

**WORKSHOP SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, September 6, 2016 (6:00 P.M.)**

The scheduled Workshop Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Vice Chairman Melissa Hughes on Tuesday, September 6, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room of the Administrative Building. Members of the Commission present were Commissioners Greg Wood, Buck Rigdon, Stan Stalnaker, Robert Setters and Donnie Hester. Chairman Thompson was absent.

Public Comments:

Donnie Holton 1136 Bowen Road asked to address the Board concerning the paving of Bowen Road. He stated that he had turn in a Road paving Petition. He also further stated that prior to the start of the meeting that he had talked to Jason Jordan and he had explained that the Board had previously approved sending this to the Engineers Office and the survey is being completed, right of ways will now be drawn up for signatures. He was pleased that the County has made this progress and thanked them for that.

Appointments: None

Public Hearings:

A. Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan: Jason Jones advised that this is a required Public Hearing with all governmental entities, required to be advertised in the County's Legal Organ and hear any comments from the public for the updating of the Hazard Mitigation Plan that must be completed every five years. H & H Resources out of Albany handles this Hazard Mitigation Plan and a representative from that firm will be here at the Regular Meeting to conduct the Public Hearing and answer any questions.

B. Road Name Change from Jeffery Lane to Atwater Lane: The County Clerk advised that a petition has been received from Brian Atwater with this request and he will pay the \$200 charge if the name is changed. The process is to advertise for the Public Hearing and notify all other adjoining landowners. This has been completed and the Public Hearing will be heard at the Monday Regular Meeting.

C. Special Street Light Tax district for Deer Ridge Subdivision: The County Clerk advised that a petition has been received from residents in Deer Ride for this request. The Ordinance calls for 2/3 of the homeowners to sign the petition. Sufficient names have been placed on the petition. The process is to advertise for a Public Hearing and that has been completed and it will be heard at the Monday Regular Meeting.

Items to be discussed for Regular Session, September 12, 2016

D. Side Arm Mowing Tractors: Jason Jordan advised the Board that the County at the last Regular Meeting authorized the purchase of a Purpose Built Mowing Tractor with a 5 year warranty. When he went to make the purchase they told him they could not provide him with a 5 year warranty it would only be 1 year and he chose not to make the purchase. He has gone back to the vendors that quoted a Side Arm Mowing Tractor and received quotes to purchase another of this type with a 5 year warranty. Aim Trac Case did not have another 120 Horsepower but quoted him a 140 Horsepower for the same price of the 120. He stated that he does not particularly have a preference between the quoted John Deere and the Case.

E. Surplus Vehicles: Jason Jones advised that all fire apparatus items have been replaced or repaired with two vehicles being taken out of service. They both are in bad shaped and would be too costly for repairs. Staff recommends the Board surplus these two vehicles to sell as they are not needed by another Tift County Department. They are a 1984 Chevrolet Suburban and a 1999 Ford Crown Victoria.

F. Memorandum Agreement with City of Omega and Ty Ty for Fire Suppression: Jason Jones advised that Tift County Fire/Rescue will be providing fire suppression services within the City Limits of Ty Ty and Omega. In order to provide this service there will need to be a Memorandum of Agreement in place signed by all entities.

G. Approval of Hazard Mitigation Plan Update: Jason Jones stated that in accordance with FEMA Regulations, Tift County maintains a Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan and updates the plan every five years. The updated plan has met GEMHSA and FEMA requirements and has been approved by both agencies. Once the scheduled Public Hearing is held the Commission will need to approve the updated plan.

H. Safety Discount Verification Forms: The County Clerk advised that each year ACCG allows for a Safety Discount on Property and Liability Insurance and a Safety Discount on the Workers' Comp premiums. There is certain criteria that has to be met to eligible for the discounts. The Safety Committee keeps the records and has advised that Tift County is in compliance. The Chairman will need to be authorized to sign the Verification Forms.

I. Revised Credit Card Policy: The Finance Director stated that this is a revised and updated Credit Card Policy to keep the County in Compliance with HB 192.

County Manager's Comments: Stated that he and the County Attorney need a short Executive Session for Legal.

Commissioner's Comments:

Commissioner Setters recognized a representative from the Tifton Gazette being present. He stated he read the article in last Sunday's paper and just wanted to assure the paper and the citizens that even though the fire department and EMS are combined, they each have completely separate budgets. The fire is paid for from a Special Tax District as it always has been. EMS is 100% County owned and 100% funded through the General Fund of the County.

Commissioner Wood apologized for not being able to get back to town to make the last Regular Meeting; he was stuck in an Airport.

Commissioner Hester is concerned about the Fire Station location and wants to know who owns the Fire Station down on South Central out towards Target. He was advised it is owned by the City of Tifton. The County Manager stated there has been some discussion of that piece of property coming over to the County so that we can utilize it for the County to run EMS out of but it is still in the discussion stage. He is concerned if a fire happens over on Golden Road for example, how the trucks are going to get over the railroad tracks if a train is on the tracks. There was some discussion between Commissioner Hester, Joey Fowler, Fire Chief and the County Manager as to how a situation like this would be handled. Commissioner Hester is concerned about the response time. There are several volunteer stations that are on that side of the tracks. We currently have 9 volunteer stations and 2 full time stations.

Commissioner Stalnaker stated he has driven emergency vehicles most of his life. He understands what Commissioner Hester's concern is but the reality of it is that you cannot build fire stations everywhere; if we could we would have them all over the County. He feels like our Fire Chief has a good viable plan and we are doing the best we can. If we can get the Southside Fire Station it will be better for the community and that should be our goal. He also thanked our Public Safety people and our Road crew for what they did during the recent storm. Good job.

Vice Chairman Hughes stated that she has many call about yard debris picked up. The County Manager stated that Staff has looked at this and hopefully at the Regular Meeting we can have an answer. She also stated that the water lines in South Tifton are terrible, there are major problems and gave some examples as she traveled some street over the weekend. The County Manager stated that he had an hour discussion with ESG during the storm. He is working on this issue with the City and ESG.

Executive Session: Motion to go into Executive Session for Legal was made by Commissioner Rigdon, seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to close Executive Session was made by Commissioner Setters, seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion carried unanimously.

The Vice Chairman adjourned the meeting.

_____ absent _____
Chairman Grady Thompson, District 7

Vice Chairman Melissa Hughes, District 2

Commissioner Donnie Hester, District 1

Commissioner Robert Setters, District 3

Commissioner Stan Stalnaker, District 4

Commissioner F. W. (Buck) Rigdon, District 5

ATTEST:

Commissioner Greg Wood, District 6

County Clerk 9/6/2016