

**WORKSHOP SESSION  
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019**

The scheduled Workshop Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Grady Thompson on Tuesday, September 3, 2019 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 Commissioners Tony McBrayer, Greg Wood, Donnie Hester and Fred "Buck" Rigdon. Commissioners Stan Stalnaker and Melissa Hughes were absent.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Roger Dill gave an update on a couple of road projects. Ferry Lake Road will have the final surface placed on Wednesday and the EB Hamilton Road project is coming along slowly.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

- A. Tyron Spearman, Tifton-Tift County Tourism Association, asked the Commission to consider increasing the lodging excise tax from 5% to 7%. Mr. Spearman distributed information on the request.
- B. Tronda Westbrook, Rev. John Hughes and Kent Todd all with NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) came requesting that Tift County establish a mental health court.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

There were none to report.

**ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT REGULAR SESSION, SEPTEMBER 9, 2019 MEETING:**

- A. **Mapping Software for County Use:** Development Support Services Director Chris Davis stated that current mapping used is out of date. Director Davis proposes using the South Georgia Regional Commission for mapping services. The initial cost to create the mapping system for Tift County with all the layers needed by different County departments is \$9,562.17. After the first year, the yearly cost is an estimated \$5,769. The Board indicated its desire to place item "A" on the Consent Agenda.
- B. **Purchase of Permitting Software for Development Support Services:** Development Support Services Director Chis Davis stated that the current permitting software is obsolete and will not accept any data changes. Additionally, there is no software support. Three (3) bids were received for new software. Director Davis proposes using Dude Solutions/SmartGov. This will require an initial investment of \$30,718.34 with an annual cost of \$9,875. This will be a cloud based software. Initial cost to be paid from SPLOST V. The Board indicated its desire to place item "B" on the Consent Agenda.

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- C. **Rural Fire Defense Cooperative Lease Agreement with Georgia Forestry Commission:** Fire Rescue Chief Joey Fowler stated that the tank and pump on Tanker 59 in Excelsior belongs to the Georgia Forestry Commission. The Fire Department has possessed and maintained this property for several years and has benefited from having this equipment in Tift County. The Board indicated its desire to place item "C" on the Consent Agenda.
  
- D. **Execution of ACCG-IRMA and ACCG-GSIWCF Safety Discount Verification Form:** Recreation Director Craig Sowell stated that Tift County is a member of ACCG's property and liability (IRMA) and workers compensation (GSIWCF) insurance programs. Members of these programs who comply with certain safety incentives are eligible to receive a discount on their annual premiums – 5% on IRMA and 7.5% on GSIWCF. The County has met all of these requirements. ACCG requires that the Board authorize the Chairman to execute the Safety Discount Verification forms for each program. The Board indicated its desire to place item "D" on the Consent Agenda.
  
- E. **Purchase of Sophos Antivirus Software:** IT Director Al Stephenson stated that Tift County's Local Area Network (LAN) is comprised of 220 workstations and 20 servers running a wide range of applications including financial, payroll, jail records, email, etc. Since 2008, Sophos software have been used for anti-virus protection for all internal servers and workstations. Tift County has mobile laptops in sheriff and fire vehicles that are unable to receive adequate patching updates from the internal anti-virus server. A cloud based solution is needed to provide necessary patching for these mobile systems. Sophos' Intercept product provides a cloud based solution that will allow IT staff to push virus signature updates to these mobile solutions. Director Stephenson proposes to purchase this software in the amount of \$24,687.50 which includes a three (3) year maintenance agreement. Director Stephenson to inquire as to what the cost would be after three (3) years. This will be paid from SPLOST V. The Board indicated its desire to place item "E" on the Consent Agenda.
  
- F. **Alcohol Beverage License Application Submitted by Shifa H. Tejani for a Retail Malt Beverage License and a Retail Wine Package License for Tifton Holiday Mart, LLC Located at 4468 US Highway 319 South:** County Clerk Miriam Jordan stated the Sheriff has reviewed the application and recommends approval. The Board indicated its desire to place item "F" on the Consent Agenda.
  
- G. **Alcohol Beverage License Application Submitted by Milton Hall, Jr. for an Alcohol Catering License for Collins Located at 2703 US Highway 41 South:** County Clerk Miriam Jordan stated that the application has been forwarded to the Sheriff but no recommendation has been received. The Board indicated its desire to place item "G" on the Regular Agenda.
  
- H. **Emergency Repairs to DFCS Building:** County Manager Jim Carter stated that a portion of the northwest corner of the DFCS building is deteriorating and needs repair. A portion of the exterior brick will need to be removed and the foundation repaired. Jones Construction can perform the emergency repair for an estimated \$17,000. Once Jones Construction begins the work, there could be additional work needed which would be an additional expense. The Board indicated its desire to place item "H" on the Consent Agenda.

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- I. **Preliminary Engineering for Paving a Portion of Red Oak Road:** County Manager Jim Carter stated that the Road Committee is recommending preliminary engineering for the paving of Red Oak Road from Whiddon Mill Road to Cromer Road. This is approximately 1.5 miles. Engineering will be paid from SPLOST VI. The Board indicated its desire to place item "I" on the Consent Agenda.
- J. **Lease Agreement with State Properties Commission for 3057 US Hwy 41 South Currently Occupied by Driver Services:** County Manager Jim Carter stated the State Properties Commission is requesting a new lease agreement for this location. Tift County would like for Driver Services to stay in Tift County. The Board indicated its desire to place item "J" on the Consent Agenda.
- K. **Appointment to Seven Rivers Conservation & Development Board Area, Inc.:** County Manager Jim Carter gave a brief overview of what this organization does. Upon membership to the RC&D, the Board needs to appoint a represent to attend these meetings. The Board indicated its desire to place item "K" on the Regular Agenda.
- L. **Discussion Regarding Potential Site Plan for Mid-Step Building:** County Manager Jim Carter has had conversations with members of the Downtown Development Authority regarding the use of this building. The Downtown Development Authority has agreed to participate in the cost for a space study of the whole area to determine parking and use of the area. Consideration will be given to the need for more judicial space and parking. Mr. Carter recommended contacting McCall & Associates to get a price on what a study would cost.

**COUNTY MANAGER'S COMMENTS:**

There were no comments to report.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY'S COMMENTS:**

There were no comments to report.

**COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:**

There were no comments to report.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

There was none to report.


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**ADJOURN:**

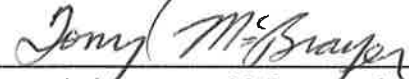
There being no further discussion, Commissioner Fred "Buck" Rigdon made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tony McBrayer. Motion carried.

  
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Chairman Grady Thompson, District 7

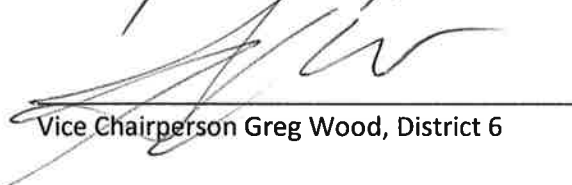
  
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Commissioner Stan Stalnaker, District 4


  
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Commissioner Donnie Hester, District 1

  
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Commissioner Melissa Hughes, District 2

  
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Commissioner Tony McBrayer, District 3

  
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Commissioner Fred "Buck" Rigdon, District 5

  
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Vice Chairperson Greg Wood, District 6

ATTEST:   
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October 14, 2019