

**WORKSHOP SESSION**  
**TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**TUESDAY, September 8, 2015 (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 8, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room of the Administrative Building. Members of the Commission present were Vice Chairman Hester and Commissioners Robert Setters, Greg Wood, Buck Rigdon and Melissa Hughes. Commissioner Stan Stalnaker was absent due to being away at school however, he is attending via telephone.

**Public Comments:**

**Appointments:** None

**Public Hearings:** None

**Items to be discussed for Regular Session, September 14, 2015**

**A. Video/Security Software Maintenance:** The IT Director explained the request for the Video/Security Software Maintenance. The surveillance as well as automatic door locking technology to insure employee safety is covered under this agreement and the software running these systems requires periodic updating. The Software maintenance and fire alarm monitoring and hardware maintenance agreement from Coopercraft is in the amount of \$18,835.

**B. Tift County Board of Elections Consolidation of Precincts:** Mr. Amos Kimbrough addressed the Board to inform the Commission the Board of Elections plans to consolidate the Voting Precincts into one. He stated that the State Board of Elections has encouraged them to do this and is being done around the state. The reason for this consolidation is efficiently, less cost and better control of voter results. In the package presented to each Commissioner are documents to show what has been going on in the County for the past 7 years. It is our intension to consolidate into one precinct of voting on the day of elections. This does not take out early voting or absentee voting. The Chairman asked if this has already been done and Mr. Kimbrough stated that they are doing it. It does not require the approval of the Board of Commissioners however the Board of Elections is asking the Commissioner's to support this venture. The Board of Elections of each county controls the operation of the voting; they are here just to inform the Commissioners as to what they are doing.

Vice Chairman Hester asked if this is going to be sufficient for the whole County and where is this going to be. Mr. Kimbrough informed the Commission that there will be one (1) precinct in this county and it has been named Tifton-North and it will be at the UGA Conference Center. He then asked Sandi Fallin to address the Board with some issues. She stated that the Board of Elections does not need the permission of the Commission but would appreciate their support in doing this. The facility (UGA) has offered three (3) rooms to hold the election. They included a flow chart for the Election Day in the package. She stated the Board took the time to look at our current location, looked at Mott Littman Gym, Tift County Recreation Department, The Family Life Center at the First Baptist Church and have gone throughout the county to find a location that would suit the needs. This is the only location they felt could accommodate the number of voters coming in per hour (300 to 50 per hour). This will be effective March 2016. The cost savings to the county will be approximately \$10,000 per year. The cost from the UGA will be \$600 per election and their staff will set up and tear down the rooms for their needs. The security will be great for us at this location. Also at this facility should there be a power outage they have backup generators.

The Board of Elections had a meeting with the poll workers and they shared some of the positive comments that came from that meeting about the change. They are very excited about the consolidation. We will be going down to 25 poll workers. Early voting will still come to the current location. The plan is to set up 42 voting machines in the new precinct. Ms. Fallin informed them of the Public Notice/Hearing that will be held on September 21, 2016 at the UGA Conference Center at which time they will take public comments. Any citizen can stop by the Elections office and get a copy of the information that has been provided to the Board.

The County Attorney asked how the voters would be notified of the precinct changes. In answer, Elections will mail out precinct cards to every registered voter in Tift County.

**C. Petition to pave the unpaved portion of Bowen Road:** Jason Jordan advised the Board that a Petition has been received by the citizens on the unpaved portion of Bowen Road. Staff is requesting permission to have the County Engineer design the road and draw up right of way deeds for the property owners.

**D. Lease of 4 Motorgraders and 1 Excavator:** Jason Jordan reminded the Board that in the past the Commission has made the decision to run a fleet of Caterpillar Motorgraders. It is time to change over 4 motorgraders and one excavator. There will be a slight increase from the last lease due to a new sloper on one of the motorgraders but the increased amount was included in the budget. The lease payment will be \$9,576.64.

