from Charlotte B. Walker who currently serves on the Board of Elections. The Board of Elections has two citizens they have talked with and solicited Board Applications from to fill this position. A letter of recommendation will be available for the Board's review at the Regular Meeting on Monday.

**G. Beer & Wine License Application for Nilesh Patel for Chevron on South Central:** The County Clerk advised that the Chevron on South Central is under new ownership and that Mr. Patel has applied for a Beer and Wine License for the business. The application along with Criminal History and Fingerprint report has been provided for the Board's review and it comes with an approval from the Sheriff.

The County Manager reminded the Board of the scheduled Budget Meeting for June 7<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:30 AM, the Public Hearing for the Budget is scheduled on the Regular Meeting date which is June 10<sup>th</sup> and the Board needs to make a decision on the time for the scheduled meeting for June 18<sup>th</sup> to adopt the Budget and set the Tentative Millage Rate. The Board agreed to have a 12 Noon meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>. He also advised that the Solid Waste Request for Proposals have been sent out. He also requested a short Executive Session for Legal. He then yielded time to Roger Dill to discuss the Tifton/Tift County proposed bypass.

#### **Commissioner's Comments:**

Commissioner Jones reported that he has been getting some calls and concerns concerning Golf Carts driven in Subdivision. He asked the County Manager and the County Attorney to look into the matter and the feasibility of some sort of Ordinance addressing the issue.

Roger Dill addressed the Board with the many recent calls and concerning of the proposed Tift County Bypass. Because of some recent staking is being done it has caused a good deal of excitement and County Staff has received many calls as well as Commissioners and it is an understanding that a group of citizens will be here Monday night to address the Board. There was an informational meeting about 3 weeks ago and the original lines of going across the river and coming up behind Deere Run Subdivision had been changed because of the Environmental and Wetland problems. It came up to Carpenter Road south and turned on 82 and went up Carpenter Road and crossed 319 then goes across Union Road and comes out at the fire station on Union Road. What they propose now is having it from 82 to Marshall Drive is a 54' section with curb and gutter and sidewalk through the Industrial area. From Marshall Lane to Doe Lane it turns into 2 lanes with a turning lane in the middle. The lane thru the next subdivision will be a 24' section of rode way with 6' shoulders all the way to Tech Drive. It then changes and because of all the changes with the Interstate exchange and so forth, they proposed to re do the ramps and a lot of other improvements through there and it shows a divided median section all the way then up to Magnolia Drive in the Industrial Park. Then from Magnolia Drive all the way around to Tifton Eldorado road it goes back to a 2 lane and goes on up to Hwy 319. The delegation that will be here Monday night is opposing the section on Carpenter Road through the Lindsey property from 319 over to Union Road. The County Manager stated that this right now is just a study, there is no project. This is one of the projects that we were looking at during the T-SPLOST Referendum however it did not pass therefore there is no dedicated, earmarked funding to do this project. This is something the state is doing; the County has not committed any funding for this project. It is yet to be determined if it will be built. Commissioner Hester was against the Bypass from the time it started being discussed because it was going down Carpenter Road. He is still opposing it because he has six subdivisions over there in his District off Carpenter Road. It was supposed to go around Deere Run. There are about 400 homes out there that will

be affected by this route and he has been asked by those citizens if he was for them or the protected species of animals and so forth out there and the environmental issues instead of people. He wanted to be on record that he is not for the Bypass going this proposed route and he will stand up for the folks in his District. The estimated cost projection for this project at this time will be 60 to 70 million dollars, the County does not have the funding to construct this bypass and ultimately in the end if the County did put funding in this project, the route must be approved by the Tift County Board of Commissioners.

**Executive Session:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones to go into Executive Session for a Legal matter, seconded by Vice chairman Miley. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to close Executive Session was made by Vice Chairman Miley, seconded by Commissioner Chevers. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Thompson adjourned the meeting.

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Chairman Grady Thompson, District 7

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Vice Chairman Sherry Miley, District 4

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Commissioner Donnie Hester, District 1

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Commissioner Melissa Chevers, District 2

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Commissioner Robert Setters, District 3

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

ATTEST:

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Commissioner C. Michael Jones, District 6

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County Clerk 6/4/2013