

**REGULAR SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, June 8, 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, June 8, 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.

Vice Chairman Hester gave the invocation followed by the pledge to the flag.

Minutes: Motion approving the minutes of May 5, 2015 Workshop Session and Executive Session and May 11, 2015 Regular Session and Executive Session and May 18, 2015 Called Executive Session was made by Vice Chairman Hester, seconded by Commissioner Hughes. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments: None

Addition to Agenda:

Consider the formation of a stand-alone Tift County Fire Department (I)

Motion to make the addition to the Agenda under the Letter "I" was made by Vice Chairman Hester, seconded by Commissioner Setters. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING:

For the Proposed FY 2015-2016 Operating Budget for Tift County:

Chairman Thompson opened the scheduled Public Hearing and Leigh Jordan, Finance Director gave a Power Point presentation of the purposed budget. The presentation included the overview of County Responsibilities, the sources of General Fund Revenue and Expenditures, the Special Revenue Funds and the total budgeted cost of County operations for FY 2016 which is \$45,871,227.

The Chairman opened the Public Hearing to hear any comments from the audience either for or in opposition to the proposed FY 2016 Budget.

There were no public comments and the Chairman closed the Public Hearing.

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Motion to approve Smith Electric to be designated as Tift County's Sole Source Vendor for all outdoor Sports Lighting

B. Motion authorizing the purchase of concrete light poles from Numark for the new soccer fields in the amount of \$33,000 to be funded from SPLOST

C. Motion authorizing the purchase of light fixtures from manufacturer in the amount of \$20,400 to be funded from SPLOST

D. Motion authorizing Smith Electric to begin work for the Lighting Project for the new soccer fields and approve the cost of construction in the amount of \$96,600 to be funded from SPLOST

G. Motion to approve the amendment to the UGA Cooperative Extension Memorandum of Understanding to be in compliance with the Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act of 2010

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as read by the County Manager was made by Vice

Chairman Hester, seconded by Commissioner Setters. Motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA:

E. Athletic Advisory Committee Appointments: The County Clerk advised there are 5 members of the Advisory Committee whose terms expired May 2015. It is the recommendation of the Advisory Committee for all 5 to be reappointed as they are very active and involved with the recreation department. They are Phil Salter, Ray Merritt, Craig Grace, Buck Rigdon and Jeff Robbins. The Chairman asked if there were any nominations from the floor and there were none. Motion was made by Commissioner Hughes to reappoint Phil Salter, Ray Merritt, Craig Grace, Buck Rigdon and Jeff Robbins to serve another 3 year term expired May 2018, seconded by Commissioner Stalnaker. Motion carried unanimously.

F. Library Board Re-appointments and one new appointment: The County Clerk advised there are four Library Board members whose terms expire June 30, 2015. It is the recommendation of the Library Board for the reappointment of each of these members as they are active on the Board and have expressed a desire to continue serving. They are Betty Jean Prince, Carolyn West, Jim Lavery and Dottie Royal. The Chairman asked if there were any nominations from the floor and there were none. Motion was made by Commissioner Hughes to reappoint Betty Jean Prince Carolyn West, Jim Lavery and Dottie Royal to serve for another three year term expiring June 30, 2018, seconded by Commissioner Stalnaker. Motion carried unanimously. The County Clerk also advised there is one seat vacant and application has been received from Filiberto Hernandez for consideration. The Chairman asked if there were any nominations from the floor and there were none. Motion was made by Commissioner Stalnaker to appoint Filiberto Hernandez to serve on the Library Board for a three year term expiring June 30, 2018, seconded by Commissioner Hughes. Motion carried unanimously.

H. Contract for Jo-El Enterprises for Navigation Maintenance at the Airport: Mike Walker asked for consideration to approve the Navigation Maintenance Contract with Jo-El Enterprises contingent upon Mr. Holland purchasing the necessary liability insurance within in a reasonable length of time. Motion was made by Commissioner Wood authorizing the Chairman to endorse the Navigation Maintenance Contract contingent upon vendor purchase necessary liability insurance, seconded by Commissioner Hughes. Motion carried unanimously.

I. Consider the formation of a stand-alone Tift County Fire Department: The County Manager advised the Board that Jason Jones has prepared and will give a power point of what the County has been doing with Fire Suppression since the beginning of March. In the 2004 Fire Suppression Joint Resolution the objectives were transparency, accountability and Integrated/equal county-wide protection. He also noted the reporting requirements of that Resolution as well as the Goals and Objectives. He gave the disparate response of fire apparatuses, funding of volunteer firefighters, equipment testing and maintenance and identified numerous maintenance problems. The training of the volunteer firefighters was lacking. He talked about the importance of the firefighters and how important the volunteer firemen are. It is a selfless commitment for them to provide our safety throughout the community and we could not do it without them. He stated effective leadership starts at the top; we need the proper fiscal management, standardized training and the selfless commitment. There are many issues that need to be corrected and we need to continue moving forward to make the fire department the best it can be. Motion was made by Commissioner Setters to separate the joint Tifton-Tift County Fire Department in accordance with applicable laws and authorize County staff to develop plans to start a County Fire Department and purchase the equipment required to address public safety needs as soon as practical, seconded by Vice Chairman Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

The Chairman and the Vice Chairman both gave very positive comments on the fire department and the fact that the County needs a fire department second to none. Commissioner Rigdon commented that we stand ready to offer fire services on a countywide bases if the City so desires. The Chairman asked the volunteers that were present to raise their hands to be recognized and then he asked the Chief of Harding, Chula, Eldorado, Brookfield Excelsior, Omega and TyTy to say a few words. Each Chief stated that the volunteer fire departments are pleased to see this change and they stand ready to do whatever is necessary. The Mayor from Omega, Ray Hunt was present and he stated he commended the Board and staff for their actions on this issue and that the City of Omega stands behind the County and feels we are headed in the right direction. The Mayor from TyTy, Keith Beasley was present and he agrees with everything Mayor Hunt has

just said and he would like to say thank the County for what has been done on this issue and he believes we are headed in the right direction.

Commissioners Comments: None

County Manager's Comments: None

Executive Session: None

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Hughes seconded by Commissioner Wood. 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
6/8/2015