

**WORKSHOP SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2017**

The scheduled Workshop Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Grady Thompson on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 6:00pm 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 Donnie Hester, Melissa Hughes, Stan Stalnaker, Fred "Buck" Rigdon, and Greg Wood.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

APPOINTMENTS: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT REGULAR SESSION, MARCH 13, 2017:

- A. **2017 GDOT LMIG resurfacing project:** Public Works Director Jason Jordan informed the Board that the bids for the 2017 GDOT LMIG resurfacing project had been opened and that Reames and Son Construction was the low bidder at \$1,736,339.65. Reeves Construction was next at \$1,816,534.50 and The Scruggs Company came in at \$1,997,361.49. The project encompasses 15 miles of resurfacing and patching at various locations throughout the County. Mr. Jordan recommended awarding the project to the low bidder, Reames and Son Construction. Commissioner Hester asked for clarification as to where the roads that would be resurfaced were located. Mr. Jordan spoke specifically to each section of roadway to be repaired and its geographic locale within the County. Commissioner Hester wanted assurance that once resurfaced, these roads would not be routinely cut and left open for water/sewer repairs like many of the roads in south Tifton. The Board indicated its desire to place Item "A" on the Consent Agenda.
- B. **Lease Renewal – Alapaha River Coon Club:** Human Resources Director Mike Walker informed the Board that the lease with the Alapaha River Coon Club concerning the property located at 3390 & 3392 Chula Brookfield Road had expired. The proposed renewed lease extends the same terms as the prior and would expire on December 31, 2017. The Board indicated its desire to place Item "B" on the Consent Agenda.
- C. **Board of Health Appointment:** Human Resources Director Mike Walker informed the Board that Mrs. Shirley Seadrow, who held an appointed seat on the Tift County Board of Health, had passed away. Therefore, a need existed to appoint someone to fill that unexpired term as the Advocate for Needy, Underprivileged or Elderly Persons. Walker further stated that he had

received 1 application for Board appointment and he would present it along with any others received at the March Regular Meeting.

- D. Malt Beverage/Wine License for Ravi Thakkar dba: Chula General Store, 3336 US Hwy 41N:** Human Resources Director Mike Walker advised the Board that Ravi Thakkar was in the process of assuming management of the Chula General Store and he had applied for Retail Package Malt Beverage & Wine licenses. Furthermore, the application had been processed and came before the Board for consideration with a recommendation of approval from the Sheriff. The Board indicated its desire to place Item “D” on the Consent Agenda.
- E. Malt Beverage/Wine License for Mukesh Parmar dba: EZ Trip, 4468 Hwy 319S:** Human Resources Director Mike Walker advised the Board that Mukesh Parmar was in the process of assuming management of the EZ Trip Convenience Store located at 4468 US Hwy 319S in Kelltown and he had applied for Retail Package Malt Beverage & Wine Licenses. The application had been processed and came to the Board for consideration with a recommendation of denial from the Sheriff. County Attorney Tony Rowell commented that it appeared that the basis for the recommendation of denial was due to a charge of Furnishing/Selling Alcoholic Beverages to a Minor in which Mr. Parmar had entered a nolo contendere plea. Mr. Parmar stated that he sold beer to an underage person by mistake because he did not see his ID, but he assured the Board that he would not make the same mistake again. Mr. Rowell informed the Board of the progressive schedule in the County Ordinance that allows for disciplinary measures should there be future violations and he reminded the Board that the authority to grant or deny the license rests solely with the Board. Commissioner Setters stated that he would speak with the Sheriff during the following week prior to the Regular Meeting on March 13th.
- F. Southern Georgia Regional Commission Regional Transportation Sales Tax:** County Manager Jim Carter informed the Board of a letter that had been received from GDOT Planning Director Jay Roberts. The letter spoke to the Transportation Funding Act of 2015 (TFA), the looming Regional TSPLOST and contained a request for a Resolution in support or opposition of a Regional TSPLOST by April of 2017. Mr. Carter spoke to the formula to be used for revenue distribution and his understanding that population and/or road miles would be a large component of the formula. He felt as though the smaller counties that do not generate much sales tax would definitely support the TSPLOST because it gives them access to the revenue generated by the larger, “donor” counties. Mr. Carter stated that he had informally polled several counties in the region and it was his belief that there would be at least 10 counties to pass Resolutions of support. Due to the fact that regional passage appeared likely, Carter had been analyzing traffic patterns and sales tax collection data/projections. He reminded the Board that a large percentage of the revenue generated in the current SPLOST could be directly attributed to the transportation related activities of persons exiting I-75. Unlike SPLOST, the TSPLOST would allow for a portion of that transient revenue to be injected into the general fund which would serve to hold down the property taxes of Tift County residents. Carter committed to contacting each uncommitted county in the time prior to the Regular Meeting on March 13, 2017 in order to obtain an accurate

assessment of the likelihood of regional passage. Carter recommended withholding action until a clearer picture emerged and until such time as Mr. Roberts could provide GDOT revenue projection figures.

COUNTY MANAGER COMMENTS: Mr. Carter informed the Board of the existence of an Open Records Request that had been received pertaining to contracts of employment of the County Manager. He advised that the request was being fulfilled and he presented the Board with a packet containing that same information and a related synopsis. He asked that the packet as presented be included in the record and that the Board take time to review the information. He stated that the packet included not only the documents requested pursuant to the Open Records Request, but everything that had to do with his relationship with the Board of Commissioners since 2007. Mr. Carter stated that he stood ready to discuss the items at the Regular Meeting. The packet was included in the record as "Attachment A" to the Minutes.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A Motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of Personnel and Legal Discussion was made by Vice Chairman Setters and Seconded by Commissioner Wood. The Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to close the Executive Session was offered by Commissioner Wood and Seconded by Commissioner Hughes. The Motion carried unanimously.

The Chairman adjourned the Meeting.

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

Commissioner Greg Wood, District 6

Attest: _____
March 7, 2017