

**WORKSHOP SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2012 (6:00 p.m.)**

The scheduled Workshop Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Grady Thompson on Tuesday, October 2, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Administrative Building. Members of the Commission present including Chairman Thompson were Vice Chairman Robert Setters, Commissioners Mike Jones, Donnie Hester, Sherry Miley, Buck Rigdon and Melissa Chevers.

Public Comments: None

The County Manager asked the Board's consideration to hear a presentation from City Manager Larry Riner and representatives from ESG concerning the Outsourcing of Water Waste Water Operations. This has gone before the appointed water committee and will need to be approved by both the City Council as well as the Board of Commissioners. Staff will ask the Board to Amend the Agenda at the Regular Meeting to include this item for action by the Board. Mr. Riner advised the Board that RFP's were went and once they were reviewed ESG was the best. They have been through the budget process with them and ESG has come up with a plan the amounts to \$175,000 per year saving to the Enterprise Fund. The ESG Team introduced themselves, gave some history about their company touching on training, tools and technology. ESG's Plans for Tifton and Tift County includes: Implement our proven zero-risk transition plan, fully implement asset management program and CMMS, completed a system-wide conditions assessment, develop a 12 year capital forecast and optimize existing facility operations. Several Commissioners including the Chairman had questions for the ESG team. Vice Chairman Setters stated that he was skeptical at first but his questions have been answered. By putting engineering into the operations, it has got to save money, he stated. Commissioner Miley admitted that the team has great credentials however, as a consumer; she is concerned on how it is going to affect the consumer as far as the water rates are concerned. Mr. Riner responded that they first have to get the cost under control and that aspect of the water is a conversation for a different time.

Appointments:

1. Al Potts with the Georgia Forestry Commission: Mr. Potts was present to give the Annual Report of the Georgia Forestry Commission stating they had experienced 35 wildfires burning 126 acres and the fire numbers and acres were up due to dry conditions. The Tift County Unit issued 8,446 permits for the year; plowed 132 miles of fire breaks, prepared fire plans and conducted prescribe burns for landowners for a total of 1,350 acres. He noted the events on information and education that had taken place during the year. In the 2012 fiscal year Tift County sold 69,734 seedlings, planting approximately 115 acres. He told the Board that Tift County had been selected for a Call Center which will be located across the street from the Forestry Building and will provide full and part time jobs for Tift County.

Public Hearings: None

Items to be discussed for Regular Session on October 8, 2012:

A. Renewal Contract for Fiber with Planttel: Al Stephenson advised the Board that this is a yearly contract renewal for use of fiber optics that runs to seven (7) county buildings which allows employees at each of these building to access County servers running a variety of applications for the operations of the County. We rely on Plant Telecommunications to provide network connectivity to the County buildings therefore a new contract needs to be established to maintain those connections. This contract is at a cost reduction from last year and the cost has been included in the budget.

B. Tift County Emergency Management Ordinance: Jason Jones, EMA Director advised the Board that revision have been made to the Tift County Emergency Management Ordinance that reflects current state standards and an agreement for county-wide emergency management services. An Interlocal Agreement with the Cities of Tifton, Omega and Ty Ty will also need to be approved that enables the County to provide emergency management services to those cities.

C. Tift County Local Emergency Operations Plan: Jason Jones, EMA Director explained to the Board that the Tift County Local Emergency Operations Plan must be updated when significant changes occur or at least every four years. The renewal requires the approval of the Board. He advised the Board that a copy of the Plan is housed in the Clerk's Office and is also on disc.

D. LMIG Project Recommendation: Jason Jordan advised the Board that it is time to submit a project for the 2013 GDOT LMIG project. Staff recommends that the funds be used to resurface Whiddon Mill Road from Carpenter Road to Ty Ty Whiddon Mill road which is 5 miles. The average daily traffic on this road is 5,000 cars a day and we are having some problems with the road cracking. The DOT has performed a core test and has suggested a pavement design to be used. GOT will provide \$445,990.82 of the funding for this project and the County will responsible for the remainder of the cost which is unknown at this time but can be funded from SPLOST IV funds.

E. Fuel Management System: Jason Jordan told the Board that the Fuel Management System we currently have is outdate and becoming very hard to find someone to repair it. Staff has requested bids for a new system that would allow the two fuel systems the County has to be accessed by personnel at the Sheriff Department and the Road Department. Three vendors were contacted but only two could bid the project. Bids were: MECO 30,348.49; PSG 31,048.48 and BARBER could not provide a quote on the product. Staff recommends purchasing the system from MECO in the amount of \$30,348.49 and it can be funded through SPLOST IV.

F. Road Closure Ordinance: Jason Jordan and the County Attorney told the Board that although there are some legal procedures for closing of a road; staff felt that it was necessary for Tift County to put a Road Closure Ordinance in place with application process which would make things cleaner. The Ordinance simply outlines the steps for a road closure as well as the application process all in accordance with OCGA.

G. Asphalt Trailer Bid: Jason Jordan discussed the need for an Asphalt Hot Box/ Reclaimer Trailer to be used at the Road Department for the road crew that is in charge of the patching of potholes. It makes economical sense to purchase one in order to avoid waste of asphalt; once the mix gets below a certain degree it does not hold when placed in potholes. Staff solicited bids from five vendors and recommends purchasing the trailer from K m International in the amount of \$13,890. The reason for the recommendation of this particular trailer is the heavy design.

H. Athletic Advisory Committee Appointments: Craig Sowell told the Board that the Athletic Advisory Committee had met and discussed the vacant positions and invited the applicants to attend and have question and answer time with them. There are currently two seats vacant to be filled with the terms expiring on May 2012 and May 2015. Individuals in the order discussed were: Phil Salter, Chad Sumner, Bret Henderson, Tim McCrae and William Baldree

I. Appointment to the Region Four Behavioral Health & Development Disabilities Board: The County Clerk advised that she had talked with Amanda Hall at the Behavioral Health Center her and asked for assistance in finding someone for the seat on this Board. At the time of the meeting the County Clerk has had no response. The only recommendation given to the Board for consideration was to appoint the County Clerk if they chose to do so, allow her to attend a meeting to gather information and see what it is all about at least so that Tift County would have representation on the Board.

J. Beer & Wine License for Economy Inn/Gas Station in Chula: The County Clerk advised that this facility has new ownership. The application has been received, processed with criminal history and fingerprints and comes to the Board with approval from the Sheriff.

K. Resolution naming Tift County after Henry Harding Tift instead of Nelson Tift: Documents have been received from Edd Dorminey explaining his commission to have Tift County names after Henry Harding Tift rather than Nelson Tift. The history behind this was that Tift County could not be names after Henry Harding Tift when established because he was still living thus causing it to be named after Nelson Tift who was deceased. Mr. Dorminey states that he has been talking with Representative Jay Roberts and he suggested that the City, County and Chamber all get on Board with this and pass separate resolutions and he will present them to the Legislature in early 2013. A Resolution has been provided by Mr. Dorminey.

L. Hospital Bonds: The County Attorney and the County Manager advised the Board that there are some things still pending with the Hospital Bond issue. They had thought it would be ready for this Workshop Agenda and ready for action at the Regular Meeting, however that is not the case and their recommendation at the Regular Meeting will be to table the issue for 30 days.

Chairman Thompson adjourned the meeting.

Executive Session: None

Chairman Grady Thompson, District 7

Vice Chairman Robert Setters, District 3

Commissioner Donnie Hester, District 1

Commissioner Melissa Chevers, District 2

Commissioner Sherry Miley, District 4

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

ATTEST:

Commissioner C. Michael Jones, District 6

County Clerk 10/2/2012

