

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

The scheduled Workshop Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Grady Thompson on Tuesday, February 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:**

**APPOINTMENTS:**

1. Mr. Al Potts presented the 2016 Georgia Forestry Commission Tift County Unit Annual Report.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

None

**ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT REGULAR SESSION, FEBRUARY 13, 2017:**

- A. **Surplus Abandoned Right of Way (Carr Property):** Tift County Chief Tax Assessor Teresa Lupo informed the Board that Mr. Ernest Larry Carr had contacted her office and requested assistance in obtaining title to a portion of land that had been deeded to Tift County for right of way purposes in 1968. The deeded right of way extends from 28<sup>th</sup> Street to Lullwater Road. A check of tax records indicated that Mr. Carr has not paid taxes on the property. The original deed includes a reversion clause for return to grantor or successor if not used for the intended purpose. The County Manager advised that over time, residential development has rendered the original intended path of the road unusable and the County has no plans to utilize the right of way. He further suggested that the Board could declare the property surplus and the County Attorney would perform the necessary steps to deed the property to the appropriate entity. The Board indicated its desire to place Item "A" on the Consent Agenda.
- B. **Antivirus Software Renewal:** IT Director Al Stephenson submitted a proposal to renew the County Antivirus Software. He advised that Sophos has provided the protection since 2008 and the County has been well served by their product. The annual renewal rate is \$6,900.00. Commissioner Setters suggested that according to the submitted renewal quote, a 3 year renewal would cost \$13,800.00 thereby essentially granting a "free" year simply for subscribing to the 3 year term. The County Manager suggested that staff should examine the Sophos contract as to

the existence of an “Out Clause” if the Board desires to enter into a renewal agreement for longer than 1 year.

- C. **Backup Software:** IT Director Al Stephenson presented the Board with a proposal to obtain more systems backup storage capability at a much lower cost than the current provider. He advised that the proposed vendor, Unitrends, has quoted a solution that will provide 50% more cloud storage and reduce the monthly cost from \$1,335.00 to \$452.10. He recommended that the initial hardware/start-up fees of \$6,364.33 be paid from SPLOST technology funds and that the monthly fees totaling \$5,425.19 be accounted for through IT Contract Services. The Board indicated its desire to place Item “C” on the Consent Agenda.
- D. **Tractor Lease (Right of Way Mowing):** Public Works Director Jason Jordan informed the Board he had requested quotes from 4 local vendors for the annual lease of tractors for right of way mowing. Both Case and Atlantic Southern declined to quote because they did not have lease programs that aligned with the 1 year requested period. Lasseter Equipment extended the same terms of \$15,000.00/year per tractor. Perrin Tractor presented a proposal to provide 4 tractors per year under the following terms: 2 tractors with an allowance of 350 hours each at a cost of \$8,400.00. When that hour allotment is expired, those tractors will be returned and 2 new tractors will be delivered with a 300 hour allotment at a cost of \$7,200.00. The total annual cost will be \$15,600.00. Jordan recommended that the lease be awarded to Perrin Tractor Company. The Board indicated its desire to place Item “D” on the Consent Agenda.
- E. **Request for Support of Body-Worn Camera Grant Application:** Sheriff Gene Scarbrough and Colonel Larry Taylor presented information relative to the 2017 United States Department of Justice Body-Worn Camera Grant. Sheriff Scarbrough informed the Board of his position and the associated need for his personnel to be equipped with body-worn cameras. Colonel Taylor distributed information pertaining to the Motorola Si500 and its capabilities, its integration with existing equipment and its pricing. Additionally, he provided video demonstrations of recent department activity captured using the device. Colonel Taylor requested that the Board authorize the Chairman and County Manager to pen letters in support of the 50% Local Match Grant application with the understanding that if awarded, the local funding component will be brought back before the Board for consideration and/or action. The Board indicated its desire to place Item “E” on the Consent Agenda and allow for letters of support.
- F. **Baldwin Drive Pool Filter System Replacement:** Recreation Director Craig Sowell informed the Board that the Baldwin Drive Pool is approaching 14 years of continual use and many of the components that make up the computer board, backwash systems, etc. are worn out and in need of replacement. Bids were received from 3 vendors in the amounts of \$43,675.00, \$44,477.00, and 39,346.03. Sowell recommended awarding the project to Duffield Aquatics, Inc. in the amount of \$39,346.03. The Board indicated its desire to award to the low bidder and place Item “F” on the Consent Agenda.

**G. District Attorney Vehicle Replacement:** Finance Director Leigh Jordan advised the Board that District Attorney Paul Bowden was involved in an automobile accident in December of 2016 that resulted in the total loss of a 2014 Ford Taurus. Insurance has since settled that claim and submitted payment in the amount of \$18,128.82. Bowden requested a Ford Explorer as a replacement vehicle. Bids were received from 3 vendors and Griffin Ford was the lowest bid at \$33,068.00. The insurance settlement money combined with existing vehicle money in Bowden's budget would leave a shortfall of \$4,976.06 to purchase the vehicle from the low bidder. Jordan recommended purchasing the vehicle with the \$4,976.06 coming from contingency funds. Commissioner Rigdon suggested the possibility of replacing the vehicle with a model similar to the one that was damaged for reasons of pricing and fuel economy. Commissioner Hester inquired as to ownership of the vehicle and Jordan informed him that if purchased as presented, the vehicle would be owned exclusively by Tift County. Commissioner Stalnaker asked about participation from other counties in the Judicial Circuit. Jordan explained the process of billing the other counties a proportional share of expenses incurred by the District Attorney's Office. Commissioner Hughes requested that the Board discuss the matter at the Regular Meeting.

**H. Appointment of Official Records Custodian:** County Manager Jim Carter advised the Board that Georgia Law requires the Board to appoint an Official Custodian of Records. Historically, the County has appointed 2 Custodians with the first being the County Clerk and the other being Mr. David Haire at the Tift County Sheriff's Office. Furthermore, he added that while the County Clerk position is vacant, there exists a need to fill that specific role for the Board. County Attorney Tony Rowell echoed Mr. Carter's thoughts and added that in addition to Open Records Requests, a Records Custodian needs to be appointed to be able to certify County records. Mr. Carter recommended that the Board appoint Human Resources Director Michael Walker as Official Records Custodian of the Tift County Board of Commissioners. The Board indicated its desire to place Item "H" on the Consent Agenda.

**I. Appointment of Tift County Development Authority Members:** County Manager Jim Carter informed the Board that the appointed terms of Mr. Norman "Red" Hill (Constitutional Authority), Mr. Richard Golden (Constitutional Authority) and Mr. Frankie Mathis (Statutory Authority) on the Tift County Development Authority will expire in March of 2017. TCDA Executive Director Brian Marlowe sent correspondence informing the Board that all 3 gentlemen have expressed a desire to continue serving and have requested reappointment for a new, five year term.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:** Commissioner Hughes expressed her thanks to members of Tift County EMA & Tift County Fire Rescue for their participation in the rescue efforts connected to the recent storm event. She requested that the County Manager obtain information relative to fallout shelters and report back to her. Additionally, she asked about the possibility of revisiting an ordinance to allow golf carts to operate on County streets, thanked the Board and County Manager for the recent improvements at the Board of Health, expressed disappointment with Board participation at the Annual

Chamber Banquet, and inquired about the quantity of applicants that had been received for the Clerk's position.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A Motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of Personnel Discussion was made by Vice Chairman Setters and Seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. 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.

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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 Fred "Buck" Rigdon, District 5

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Commissioner Greg Wood, District 6

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

February 7, 2017