

**WORKSHOP SESSION  
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, September 3, 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, September 3, 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 Miley and Commissioners Robert Setters, Mike Jones, Donnie Hester, Buck Rigdon and Melissa Chevers.

**Public Comments:** None

**Appointments:** None

**Public Hearings:** None

**The County Manager advised the Board that staff would be asking for consideration of amending the Agenda at the Regular Meeting to add Bancorp South Lease for the leasing of a tractor that the Airport Authority and the Development Authority jointly pays for used in the maintenance at properties owned by these two entities.**

**Items to be discussed for Regular Session on September 9, 2013:**

**A. FY 13 Performance Partnership Agreement:** Jason Jones advised the Board that this is a yearly grant we receive through GEMA and the Department of Homeland Security. It is a matching grant and is always allotted for in the budget and the \$28,771 is a revenue line item in the budget.

**B. Surplus (2) Vehicles:** Jason Jones explained that two vehicles have reached the point of extreme wear and it would not be cost efficient to continue to maintain. The vehicles are a 1998 Ford Explorer and a 2000 Ford Crown Vic that have been handed down from the Sheriff's Department and have served their life with the E-911 and EMA Department. Staff recommends surplus and dispose of the vehicles through GovDeals.com

**C. Award Bid for 2014 LMIG Project:** Jason Jordan reported that the 2014 LMIG Project has been properly advertised and bids were opened at the designed time. A total of three bids were received. Reames & Son Construction Company was determined to be the low bidder in the base bid amount of \$778,016.45. This project is for the resurfacing of Chula-Brookfield Road and Brookfield-Lenox Road. The DOT provides \$504,000 for the LMIG project and the County pays the balance. There is a 30% match with this grant money and there are three (3) small roads inside Brookfield, Dodson Drive, Ploomer Drive and Success Drive that we added in while doing this project and we will be able to show this as our 30% matching funds and the funds will come from SLPOST.

**D. Contract for Lighting of New Public Works Facility:** Jason Jordan spoke to the Board about the lighting for the new Public Works Facility. Staff recommends the endorsement of the Contract for Lighting with Georgia Power which will be a \$12,000 up front cost for new lights and poles which is included in the cost of the new building to be paid from SPLOST. The billing will then be \$330.10 monthly for security lighting. It is using LED lighting to try and get the cost down. The County is going to do the trenching for the conduit for Georgia Power that will also save the County some money. Once the new building is up and running we will be taking down some of the old lighting so the monthly cost will really be offset.

**E. Request for Reimbursement for Property Tax/Rueben Bennett:** The County Attorney advised the Board that he is satisfied with the research and the opinion he has given at the previous meeting. His opinion still stands that there is nothing the Board can do. Law and Statue governs this reimbursement of taxes and the qualifying factors. Mr. Bennett's situation does not meet the requirements. There was no error in the Tax Assessor's office therefore the Board does not have the latitude to grant him tax relief. Mr. Bennett was not present at this meeting and the County Attorney asked the Board not to put the matter on the Consent Agenda so that at the Regular Meeting if Mr. Bennett is present it can be explained again before the Board takes action on the issue.

**F. Proposed Ordinance for Appropriate Dress in Public:** The County Manager advised the Board that Commissioner Chevers has requested that the County Staff present a possible regulatory solution to what is commonly referred to as "Sagging or Baggy Pants". A sample Ordinance has been provided for your review that addresses public dress as it related to this. The Ordinance includes both language defining inappropriate dress and proposed punitive actions should the Ordinance be violated. After much discussion among staff and Commissioners, the County Attorney suggested that we look at what the School Board has in place, what the City of Tifton as well as some other entities has in place. He told the Board that he believes this is something they should give some serious thought and suggested that the Board consider tabling this issue through a couple of sessions until we come up with a document that we can manage and live with.

**G. Agreement with Tift Regional Medical Center for Inmate Hospital Care:** The County Manager stated

that the wording of the contract presented by Tift Regional did not clearly stated the billing rate that will be charged to the County for the first \$150,000 billed which is particularly important because we will not be charged for the first \$150,000 billed. County staff wants to be certain that we are billed at the current Medicaid reimbursement rate on any services received before the \$150,000 and continued to be billed at the same rate after that threshold is met. The County Attorney has proposed the correct language that the Board should agree to in the contract and would request the Board's approval of the contract subject to this language change.

**H. Financing for EMA/911 Communication System:** Leigh Jordan, Finance Director told the Board that staff had looked for outside financing for the new radio system and shopped interest rates. She stated that B B & T had the best rates; the Board had discussed a 10 year term, staff proposed a 5 year term, so somewhere, meeting in the middle of 7 years was a choice to also inquire for rates. The county paid the initial deposit which was ½ of the total purchase price of the new communication system from the General Fund. Now the amount to be financed is \$2,583,667. The rates from B B & T to finance this amount are: 1.79% for 5 years; 2.24% for 7 years; 2.49% for 10 years. Staff recommends entering into the agreement for financing with B B & T for the 7 year term. Commissioner Setters stated that if we go with the 5 year term the county would be saving \$96,239.11 in interest therefore he don't understand why the Board would consider the 7 year term. Commissioner Jones inquired about the payment amount and it was stated that the payment would be \$544,810.33 for the 5 year term and \$402,898.68 for the 7 year term.

**I. Lease/Purchase with Bancorp South:** Previously the Development Authority and the Airport Authority made a lease/purchase for a tractor and mower through John Deere Finance. The payment of the lease was made jointly by both of these entities. The Public Works Department operated the tractor and mower for the maintenance of the Airport property and the Development Authority properties. These two entities also paid for the maintenance and fuel for the equipment. The lease was up at the end of June and a new tractor is replacing the one we currently operate. Because both entities are an extension of the Board of Commissioners, the Chairman in his capacity as Chair of this Board as well as the Development Authority and a voting member of the Airport Authority needs to be authorized to endorse the lease agreement. It is no obligation of funds from the County Funds and is fully paid by the Development Authority and the Airport Authority.

**Commissioner's Comments: None**

**Executive Session: None**

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 9/3/2013