

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

The scheduled Workshop Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Vice Chairman Sherry Miley on Tuesday, August 6, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room of the Administrative Building. Members of the Commission present including Vice Chairman Miley were Commissioners Robert Setters, Mike Jones, Donnie Hester, Buck Rigdon and Melissa Chevers. Chairman Thompson was attending another meeting.

Public Comments: None

Appointments:

1. Mr. Ruben Bennett, Sr., 608 48th Street, came before the Board concerning reimbursement of property taxes. He is requesting reimbursement of property taxes for 2012 stating he had received a letter from the Department of Veterans stating his classification as 100% disabled. He paid his property tax for that year in the amount of \$1,739.70 and is asking for this amount to be reimbursed. The Tax Assessor addressed the issue with the Board stating that by the time the letter for Mr. Bennett was received and presented to the notices had been mailed and the Digest had been approved. The qualifying time for tax relief consideration is between January 1st and April of the tax year. Since it was October when they were told of the taxpayer's disability it extended beyond the authority to extend the deadline by the Board of Assessors. The County Attorney stated that he has looked at the documents and there are deadlines for all things you apply for. He stated that later in the year Mr. Bennett did not get his notification to abide by the laws for applying for exemptions within the timeframe allowed. In the eyes of the law there is no error in the Office of the Tax Assessor therefore our hands are limited to refund the property tax. Commissioner Setters stated that he understands from the legal opinion that is nothing the Board can act on and if it was legal, the Board of Tax Assessors could handle the issue. After some further discussion the vice chairman advised Mr. Bennett that the Board would take his request under advisement and would discuss again at the Regular meeting on Monday.

Public Hearings: None

Items to be discussed for Regular Session on August 12, 2013:

A. Request to waive fees for Event at Mott Littman Gym: The Board was advised that Commissioner Chevers and Stop the Violence community Members and Neighborhood Watch Group would like to host an event at Mott Litman Gym on August 17, 2013. They are requesting the fees be waived for the facility costs and supervisory cost. The event is designated to bring the Community together and inform each other about Stopping the Violence and Neighborhood Watch Groups. A Special Event Permit has been completed along with the Recreation Rental Forms

B. Award Bid for Striping & Signage: Jason Jordan advised the Board that this is a yearly GDOT Safety Action Plan Grant. It will cover 29.2 miles of striping consisting of 10 roads as well as the signage, fully funded by the Department of Transportation. The project has been properly advertised for bids and staff recommends the low bid to Peek Pavement in the amount of \$104,864.76

C. Surplus Vehicles: The Sheriff's Department has turned in three (3) Dodger Chargers for surplus and the Road Department has three (3) trucks for surplus. The vehicles have seen their life with Tift County and staff recommends the Board surplus the vehicles and dispose of them using our standard method of placing them on GovDeals.com.

D. Approval of Emergency Operations (911) Center: Jason Jones explained information that was in the Board's packet for both the outside and inside design of the new Emergency Operations Center. This building will house the Emergency Management Agency, Tift County E-911 and the Tift County Information Technology Departments. Staff requests the Design Approval of the building so that we may proceed with this project.

E. Lease Renewal with Tift Area Judicial: The County Manager advised that this is an annual renewal lease for Ruth's Cottage

F. Lease Renewal with Brookfield Community Club: The County Manager stated that this is also an annual renewal lease with Brookfield Community Club.

G. Agreement with Tift Regional for Inmate Hospital Care: The County Manager advised that this is an Annual Renewal Contract between Tift County and Tift Regional Medical Center agreeing to the reduced rates the hospital offers the County for inmate medical care. The hospital is offering to supply the Board a rate lower than we are currently paying however, there are some items in the contract that will need some further attention and staff recommends the Board to table this issue for 30 days.

H. Outsourcing Water Waste/Water Services: The County Manager reminded the Board that the City of Tifton and Tift County Water-Waste Water Fund currently outsources the management of brown water with ESG Operations with the City having oversight of both the Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds. The SDCC has made a recommendation that all operations of the two funds be outsourced to ESG to include collection, distribution and in-house engineering. ESG and the City presented a proposal for this outsourcing at the SDCC Meeting and it was approved by the SDCC. County staff would only make one addition to the proposal and that is to include the billing function of both funds. This would effectively alleviate the need for the fund to maintain personnel and remove any administrative costs outside of what is paid to ESC and we recommend having ESG amend the proposal to include billing. The County Manager suggested that the Board allow him sometime to discuss the billing portion of the issue with the City Manager and report their feelings back. He will have an answer for the Board's consideration at the Monday night meeting on the billing portion. We need to address how much administrative cost is coming out of the funds for the billing aspect of this issue.

Commissioner's Comments: None

Executive Session: Motion to go into Executive Session for Legal and Personnel was made by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Chevers.

With no further business and need to return to Workshop Session, Vice Chairman Miley closed Executive Session and adjourned the meeting.

_____ absent _____
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

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

ATTEST:

Commissioner C. Michael Jones, District 6

County Clerk 8/6/2013