

**WORKSHOP SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2017**

The scheduled Workshop Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Grady Thompson on Tuesday, June 6, 2017 at 6:00 pm in the Commissioner's Meeting Room of the Charles Kent Administration Building. Members of the Commission present in addition to Chairman Thompson were: Vice Chairman Robert Setters and Commissioners Greg Wood, Fred "Buck" Rigdon, Stan Stalnaker and Melissa Hughes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

APPOINTMENTS:

1. Sharon Petzel along with Dr. Bret Wagenhorst and Kyle Grist all with the Tiftarea Greenways Association (TAGA) presented the Commissioners with an update of the greenway they have been working on. This update was provided in a copy of a PowerPoint presentation being distributed to the Board and a verbal update. Ms. Petzel stated that the first mile has been delineated and all involved property owners have been contacted. The first mile would follow the old railroad bed from Carpenter Road to I-75. Ms. Petzel discussed the economic benefits of the project as well as some of the obstacles. TAGA asked for the Board's consideration in taking over the project once complete and making it part of the County's recreation program. Chairman Thompson suggested that the project be part of the upcoming TSPLOST. TAGA and County representatives to meet in mid-July to further discuss the project.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT REGULAR SESSION, JUNE 12, 2017:

- A. **Microsoft Software License:** Information Technology Director Al Stephenson informed the Board that this license provides Microsoft software on all County workstations and provides all updates and upgrades needed. The license was originally purchased in June 2011 and renewed in June 2014. The current license will expire this month. This renewal is for three (3) years and the cost is \$36,281.43 per year. This will be paid out of SPLOST V. The Board indicated its desire to place Item "A" on the Consent Agenda.
- B. **Sidewalk for Southern Avenue:** Public Works Director Jason Jordan presented the three (3) bids he received for the paving of Southern Avenue – Rountree Construction for \$15,300; Sumner Construction for \$16,200; and Wilkes Construction for \$19,179. Director Jordan recommended the low bidder – Rountree Construction. The Board indicated its desire to place Item "B" on the Consent Agenda.
- C. **Resolution Supporting Expansion of Tift Community Health Center:** County Manager Jim Carter stated that the current clinic has been at the South Central location for years and has been expanded once to meet the needs of the public. Due to growing caseloads at this site, the Tift Regional Medical Center representatives acknowledge the need to expand again. Mr. Carter read the proposed resolution. Funds would come from the Tift County Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund. Cost is \$400,000. Commissioner Wood stated this would add six (6) new

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exam rooms and another nurses' station and will enable them to make more appointments and see more patients. The Board indicated its desire to place Item "C" on the Consent Agenda.

