

**REGULAR SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2015 (6:00 P.M.)**

The scheduled Regular Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Thompson on Monday, March 9, 2015, at 6:00 P.M. in the Commissioners Meeting Room in the Administrative Building. Member of the Commission present including Chairman Thompson were Vice Chairman Donnie Hester and Commissioners Robert Setters, Greg Wood, Buck Rigdon, Stan Stalnaker, and Melissa Hughes.

Commissioner Setters gave the invocation followed by the pledge to the flag.

Minutes: Motion approving the minutes of February 3, 2015 Workshop Session and February 12, 2015 Regular Session was made by Commissioner Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments: None

ADDITION TO THE AGENDA: The County Manager advised that there needs to be two items added to the Agenda and requested the Board amend the Agenda to take action on these items under the letters "H" and "I".

Antivirus software Renewal (H)
Hardware Maintenance Agreement with Dell (I)

Motion to amend the March 9, 2015 Meeting Agenda to include these two items under the letters "H" and "I" was mad by Commissioner Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Stalnaker. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Motion to award the resurfacing of 2/10 of a mile of Carrington Drexler road to the Scruggs Company in the amount of \$66,700.45 to be funded through SPLOST V

B. Motion to award the construction of a Maintenance Building for the Recreation Department to Excelsior Buildings in the low bid amount of \$36,360 to be funded through SPLOST V

C. Motion to adopt Resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application to the Georgia Department of Transportation for the 5311 Transit Program

D. Motion authorizing the Chairman to endorse the Resolution approving the issuance of a Revenue Bond through the Tift County Development authority for Tifton Quality Peanuts for enhancements to the Blanching Facility in the amount of 7.6 million dollars

F. Motion to award the Tift County Mass Notification System to Everbridge in the amount of \$11,000

G. Motion to approve the purchase of a F-150 Special Service vehicle for the Emergency Management Director from Griffin ford in the amount of \$28,875

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as read was made by Commissioner Hester, seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA:

E. Revenue Bond approvals to TCDA and County Officials required signatures: Staff recommends removing this item from the Agenda. Motion was made by Commissioner Rigdon to remove this item from the Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Hughes. Motion carried unanimously.

H. Antivirus Software Renewal: This antivirus software is maintained to insure data integrity and security. Motion to approve the one year renewal in the amount of \$6,900 was made by Commissioner Setters, seconded by Commissioner Hughes. Motion carried unanimously.

I. Hardware Maintenance: The current maintenance agreement is soon to expire. Tift County is in need of computer upgrades and money has been allotted in SPLOST to cover the upgrades. Staff is working with Dell at this time on the computer upgrades however the current maintenance agreement will expire before the upgrades can be complete. Staff has discussed with Dell extending the current agreement until December 2015 to allow for the new equipment to be in place and they have agreed to do so at a cost of \$2,892.42. Motion was made to approve the Hardware Maintenance Agreement with Dell until December 2015 in the amount of \$2,892.42 was made by Commissioner Wood, seconded by Commissioner Stalnaker. Motion carried unanimously.

County Manager's Comments: The County Manager requested an Executive Session for the purpose of legal.

Executive Session: Legal

Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to go into Executive Session with the right to return to Regular Session for the purpose of Legal, seconded by Commissioner Hughes. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hester to close Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Setters. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to re-open Regular Session was made by Commissioner Hester, seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion carried unanimously.

Wes Ehlers, 913 45th Street addressed the Board and stated that he was present basically for fact finding. He was specifically speaking of the fire department and he understood there was some discussion between the City and County Manager about potential change of direction in reference to the Administration of the fire department. Commissioner Wood states that we would give him some facts if it would help him. He said he thought it would be best if the two governmental bodies could sit down and discuss this since it is a joint department. The city Council has had no discussion as a whole at this point.

Julie Smith, 601 North College Avenue addressed the Board with the same issues. She has talked some to the county Manager and she agrees with Mr. Ehlers that we need to sit down as the governmental bodies to discuss the issues. At the end of the day, she stated we are the elected officials that will have to vote on whatever the decision is. They were both here to gather information on the issue and to let the Board know they want to work with the County in any way they can. We all are Tift County citizens, the doors need to be opened. The Olive Branch has been extended many times she stated as Mr. Carter had told her. She realizes the fire department is on the front burner right now and asked that the Board give them the opportunity to sit down with them and let's discuss and see what the right thing is. The County Manager did state he had the conversation with Ms. Smith and he was going to meet with Mr. Riner and that took place. Two things he talked to Ms. Smith about was the retirement and how that was being funded and the issues it was causing for this FY Budget. He also had a real long meeting with the volunteer chiefs; they came and expressed a lot of their concerns and issues. They had to sign a sheet of paper that stated they could not talk to anyone except someone at the fire department. They are not allowed to talk to commissioners or council members or the County Manager for that matter. There are issues with the funding. After further discussion on the same issue from each of the Commissioners, it was stated by the County that we are at a point that we must do what is best for the County and our funding. It is a public safety issue for us. It is time for something to change.

Mr. Ehlers and Ms. Smith thanked the Board for their time and sincerely hope that the governing bodies can sit down together and try to come up with a workable solution for the fire department.

Commissioners Comments: None

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Setters 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, Dist. 4

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

Commissioner Greg Wood, District 6

Attest: _____
Glynda Hemby, County Clerk
3/9/2015