

**WORKSHOP SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 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, December 4, 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:

Charles Howard addressed the Board concerning the sanitation increases and the closing of the recycling. The County Manager responded stating that back in September this proposal was presented to the Board as a recommendation from the SDCC committee. This is a joint service with the City of Tifton operating it on a daily basis. The fund is currently in the red and has been for some time now and it is an Enterprise Fund and cannot be supplemented from the General Fund. It has become a cost issue. The increase was not only to residential customers but included increases in almost all facets of solid waste and sanitation. The reality of the whole thing is that it is just not paying for itself. What he hopes to do in February with a plan to outsource trash pickup. The sites are limited to what you are able to put in them. You can have the City pick up your trash but it is not mandatory or you can call a private vendor. But you can no longer take household garbage to the collection sites. The City already has mandatory trash pickup but it is not in the County.

Commissioner Hester stated that everybody makes mistakes and when the vote was taken to make the increase, he thought the City was in financial trouble and he was trying to help them. He wishes he had never voted for the increase, he did not want the recycling sites closed because it is going to be a burden. If we want to do something different then we have to look at it all as a whole to come up with a program.

The County Manager also advised that funds have to be there for the post closure and other expenses of the Landfill that are mandated. The recommendation is for staff to get with the city and come back with a plan by February. It is both a City and County problem. What we are doing now is a stop gap measure but soon we have to look at the reality of it and the long range planning. We are losing about ½ million dollars a year and cannot keep going at that rate. The Enterprise Fund must support itself.

Commissioner Chevers agreed with Commissioner Hester that the citizens are eventually just going to start to pile the trash up on the side of the streets. Hopefully this Board and the Council can come up with a plan that everybody can be comfortable with. Money is very tight for everyone right now so we need to seriously think about coming up with a plan.

Alonzo Pettiford and Roosevelt Russell also addressed the Board stating their opinion. Mr. Russell stated that he believes they need to carry their concerns to the City Council now and get the City involved as the City runs this service by contract. Mr. Pettiford asked for a copy of the September minutes and the recommendation sheet of increase figures presented from the SDCC. The County Clerk will provide that for him if he will stop by her office in the next few days. Mr. Pettiford asked again for some facts and figures to support this and it was again explained to him how this all transpired between both governmental bodies.

The County Attorney gave some legal comments concerning the operation of a Landfill and the cost that comes with it, the mandated money that must be there to support the closure and post closure of a landfill. It is a fund that cannot be funded by any other means than from the fees collected at the landfill.

There will be further meetings between both Managers and a plan will be studied and looked at and some recommendations will be presented to both Governing Bodies for consideration.

Appointments:

1. Representative Penny Houston read and presented a Resolution to the Tillman Family. Ms. Tillman's daughter and mother were present to accept the Resolution which was House Resolution 2078 by Representatives Houston, Roberts and McBrayer. The Resolution was honoring the Life and Memory of Donna Elizabeth Tillman as the State of Georgia and Tift County mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens.

2. Brain Tankersly addressed the Board and gave Extension updates. He reported to the Board of some recent awards he has received and appreciates the support the Board gives the Extension Service and the Programs. He gave the Board a handout on The Economic Importance of Food and Fiber which gave trends in Tift County, an Economic Snapshot of Tift County, the impact and numbers and the impact conclusion.

3. Hugh Webb addressed the Board concerning property taxes. He stated that as an oversight he failed to renew his conversation contract in the Tax Assessor's office and his taxes increased by nearly \$2,000. He stated that he is 85 years old and it was simply an oversight and asked for the Board's consideration of tax relief. The Board took his request under advisement and will discuss the issue with the County Attorney.

Chairman Thompson had to leave the meeting to attend another function and turned the meeting over to Vice Chairman Setters.

Public Hearings:

Tift County along with the Cities of Tifton, Ty Ty and Omega – Joint Public Hearing to review Draft of the Short Term Work Program Update to the Joint Tift County Comprehensive Plan

Items to be discussed for Regular Session on December 10, 2012:

A. Award Bid for Sanitary Sewer Improvements for T C Gordon Road & Palmetta Road: This has been properly advertised and bids were opened at the designated time. The recommendation from staff is to award the bid to Little River Contractors from Omega in the base bid amount of \$119,170. This project will be funded through a CDBG Grant.

B. Surplus of Computer Equipment: Al Stephenson advised the Board that we have accumulated a variety of surplus equipment which includes workstations, monitors and printers that have been taken out of service. This hardware has no market value and needs to be disposed of. He has located a recycling company out of Moultrie that handles recycled IT equipment and they will pick up all equipment and reimburse the County at a rate of 15 cents per pound for workstations, \$1 each for monitors and one cent per pound for printers and will properly dispose of the equipment.

C. Change dates for January 2013: The January Workshop falls on a holiday and the meeting will need to be rescheduled.

D. Memorandum of Understanding with Extension Office: The County Manager advised that there is an active Memorandum of Understanding between Tift County and the University of Georgia Extension Office. They have requested we update the current MOU adopted in 2007 making a few changes and will require signatures of new staff. The employees of the Extension Office are both State and County employees; part of their salary comes from the State and part from the County.

The County Attorney advised the Board that he will be requesting an addition to the Agenda for the Regular Meeting. Tift County has an EMA Agreement in place to provide this service to Tift County. The Cities of Ty Ty and Omega has signed the agreement however, the City of Tifton had an issue. They want to have the option to opt out with a 120 day window of notification. The County Attorney will draft a new Agreement for the City of Tifton to include this option and the Board will need to authorize the Chairman to sign that agreement.

Commissioner Chevers reminded everyone that there is a retirement reception for Gene Goode on Wednesday, December 5th in Room 207 from 4 to 5 PM

Executive Session: None

Vice Chairman Setters adjourned the meeting.

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 12/4/2012