

**REGULAR SESSION  
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2009 (6:30 P.M.)**

The scheduled Regular Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Grady Thompson on Monday, August 10, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Administrative Building. Member of the commission present including Chairman Thompson were Vice Chairman Rigdon and Commissioners Donnie Hester, Sherry Miley and Mike Jones. Commissioners Robert Setters and Melissa Chevers were absent because they were both out of town.

Chairman Thompson called to order the Regular Business meeting of the Tift County Board of Commissioners at 6:30 P.M.

Chairman Thompson asked Commissioner Hester to give the invocation followed by the pledge to the flag.

All actions taken in this meeting are results of Commissioners' votes with the Chairman not voting except in the case of a tie or a Commissioner is absent which will be stipulated as such.

**Minutes:** Motion was made by Commissioner Hester approving the July 7, 2009 Workshop Session Minutes and July 13, 2009 Regular Session Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Miley. Motion carried.

**Addition to Agenda:**

Budget reinstatement request from the Department of Family & Children Services (K)

Motion to make this item and addition to the Agenda under the letter "K" was made by Commissioner Hester, seconded by Commissioner Jones. Motion carried.

**Public Comments:** None

**Public Hearings:** None

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**C. Motion to move the September Regular Meeting from Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**

**D. Motion to approve Beer & Wine License for Charles Hughes for 4-H's Country Store in Chula**

**F. Motion authorizing the Chairman to endorse the Verification Form to receive the ACCG Loss Control Safety Discount of 7.5% on Workers' Compensation Premium**

**J. Motion authorizing the Change Order on the CDBG Grant for Hill Avenue, Wilton Avenue & Scott Circle**

Motion approving the Consent Agenda consisting of items C, D, F, and K was made by Commissioner Hester, seconded by Vice Chairman Rigdon. Motion carried.

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

**A. Award Bid for the Tift County Reverse Call "911" System to Code Red in the amount of \$22,500:** The County Manager gave the updated report on this. He asked the Finance Director to look at our cost with the current system we have in place. This system was purchased with grant money. We pay about \$2500 on call out calls, around \$11,000 a year in maintenance cost and upwards of \$600 a year for dedicated phone lines that had to be put in place to operate our current system. It presently takes hours to make the Reverse 911 calls. The Code Red handles this through a National Call Center and happens within 15 minutes as opposed to four hours with the current system. Code Red is \$22,500 years. When a warning occurs, if you are registered you will receive a

call at home. We will do media blast and notification of when and where people can sign up for the system. We can set up in various places to get people registered. It is a budgeted item and it is a joint service so it will be half funded by the City of Tifton. Motion was made by Commissioner Hester to accept the bid in the amount of \$22,500 from Code Red for the Reverse 911 System, seconded by Vice Chairman Rigdon. Motion carried.

**B. Approval of CAD Contract with InterAct for Annual Maintenance Agreement in the amount of \$22,500:** The County Manager explained that this is a software contract for the CAD System at E-911. At one time you went through a third party for the maintenance of the system which was Bell South and they were the re-sale vendor for this product. This relationship has now changed. Staff is recommending that we eliminated the third party vendor for maintenance and go directly with Interact for the maintenance agreement. We will be cutting the maintenance cost in half. Motion was made by Commissioner Hester to approve the Interact Annual Maintenance Agreement in the amount of \$22,500, seconded by Commissioner Miley. Motion carried.

**E. Appointment to the Keep Tift Beautiful Board:** Motion was made by Commissioner Miley nominating Tammy Burgess for the appointment to the Keep Tift Beautiful Board, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried.

**G. Renovations to Restrooms at E. B. Hamilton and Lighting Project:** Jason Jordan advised that this request is for renovations to restrooms at E. B. Hamilton and to pay off the existing note for the lighting project that was completed last year. Commissioner Jones had asked staff to look at our loan and give the interest rate and the interest rate we are receiving on SPLOST money. He suggested that we keep the loan and continue making payments rather than spending the SPLOST funds at this time to pay off the note in full. Both the Finance Director and the County Attorney responded stating that the debt is \$678,000 at 3.37% interest and the SPLOST money is gaining 4.9% interest. There is an issue that could come up which is arbitrage. If we have the ability to pay the note off which is at a preferential rate because it is a bank qualified note and at some point if we are gaining interest on the money that we have the ability to re-pay the note, it does become an arbitrage situation. Secondly, it is a SPLOST issue, those projects funded with SPLOST dollars are supposed to be paid off as the money comes in. We have more than collected enough to re-pay the loan. The County Attorney advised that the debt should and needs to be repaid.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to go forward with the restroom renovations and hold off on the repayment of the loan for the lighting project until staff can further research the gained interest situation on the SPLOST funds, seconded by Commissioner Miley. 3 yes votes; Jones, Rigdon & Miley, 2 no votes; Hester and Thompson. The motion did not carry for the lack of 4 affirmative votes. Commissioner Hester made a motion to move forward with restroom renovations and pay off the existing note for the lighting project, seconded by Commissioner Miley. After clarification of his motion, Commissioner Miley withdrew her second and the motion dies for the lack of a second.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jones to approve the renovations of the restrooms at E. B. Hamilton and await staff recommendation concerning the pay off of the current loan on the lighting project, seconded by Commissioner Miley. Motion carried with 4 affirmative votes.

