

REGULAR SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2016 (6:00 p.m.)

The scheduled Regular Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Thompson on Monday, December 12, 2016 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 Melissa Hughes and Commissioners Donnie Hester, Robert Setters, Stan Stalnaker, Fred “Buck” Rigdon and Greg Wood.

Commissioner Robert Setters gave an invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

MINUTES:

A Motion to approve the Minutes of the November 8, 2016 Workshop Session, the November 14, 2016 Regular Session and November 14, 2016 Executive Session was made by Commissioner Hester and seconded by Vice Chairman Hughes. The Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

PUBLIC HEARING: None

REGULAR AGENDA:

- A. **Ambulance Billing Rate Increase:** Public Safety Director Jason Jones provided information relative to the need for an increase in the fee schedule of services provided by Tift County for pre-hospital emergency medical care, historically known as the “Ambulance Billing Rate”. He stated that there has been no increase in the fee schedule since 2011 and most fees were well below the Medicare Allowable Rate. The proposed rates for Mileage, Basic Life Support, Advanced Life Support and Specialty Care Transport were represented on page 2, column 4 of the presentation package. A Motion to approve the fee schedule as presented was made by Commissioner Setters and Seconded by Commissioner Wood. The Motion carried unanimously.
- B. **Bad Debt Collection Agreement:** County Manager Jim Carter requested that the Commission remove Item “B”, Bad Debt Collection Agreement, from the Agenda in order to provide Staff more time to thoroughly evaluate the issue and possibly reintroduce to the Commission at a later date. A Motion to remove Item “B” from the Agenda was made by Commissioner Wood and Seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. The Motion carried unanimously.
- C. **Emergency Management Performance Grant:** Public Safety Director Jason Jones petitioned the Board to authorize the Chairman to endorse the GEMA Emergency Management Performance Grant that was awarded as a part of the GEMA Performance Partnership Agreement. The total

Grant amount is \$57,542.00, but it requires a 50% or \$28,771.00 local match. Jones advised that both the match expense and grant revenue had been accounted for in the current fiscal year budget. A Motion to authorize the Chairman to endorse the Grant was made by Commissioner Setters and Seconded by Commissioner Stalnaker. The Motion carried unanimously.

- D. **Memorandum of Agreement between Tift County and Air Evac EMS, Inc.:** Public Safety Director Jason Jones informed the Board that Air Evac EMS, LLC, a helicopter ambulance service, is in the process of developing a base of operation in Tift County. However, they desire to begin flight operations by December 21, 2016. This desired start date is well in advance of the construction of their permanent facility. The proposed Memorandum of Agreement establishes a monthly rental rate of \$1,000.00 and allows for the use of boarding and office facilities at Fire Station 51 for 90 days. A Motion to enter into the Agreement with Air Evac EMS, LLC was made by Vice Chairman Hughes and Seconded by Commissioner Setters. The Motion carried unanimously.
- E. **Replace Roof on Behavioral Health Building:** County Manager Jim Carter provided information concerning the need for repair of the roof at the Behavioral Health building on Tifton Eldorado Road and recommended that the Board award the job to the low bidder, Campbell Construction, in the amount of \$33,734.00. A Motion was made by Vice Chairman Hughes to accept the low bid of Campbell Construction in the amount of \$33,743.00. Commissioner Stalnaker Seconded the Motion and it carried unanimously.
- F. **Amendment to the Tift County Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance:** County Attorney Tony Rowell presented a Resolution to amend the current Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance to allow for “Happy Hour” sales of distilled spirits. However, he stated that the Alcohol Ordinance as a whole was in need of further examination and simplification to address several cumbersome provisions. To that end, Rowell recommended that the Board adopt the Resolution as presented to amend the current Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance to allow for “Happy Hour” sales of distilled spirits with the understanding that a comprehensive examination of the Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance will be conducted in 2017. The County Manager advised that the proposed Resolution mimics the City of Tifton’s Ordinance and it will allow license holders the ability to operate uniformly. A Motion was made by Commissioner Setters to adopt the Resolution as presented by the County Attorney and was Seconded by Commissioner Hester. The Motion carried unanimously.
- G. **Appointment of County Clerk and County Attorney:** County Manager Jim Carter advised that in accordance with both enabling and local legislation, it is necessary to appoint a County Clerk and County Attorney for each calendar year. A Motion was made to reappoint Tony Rowell as County Attorney for the upcoming calendar year by Commissioner Rigdon and Seconded by Commissioner Stalnaker. The Motion carried unanimously. A Motion to NOT reappoint the current County Clerk was made by Commissioner Rigdon and was Seconded by Commissioner Setters. The Motion passed 4-2. Commissioners Rigdon, Setters, Wood and Stalnaker voted for the Motion. Vice Chairman Hughes and Commissioner Hester voted against the Motion.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Hester and Vice Chairman Hughes expressed displeasure with the vote to not reappoint the County Clerk. Commissioner Hester suggested that the vote could set a precedent which might potentially cause all Tift County employees to question their job security. Vice Chairman Hughes stated that she echoed Commissioner Hester’s sentiments and felt as though the decision was personal.

COUNTY MANAGER COMMENTS:

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: A Motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of Personnel was made by Vice Chairman Hughes and Seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. The Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to close the Executive Session and adjourn the Regular Meeting was made by Commissioner Hester and Seconded by Commissioner Wood. The Motion carried unanimously.

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

Commissioner Greg Wood, District 6

Attest: _____
County Clerk 12/12/2016