

**REGULAR SESSION  
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2017 (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 13, 2017 at 6:00p.m. in the Commission 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 Donnie Hester, Melissa Hughes, Stan Stalnaker, Fred "Buck" Rigdon and Greg Wood.

Commissioner Greg Wood gave an invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

**MINUTES:**

A Motion to approve the Minutes of the February 7, 2017 Workshop Session and Executive Session and the February 13, 2017 Regular Session was made by Commissioner Rigdon and seconded by Commissioner Wood. The Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Motion to approve the 2017 LMIG project as presented and award the project to the low bidder, Reames & Son Construction, in the amount of \$1,736,339.65
- B. Motion to Approve the rental agreement as presented with the Alapaha River Coon Club
- D. Motion to Approve the Retail Malt Beverage Package & Retail Wine Package Licenses for Ravi Thakkar, dba: Chula General, 3336 Hwy 41N

A Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as read by the County Manager was made by Vice Chairman Setters and Seconded by Commissioner Stalnaker. The Motion carried unanimously.

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

- C. **Appoint an Advocate for Needy, Underprivileged or Elderly Persons to the Tift County Board of Health:** Human Resources Director Mike Walker informed the Board of the death of Mrs. Shirley Seadrow who held a seat on the Tift County Board of Health. Her term as Advocate for Needy, Underprivileged or Elderly Persons on that Board was set to expire on December 31, 2021. Mr. Walker indicated that he had received a single application requesting appointment to the Board of Health from Ms. Alice Archie. Ms. Archie's application reflected that she retired

from TRMC after a 47 year career as a nurse. The Chair opened the floor for nominations to the Board of Health. Commissioner Hughes nominated Ms. Alice Archie. There were no other nominations. The Chair closed nominations. Commissioner Hughes offered a Motion to appoint Ms. Alice Archie to serve as Advocate for Needy, Underprivileged or Elderly Persons on the Board of Health. Commissioner Stalnaker seconded the Motion and it carried unanimously.

- E. Application for Retail Malt Beverage Package & Retail Wine Package Licenses for Mukesh Parmar dba: EZ Trip, 4468 US HWY 319S:** The County Manager advised that Mukesh Parmar had applied for alcohol licenses and that his application had been returned to the Board along with a recommendation for denial from the Sheriff. Vice Chairman Setters commented that he had spoken with the Sheriff with respect to this application and the Sheriff had serious reservations about its issuance. He further stated that the Sheriff expounded on two or three different reasons for his recommendation and reiterated that he felt strongly in his recommendation to deny. Vice Chairman Setters made a Motion to deny issuance of alcohol licenses to Mr. Parmar. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hughes and it carried unanimously.

**COUNTY MANAGER COMMENTS:** The County Manager reported back to the Board the results of his informal polling with respect to the Regional TSPLOST. He advised that seven Resolutions had been passed with a definitive “yes”, two others indicated that they would likely have “yes” Resolutions passed within the next day or so, and a third indicated that he anticipated his county passing a “yes” Resolution within the next week. Mr. Carter advised that those counties would comprise the ten supporting counties necessary for a regional referendum. He indicated that there were in his estimation three “no” counties and five, including Tift, remained uncommitted/undecided. Mr. Carter recommended deferring action until April thereby employing a “wait and see” approach, but he implored the Board to be mindful of the fact that it was very likely that the item would be on the November ballot with or without the support of this Board. Additionally, Mr. Carter hoped to have revenue projection data from GDOT by the April Meetings.

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:** Vice Chairman Setters expressed a desire to recognize members of Tift County Fire Rescue who participated in the recent storm search and rescue efforts. Commissioner Wood stated that he had received recent inquiry as to whether the County was going to begin charging for automobile accident cleanup. He stated that he would not be in favor of such action and he felt strongly that it was included as a function of public safety. Commissioner Hester stated that he felt as though the Code Enforcement Department was getting “slack” in dealing with dilapidated houses. He said that he thought it was taking entirely too long to deal with dilapidated houses and it might be necessary to revisit the processes currently in place. He also congratulated the Tift County High School Boys Basketball Team for their recent AAAAAAA State Championship and wanted the Board to recognize the tremendous accomplishment. Commissioner Hughes inquired as to the current status of budget preparations for FY 2018 and wanted to know the approximate costs associated with demolishing a house and depositing the contents in the landfill.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** A Motion to enter into Executive Session for the purposes of Personnel and Legal was offered by Vice Chairman Setters and seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. The Motion carried unanimously. A Motion to adjourn the Executive Session was offered by Commissioner Rigdon and seconded by Commissioner Stalnaker. The Motion Carried unanimously.

**RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION:** A Motion to reconvene the Regular Session was offered by Commissioner Rigdon and seconded by Commissioner Stalnaker. The Motion carried unanimously. County Attorney Tony Rowell presented information relevant to a letter that had been received from the City of Tifton giving notice of their intent to separate what is currently a joint water department. In light of that notice, Rowell advised that he thought it both proper and prudent to consider a motion authorizing the County Manager and County Attorney to take all steps necessary to initiate and advance service delivery negotiations with the City through completion. This process is to also include any and all outstanding issues with fire, roads, water/sewer and solid waste. Vice Chairman Setters offered a Motion as articulated by the County Attorney and it was seconded by Commissioner Hughes. The Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN:** A Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Hughes and Seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. The Motion carried unanimously.

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Chairman Grady Thompson, District 7

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Vice Chairman Robert Setters, District 3

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Commissioner Donnie Hester, District 1

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Commissioner Melissa Hughes, District 2

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Commissioner Stan Stalnaker, District 4

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Commissioner F.W. "Buck" Rigdon, District 5

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Commissioner Greg Wood, District 6

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

March 13, 2017