**H. Department of Justice Grant to purchase a backup for the 800 MHz Radio System:** The County Manager gave some clarification to the request of this grant. The cost of the radio backup portion is \$61,000 which includes a generator at \$10,000 and makes the total cost \$71,924. The City is adding \$24,000 of their portion of this grant. Adding the County portion of the grant which is \$54,771 and the \$24,000 the City is contributing, the total grant money for the County is \$78,771 which will leave the County a surplus of \$6,486 after the backup system is purchased. Commissioner Miley asked what the maintenance cost would be. The County Manager stated you could pretty much count on 10% for the maintenance however there is no maintenance cost for the first year on the system. The maintenance would be split between the City and the County since it is a joint service. Motion was made by Commissioner Miley authorizing the Chairman to endorse the Department of Justice Grant for the radio backup system, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried.

**I. Employee Health Insurance Bid:** The County Manager advised because we have some Board members absent and some members need additional clarity on the RFQ's we requested for Health Insurance, staff has a recommendation to table this item and between this date and the date of the next meeting we have a called meeting for presentations from both vendors. Commissioner Hester asked where this would put us if we table this item with our Open Enrollment. The County Manger advised that Shaw Hankins has agreed to go ahead with Open Enrollment. Motion was made by

Commissioner Jones to table until further notice from staff, seconded by Commissioner Miley. Motion carried with 4 yes votes which included the Chairman's vote. Vice Chairman Rigdon abstained.

**K. Budget reinstatement request from the Department of Family & Children Services:** The County Manager reminded the Board at previous meeting members of the Department of Family and Children Services came requesting that the \$15,000 be reinstated in the budget for the Foster Care Program. Staff has looked at this and we can reinstate this funding but would like certain stipulations put on it. 1 } that the funding stay local and be used for Tift county Foster Care only; 2 } we strongly encourage DFCS to start looking for outside funding and not depend on government dollars from her forward. Commissioner Hester stated at some point and time the Board has got to take a stand on the budget. We need to be careful on our decisions because others may come for funds to be put back. Commissioner Hester made a motion to reinstate the \$15,000 in the DFCS budget and that it stay in Tift County only and advise them they need to be looking for other funding sources before next year, seconded by Commissioner Miley. Motion carried.

The County Manger advised that staff has met with the Department of Family and Children Services and discussed the need for them to search for outside funding before the next budget year. They are currently going to begin discussions with churches and hopefully to form a coalition to provide for Forster Care for Tift County in the future.

**County Manager Items:**

- Advised that a short Executive Session is needed for legal
- Advised that he has research to proper procedure in the Kelvin Jackson matter as requested from the Board at the last meeting. It is his recommendation to follow the guidelines of the Athletic Advisory Committee By-Laws that reads appeals will be made to the Tift County Board of Commissioners under Article 3. The County Clerk will set up a Called Meeting for other purposes and include this Appeals Hearing on the Agenda on that date and will notify Mr. Jackson

**Commissioners Items:**

Commissioner Hester stated that he wanted to make it clear that he is not against approving what the Department of Family and Children Services needs but that we just need to be careful so that we do not set precedence for and all other agencies that might come back and asked fund that have been deleted to be reinstated. He thanked Craig and Jason for getting the repairs on the roof at Mott Littman Gym handled. Commissioner Hester thanked both Insurance Vendors for being present tonight.

**Executive Session:** Motion was made by Commissioner Hester to go into Executive Session for legal, seconded by Commissioner Jones. Motion carried.

Motion to close Executive Session and Adjourn was made by Commission Hester, seconded by Vice Chairman Rigdon. Motion carried.

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Chairman Grady Thompson, District 7

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Vice Chairman, Fred W. Rigdon District 5

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Commissioner Donnie Hester, District 1

\_\_\_\_\_absent\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Melissa Chevers, District 2

\_\_\_\_\_absent\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Robert Setters, District 3

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Commissioner Sherry Miley, Dist. 4

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Commissioner C. Michael Jones, District 6

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Glynda Hemby, County Clerk