- D. **Approve ACCG-IRMA Property & Liability Insurance Renewal:** County Clerk Miriam Jordan stated that the County had received its insurance renewal and the total contribution is \$415,294. From this contribution, there is a \$10,000 safety credit and a \$49,325 dividend credit. Also, the Development Authority and Library pay their share of the premium - \$13,030 and \$2,084 respectively. This makes the total contribution due \$340,855. The contribution last year was \$319,419. The increase from last year is due to claims experience and correcting the listing of inventory the County has. The Board indicated its desire to place Item "D" on the Consent Agenda.
- E. **Tift County State Court DUI Program Grant Award:** Accountability Courts Director Cherysh Green-Caldwell presented the Grant Award to the Commission. Ms. Green-Caldwell stated that she has 23 participants in this program and the Adult Felony Drug Court program with 13 more on the waiting list. She has a 100% reimbursement rate. The Tift County Accountability Courts request that an allocation of \$45,000 be made for the DUI Court Program. Ms. Green-Caldwell feels that these funds may be able to come from DATE funds. In securing these funds, Ms. Green-Caldwell states the County will be in a better position to provide quality interventions and treatments to its clients on behalf of the community. County Manager Jim Carter to confirm that there are DATE funds available.
- F. **Tift County Adult Felony Drug Court Grant Award:** Accountability Courts Director Cherysh Green-Caldwell presented the Grant Award to the Commission. Ms. Green-Caldwell stated that she has 23 participants in this program and the Adult Felony Drug Court program with 13 more on the waiting list. She has a 100% reimbursement rate. The Tift County Accountability Courts request that an allocation of \$45,000 be made for the Adult Felony Drug Court Program. Ms. Green-Caldwell feels that these funds may be able to come from DATE funds. In securing these funds, Ms. Green-Caldwell states the County will be in a better position to provide quality interventions and treatments to its clients on behalf of the community. County Manager Jim Carter to confirm that there are DATE funds available.
- G. **Appointment of Athletic Advisory Committee Members:** Recreation Director Craig Sowell informed the Board that the term for Board Members Steve Hyman, Dickie Robinson, Tim McCrae, Ricky Sellars and Montoya Crockett are expiring. Mr. Sowell asked that the Board of Commissioners consider reappointing each of the five (5) named Board members to another term expiring May 2019.
- H. **Appointment of Emergency Management Director:** County Manager Jim Carter recommended that the Board of Commissioners nominate Ms. Vickie Hickman to serve as the Emergency Management Director for Tift County. In addition, Mr. Carter recommended if nominated, the Board of Commissioners authorize the Chairman to sign and immediately forward a nomination letter to the Director of GEMA for Ms. Hickman's permanent appointment. Ms. Hickman brings many years of experience to the position and has already obtained and maintains the

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certifications required by GEMA to be a certified EMA Director. The Board indicated its desire to place Item "H" on the Consent Agenda.

COUNTY MANAGER'S COMMENTS:

County Manager Jim Carter stated that Renet Melton asked to address the Board of Commissioners.

Ruenett Melton along with Pat Melton and James Washington asked for assistance from the Board of Commissioners to allow them to move buildings purchased from the City of Tifton to their property at 2011 Highway 41 South. Ms. Melton stated that the buildings have to be moved by the end of June 2017. The problem with moving these buildings is that a Land Disturbance Permit must be applied for and approved prior to moving them. Ms. Melton stated that she does not have funds to pay the fee for the permits at this time. Ms. Melton asked the Board of Commissioners to allow her to place the buildings on her property for now and then will comply with the land disturbance process. County Manager Jim Carter explained that the permit needed is a State permit. Ms. Melton stated she has an email from the County stating the moving of the buildings were ok as long as the Commissioners approved. Mr. Carter asked for a copy of the email and provided Ms. Melton with his email address.

Mr. Carter distributed an email he received from the City of Tifton to the Board of Commissioners regarding the equalization of water rates. Mr. Carter explained that he feels further study is needed.

COUNTY CLERK'S COMMENTS:

County Clerk Miriam Jordan informed the Board of Commissioners that she has received two (2) letters asking for appointments to Boards – South Georgia Regional Commission's Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council and the Community Service Board for Behavioral Health Services of South Georgia. The Board of Commissioners indicated they would like to have time to consider these appointments and appoint in July.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

Commissioner Melissa Hughes distributed a photo of trash piled in front of a property. She asked for assistance in implementing procedures to prevent this from occurring.

Commissioner Hughes also asked to receive a copy of all records requests received by the County. County Attorney Tony Rowell stated he would speak with her about this request.

Commissioner Stan Stalnaker commended Recreation Director Craig Sowell for having the pool ready for the swim meet this past weekend. The meet had over 300 kids from all over the State participating.

Commissioner Fred "Buck" Rigdon commended Recreation Director Craig Sowell for a good baseball season.


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ADJOURN:

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.




Chairman Grady Thompson, District 7



Vice Chairman Robert Setters, District 3




Commissioner Donnie Hester, District 1



Commissioner Melissa Hughes, District 2



Commissioner Stan Stalnaker, District 4



Commissioner Fred "Buck" Rigdon, District 5

NOT PRESENT

Commissioner Greg Wood, District 6

ATTEST: 

June 12, 2017