

**WORKSHOP SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, October 7, 2014 (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, October 7, 2014, 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 Mike Jones, Donnie Hester, Buck Rigdon and Melissa Hughes. Commissioner Robert Setters was out of town for a training course.

Public Comments: None

Appointments:

1. Julie Smith and Paula Lewis addressed the Board concerning Hands On Tifton. They gave a brief explanation of what Hands on Tifton is all about and stated that this year will be the 2nd Annual Hands on Tifton day and is set for Saturday, October 25, 2014 in conjunction with National Make a Difference Day. In 2013 some 300 volunteers came together in Tift County and took place in 14 projects including clean up, assisting nonprofit organizations such as Good will, Brother Charles's Rescue Mission, the Salvation Army and others by offering assistance to needy and handicapped by building wheel chair ramps, providing home repairs and putting computers in the community service rooms of the Tifton Housing Authority and others. Chairman Thompson read and presented a Proclamation to Ms. Smith and Ms. Lewis declaring October 25, 2014 as Hands on Tifton Day in Tift County and urged all citizens to participate in volunteer projects.
2. Elayne Cook addressed the Board concerning Keep Tift Beautiful with some updates of things they are doing and also read a letter that had been penned by the Keep Tift Beautiful Board members concerning recycling and asking that the new contract for garbage pickup continue the current recycling plan. The Board accepted the letter under advisement.

Public Hearings:

A. TC-ZA-14-03: Petition by Henry D. Spradlin for a change in zoning on approximately 5 acres of land from the R-1 (Residential, Single Family) Zoning District to the RR (Rural Single Family Residential) Zoning district. The subject property is comprised of Parcel 064B-005 of the Tift County Map and is located at 159 Omega Eldorado Road: Todd Miller was present to give the staff recommendation and explain the nature of the rezoning request. Staff has reviewed the request and it meets the Standards for Exercise of Zoning Powers. This comes as a recommendation of approval from the Planning and Zoning Board.

Items to be discussed for Regular Session, October 13, 2014

B. Plant TiftNet Fiber Contract: Al Stephenson advised the Board that this is the annual renewal contract with Plant TiftNet for the County's use of fiber optics. The funds have been allotted in the annual budget.

C. Recommendation to close Richards Drive: The County Manager advised the Board that staff has looked at the drainage problems in this area and recommends the closing of a section of this road in order to help alleviate the water situation in the area. Staff has met several times with the landowners in the area as well as City of Tifton staff and all are in agreement to close this section of road. It will not prohibit any resident in the area access to their property. Staff requests the Board to allow staff to start the proper procedure to close this section of road.

D. Road Acceptance of Moorman Drive: Roger Dill was present to explain this issue to the Board. He stated that ABAC along with the property owners have paid for the engineering and paving of Moorman Drive and that the road has been built to County Road construction standards. The road will have a two (2) year warranty deed that has been deemed acceptable by the County Attorney.

E. Speed Zone Ordinance from Georgia Department of Transportation: The County Manager advised that this Speed Zone Ordinance has been provided by the DOT and has revised the existing speed limits on routes in Tift County to bring them into compliance with the present regulations. Once the Ordinance has been approved by the Board DOT will forward it the Department of Public Safety for an updated radar permit for the County.

F. 2015 LMIG Project: This project has been properly advertised and bids were opened at the designated time. The 2015 LMIG Project will be for the resurfacing of Willis Still and Adams Roads. Staff recommends the Board award the project to the Scruggs Company in the low bid amount of \$1,021,854.10. GDOT will provide funding in the amount of \$511,000 with the balance to be paid from SPLOST V.

G. Solid Waste Disposal Agreement: The County Manager told the Board that there are a few more issues in the Solid Waste Disposal Agreement that still needs to be worked out and staff plans meetings later this week

to work on these issues. It will not be ready for action at the Regular Meeting and will recommend a motion to remove this item from the Agenda until these matters can be resolved and then possibly hold a Called Meeting for action on the Agreement.

County Manager Comments:

The County Manager advised the Board that he would be requesting that the Board approve an addition to the Agenda at the Regular Meeting for a GEMA Performance Grant that requires the Chairman's signature.

Commissioner's Comments:

Commissioner Hughes reported that she had attended a meeting at Albany Tech with Tift County School Superintendent Patrick Atwater concerning poverty in the school system and would like to Board to consider what we might do to help this situation. She also encouraged the Commissioners to travel areas in Tift County rather than just north, visit Districts 1 & 2. There is a real need for improvement in South Tifton and stated that it was on the news that Tifton ranks very low in places to live in Georgia.

Executive Session: None

Chairman Thompson adjourned the meeting.

Chairman Grady Thompson, District 7

Vice Chairman Sherry Miley, District 4

Commissioner Donnie Hester, District 1

Commissioner Melissa Hughes, District 2

_____ absent _____
Commissioner Robert Setters, District 3

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

ATTEST:

Commissioner C. Michael Jones, District 6

County Clerk 10/7/2014