

**WORKSHOP SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2016 at 6:00pm**

The scheduled Workshop Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Grady Thompson on Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at 6:00p.m. 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 Melissa Hughes and Commissioners Fred "Buck" Rigdon, Donnie Hester, Robert Setters, and Greg Wood. Commissioner Stan Stalnaker was not in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

APPOINTMENTS:

1. Larry Dean, Sr. addressed the Board and presented a petition in opposition to a new structure being relocated on the property owned by Billy Ray Washington at the corner of Plaza Drive & Golden Road. Mr. Dean stated that Mr. Washington has other structures on that particular piece of property and he has not properly adhered to Tift County Code. He distributed photographs which appeared to depict numerous Code violations. Billy Ray Washington responded by stating that financial problems had rendered him incapable of complying with some Code provisions in the past, but his intention was to fully comply with all Code provisions with respect to both the existing structures and the proposed new building in the future. County Manager Jim Carter advised the Board that the proposed relocation did not require Board action as there was no associated rezoning issue. The County's obligation was to simply issue a permit to move the structure if the destination site met all of the requirements; The County Attorney, Jennifer Herzog, concurred. Code Director Carl Fortson confirmed that the site met the requirements. Mr. Carter also pledged that the lot and all of its structures would be closely monitored to ensure full compliance with the Tift County Code.

2. Mr. Roger Dill addressed the Board in an effort to secure support and consideration for possible inclusion in a CDBG project to help fund the construction of a new Ruth's Cottage and Patticake House facility.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT REGULAR SESSION, DECEMBER 12, 2016

- A. Ambulance Billing Rate Increase:** Public Safety Director Jason Jones advised the Board that there existed a need for an increase in the fee structure associated with pre-hospital emergency medical care (EMS services) charged by Tift County. Jones indicated that most of the current rates were well below the Medicare Allowable Rate. In fact, he stated that Tift County has not initiated a rate increase since 2011, but the proposed rates would bring Tift County more in line with Medicare and the National Average.
- B. Bad Debt Collection Agreement:** Public Safety Director Jason Jones informed the Board that currently, Tift County utilizes Credit Bureau Associates of Tifton to collect on its “bad debt”. However, Ambulance Medical Billing (AMB), the current contracted billing company, also has the capability to collect “bad debt”. Jones suggested that having both services performed by one vendor would streamline the process and could potentially offer a greater collection rate.
- C. Emergency Management Performance Grant:** Public Safety Director Jason Jones advised that the 2016 Performance Partnership Agreement Emergency Management Performance Grant has been awarded and requires Board action in order for Tift County to receive its funds. The total grant award is \$57,542.00, but it requires a 50% local match equaling \$28,771.00. Jones stated that the local match had been appropriated in the FY17 Operating Budget and would be met through a combination of personnel services & equipment expenditures. He requested the Board to authorize the Chairman to endorse the grant in order to receive the funding.
- D. Memorandum of Agreement between Tift County and Air Evac EMS, Inc.:** Public Safety Director Jason Jones informed the Board that a cooperative effort with the Tift County Development Authority had been successful and that Air Evac EMS, Inc. will be locating a permanent facility in Tift County. He provided information relative to the helicopter ambulance service(s) that Air Evac provides and their immediate and long-term plans. He indicated that Air Evac desires to begin flight operations well in advance of the construction of their permanent facility. However, they are in need of boarding facilities until construction is completed. The proposed MOA provides Air Evac Ems, Inc. access to Tift County Fire Rescue Station 51 through March 15, 2017 for a monthly fee of \$1,000.00.
- E. Replace Roof on Behavioral Health Building:** County Manager Jim Carter advised the Board that the roof on the Behavioral Health Building located on Tifton Eldorado Road was in an advanced state of disrepair and leaked badly. He stated that 2 bids had been received with another contractor “no bidding” and that Campbell Construction and Roofing was the low bidder in the amount of \$33,734.00.
- F. Amendment to the Tift County Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance:** County Clerk Glynda Hemby informed the Board that the current Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance has not been amended since adoption in 2004 and it does not allow for “happy hour” sales of distilled spirits. County Attorney Jennifer Herzog advised that the current Ordinance draws a distinction between beer, wine and distilled spirit “happy hour” sales. The County Manager

advised that Staff intended to present a Resolution amending the current Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance to allow for distilled spirit “happy hour” sales and to have the Tift County Ordinance mirror that of the City of Tifton so that similarly situated businesses would be operating under essentially the same set of rules.

- G. **Appointment of the County Clerk and County Attorney:** The County Manager advised the Board that the appointment of the Clerk and Attorney was an item for action at the Regular Meeting.

COUNTY MANAGER COMMENTS:

None

CLERK’S COMMENTS: County Clerk Glynda Hemby reminded the Board of several upcoming Christmas related activities, an invitation to a retirement reception for Clerk of Superior Court Gwen Pate, and the C.H.A.M.P.S. graduation ceremony.

COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS: Vice Chairman Hughes requested that County Manager Jim Carter examine the possibility of new paint and chairs for the Board of Health.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

The Chairman adjourned the Meeting.

Chairman Grady Thompson, District 7

Vice Chairman Melissa Hughes, District 2

Commissioner Donnie Hester, District 1

Commissioner Robert Setters, District 3

not in attendance

Commissioner Stan Stalnaker, District 4

Commissioner Fred “Buck” Rigdon, District 5

Commissioner Greg Wood, District 6

Attest: County Clerk 12/6/2016