**E. GEMA Performance Partnership Agreement:** Jason Jones advised this is a yearly grant that the County always participates in which is funded by the Department of Homeland Security Emergency Management Performance Grant. It is a 50% in-kind match of \$28,771 which has been included in the budget.

**F. Hospital Authority Appointments:** The County Clerk advised that we have received a letter of Hospital Authority reappointments from the Authority. Names have been listed in their order of preference which is allowed in the bylaws. The two seats are currently held by Jimmy Allen and Dallas Hunt.

**G. Safety Verification Discount Form:** The County Clerk advised that the County has met the requirements to be eligible to receive the incentive offered by ACCG of the 5% discount on Property and Liability Insurance premiums and 7.5% on the Workers' Comp premiums. The Chairman needs to be authorized to sign the Verification Form.

**H. Contract for Maintenance of Navigation Aids at Airport:** Clark Walker advised the Board that the current contract for this service is held by JO-EL Enterprises however Mr. Holland has experienced serious health issues which have rendered him incapable of fulfilling his contract. Staff issued a RFQ and received two responses. The low quote was from Electronic Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$1,150 per month. This is the company that originally installed all the equipment and they hold all the necessary licenses and insurance. The contract is for \$100 less than the currently month amount we pay.

**I. Entrance to Forest Lakes:** The County Manager gave the past history of this issue. Tift County improved Sutton Road in 1995 creating a dangerous 5-way intersection and having looked at this from multiple directions with the County Attorney and the County Engineer it is staff's opinion that it is in the best interest of the traveling public to relocate the current entrance to Forest Lakes Subdivision. Staff feels that moving said entrance up Sutton Road approximately 300 feet is the best option. This solution would require the property owners to obtain the necessary Right of Way. The realignment of the subdivision entrance is contingent upon Right of way being acquired by the home owners and then deeded to Tift County and once this has been completed staff can let the project out to bid.

**J. Lease between City, County and Golden Environmental for Recycling:** The Board was advised that the term of the proposed lease agreement between Tift County, City of Tifton and Golden Environmental for utilization of the Recycling Plant on Magnolia Blvd. is for one (1) year. The term of the proposed contract began on January 1, 2015 and the payments are \$850 per month to be paid to the Tifton Tift County Solid Waste Enterprise Fund. The Chairman will need to be authorized to endorse the Lease Agreement.

**K. Naming of the new E-911 Facility:** The Board of Commissioners has been approached by numerous current and former law enforcement personnel asking that the Commission consider dedicating/naming the 911-Emergency Operations Center in memory of Captain Raymond B. Merritt, Sr. who worked for the Tift County Sheriff's Department for 19 years and was shot and killed in the line of duty in 1991. In serving the citizens of Tift County, Captain Merritt and his family made the ultimate sacrifice and staff suggests the Center be named The Captain Raymond B. Merritt, Sr. Public Safety Center.

**L. Purchasing Policy:** The County Attorney has prepared a Tift County Procurement Policy which will govern the spending limitations without approval of the Board and other necessary revisions that are currently in the present Policy. This will also bring this Policy up to date with some Legislative documents that were passed. This document was presented to the Board for consideration and can be further discussed at the Regular Meeting once all Commissioners have had time to review the document.

**Commissioner's Comments:**

Vice Chairman Hester invited the Commissioners and Staff to the Open House at Matt Wilson School that will be Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM. The school has recently undergone renovations.

Commissioner Hughes advised the Board that a 911 Ceremony will be held on Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM in front of the Fire Department.

**County Manager's Comments: None**

**Executive Session:** Motion was made by Vice Chairman Hester to go into Executive Session for Personnel and Legal, seconded by Commissioner Setters. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Rigdon seconded by Commissioner Hughes. Motion carried unanimously.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman Grady Thompson, District 7

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice Chairman Donnie Hester, District 1

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Melissa Hughes, District 2

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Robert Setters, District 3

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Stan Stalnaker, District 4

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

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Greg Wood, District 6

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk 9/8/2015