

**WORKSHOP SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, January 6, 2015 (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, January 6, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room of the Administrative Building. Members of the Commission present including Chairman Thompson were Commissioners Robert Setters, Greg Wood, Donnie Hester, Buck Rigdon, Stan Stalnaker and Melissa Hughes.

Public Comments: None

Appointments: Juvenile Judge Render Heard was present and gave the Board an update on the Juvenile Court System. He gave some general updates and stated that in 2015 we had a complete re-haul of the Juvenile Code so everything is much different. Several things have happened that directly impact the Commissioners as far as budget, most important being that every child now has to have an attorney in every case. All children are considered indigent therefore they get indigent representation. CASA always performed the Guardian Ante Litem function but with the new code that is not the case now. CASA still performs the Guardian Ante Litem function but every child is appointed an attorney which represents them. We have seen a significant increase in appointments of indigent attorneys. It has been discussed with the County Manager and all of this has been budgeted for. Child in Need of Services has been created which has caused us to have a new level of children. These basically have a person that we pay to represent these cases. Extended the length of time that a child stays in DFCS care and Foster Care has been another changes. We are reviewing cases a lot more which is more time. There has been an increase in Foster Care across the state however there has been no increase in Tift County. We have just over 100 kids in Foster Care. We are hosting events such as child Trauma Summit and folks were trained in the areas. We do have any expense from these events. One of his goals in Tift County is to have a present, statewide where we have a regional location and people love coming to Tift County for these events. We continue to struggle with Community Resources. He is currently working on a system in Tift County for all attorneys who normally do not handle case in Juvenile Court to handle at least one pro-bone case a year for us in the effort to try to reduce costs. He has talked with several of the attorneys and interested has been shown in this system.

Public Hearings: None

Items to be discussed for Regular Session, January 12, 2015

A. Appointment of County Attorney: The County Manager advised that this is an annual appointment.

B. Appointment of County Clerk: The County Manager advised that this is an annual appointment.

C. Appointment of Vice Chairman: The County Manager advised that it is time to appoint a Vice Chairman and normal procedure is that this is done every two years.

D. Telephone Maintenance Contract: Al Stephenson gave the explanation of the Voice Over IP system that the County operates. Each phone server is connected to a Primary Rate Interface circuit in order to provide a dial tone to each server. The system was designed with 2 PRI circuits to provide business continuity should one of the phone servers or PRI circuits go down. The service contract with A T & T is up for renewal and a new 3 year contract has been proposed by A T & T in the amount of \$470 per month which is what the County currently pays. Staff recommends the renewal of the service contract.

E. Recreation Open Gym Issues: Craig Sowell advised the Board that various problems with fights and disturbances from participants in open gym play during normal business hours have caused us to re-examine our current open gym policy. Staff has developed a proposed schedule of open gym times that would allow us to keep the children separate from the adults and the ability to conduct business during business hours without constantly stopping to monitor the misconduct in the gym. The primary intent is to look after the children. After some other further discussion and some other issues being brought up the recommendation was to table this issue for 30 days to allow more time to work on the schedule of times and other possible remedies.

F. Alcohol License Application for Teresa Mollineaux for Good Neighbor Grocery: The County Clerk advised the Board that this application has been properly processed. Application, Criminal History as well as fingerprints have been attached for the Board's review and it comes with an approval from the Sheriff.

G. Alcohol License Application for Jeta Patel for Short Stop: The County Clerk advised the Board that this application has been properly processed. Application, Criminal History and Fingerprints have been attached for the Board's review and it comes with an approval from the Sheriff.

H. Appointment to South GA Community Service Board/Behavioral Health Services: The County Clerk advised that Tift County is now allow another member appointment to this Board as a result of Senate Bill 349 and the County's financial amount of contribution. There are certain criteria for the appointment of this member and the Clerk has provided the letter stating the person's position that can be appointed to serve. The

Board will need to appoint a County Commissioner or talk with other people that meet the criteria to be appointed to fill this position.

I. Closing of Richards Drive: The County Manager gave the history of the problems with Richard Dive which has been over several, several years. The residents believe the flooding problem began when the City of Tifton ran utility lines under the southeast portion of the road bed necessitating the raising of drainage pipes under the road. The City has been asked to address the problem by the residents with no action taken and that is when Mr. Richards approached the County about closing the Road. If declared of no public use the road Right of Way would revert back to the original owners. The city of Tifton has indicated that with the closure of the road and the drainage pied could be removed and the height of the current road bed lowered. The City has stated that they have already begun opening up the water way on the Southeast side of Richards Drive. It is drainage improvements they have already made should help alleviate periodic flooding of the parcels located on Richard Drive. County Staff recommends close Richards Drive and have the County Attorney take whatever action necessary to return current County ROW either to the original property owners or the City of Tifton, allowing the City to implements the corrective action plan.

J. Fees for use of the Neighborhood Community Center: The County Manager advised the Board that currently the rental fees charged to use this County Facility are not sufficient to cover the wear and tear caused by unsupervised rentals. Staff recommends increasing the rental fee for using the center. Staff also recommends an increase in the rental deposit required to use the center and stricter adherence to utilization rules. Violation of the rules should result in the loss of the entire rental deposit. The proposed changes will bring this Facility rental fees in line with what is charged to rent/use similar facilities in the community.

K. Public/Private Partnership to participate in paving of Hunt Road: The County Manager advised that the expansion of Hunt Road was a proposed project under consideration by the County. While considering looking to connect Hunt Road to Carpenter Road, Stafford Development presented a plan to Tift county, the city of Tifton and the Tift County Development Authority for the development of its property which is contiguous to Hunt Road. To advance the County's development of Hunt Road, Stafford through its affiliates Northwest 82, LLC and Hunt Road, LLC, the City of Tifton and the Tift County Development Authority offered to provide funding potentially creating a private public partnership to assist in the Hunt Road Project. The governmental staffs along with Stafford have agreed to present a plant to jointly fund the design, upgrading and expansion of Hunt Road. Tift County, City of Tifton, Tift County Development Authority, Stafford Development Company will each contribute \$125,000 and GDOT Economic Development Funds in the amount of \$185,000.

County Manager Comments: Required Executive Session for Legal and Personnel.

Commissioner's Comments: None

Executive Session: Motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of Legal and Personnel was made by Commissioner Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to close Executive Session was made by Commissioner Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Thompson adjourned the meeting.

Chairman Grady Thompson, District 7

Commissioner Donnie Hester, District 1

Commissioner Melissa Hughes, District 2

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 1/6/2015