

**WORKSHOP SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2009 (6:30 p.m.)**

The scheduled Workshop Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Grady Thompson on Tuesday, October 6, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Administrative Building. Members of the Commission present including Chairman Thompson were Vice Chairman Buck Rigdon and Commissioners Robert Setters, and Mike Jones. Commissioners Donnie Hester and Melissa Chevers were absent due to traveling to Atlanta for Fall Policy Conference. Commissioner Sherry Miley was absent due to surgery.

Public Comments:

Judge Larry Mims addressed the Board to thank them for their support in his efforts to bring the council of State Court Judges conference to Tifton. This event will take place next week with approximately 85 registered at the Hilton Garden Inn. There will be folks from all across the state in Tifton and Tift County. He gave the Agenda of the meetings and socials that will be taken place in Tifton during the 3 day event. He also thanked the Tourism for their help and support in putting together this event.

Richard Lewis was present to thank the board for all the hard work on getting the Grant for the paving of Red Bird Road. Mr. Lewis is a resident on that road and stated that it has been a long time coming however they are very much appreciative of all the events of everyone involved. He asked about the paving timeline and was told the process has started, bids will go out but it will probably be the spring of 2010 before the road paving gets underway. Commissioner Setters also thanked Mr. Lewis and other residents of the road for their work and participation on making this happen.

Appointments:

1. Beth Hampton with Sunbelt Auctions was schedule to address the Board but she called to say she was out of town and would not be able to make the meeting.

2. Frankie Mathis, Library Foundation Board Member spoke to the Board regarding the charges for the Audit of the Library this budget year. He asked for the Board's consideration to continue funding the expense of the Audit. He also advised the Board of the Library Foundation Board's annual fund raising event that will be held on October 23rd & 24th, the Antique Show that they have held in the past. He also stated that he would like for all the Commissioners to attend the Grand Re-Opening of the Library and that invitations will be extended to them through the Library Board. Councilperson, Marianna Keesee then addressed the Board on the Audit issue. She is a member of the Library Board. She asked for the Board's reconsideration to fund the audit. She said the Library is a component unit of the County and they understand they must be audited but their budget does not have a line item in it for auditing expense and they have no way of generating funds. She was here on behalf of the Library Board to ask the Commissioners to please consider continuing to fund the audit. Their budget is very limited and they do not have \$5,000 to pay for an audit. Commissioner Jones asked the Finance Director if the County was currently paying for audits for other component units of the county. Ms. Jordan reported that the County has paid for the Library audit in the past. The Tift county Board of Health, Development Authority and the Hospital Authority pay for their audits. Ms. Keesee also advised that the move back in to the newly remodeled facility has begun and that there will be a preview part on October 29th from 5:30 to 7 PM and then the public dedication will be the first Sunday in November from 3 to 5 PM.

The Board agreed to make the Library Audit funding an add on item to the October 12, 2009 Agenda.

Public Hearings: None

Items to be discussed for Regular Session on October 12, 2009:

A. Contract Agreement for the Public Safety Backup for the 800 MHz Radio System: Scott Bowers, 911 Director advised the Board on the purchase agreement for the Safety Backup System stating that it was needed because of numerous lightning strikes to the main tower that have impacted the county's radio system. He said the system averages two lightning strikes a year and that the backup system would be located on a tower at another location. The purchase of the system would be through a Department of Justice Grant that was received for the City and the County. The purchase amount of the system is \$61,925 and the County's portion of the grant is \$54,771 and that the City had agreed to purchase a generator for \$24,000 with their portion of the grant funds therefore the cost of the system would be total covered through grant monies and would not impact the County's Budget. He advised the Board after the first year the annual maintenance of the system would cost around \$9,500. The system will be purchased if approved from Hasty's Communications and they will also have the maintenance agreement on the system. Representatives from Hasty's were present should the Board have any questions or clarifications that need to be made.

B. Tift Lift Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy: The County Clerk advised the Board that she had spoken to Darrell Wiggins this afternoon concerning this item and he stated that they had been in contact with the Department of Transportation and was advised that since Tift County has a no tolerance policy, this Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy does not have to be revised and requires no action by the Board of Commissioners. It

will be removed from the Agenda.

C. Memorandum of Agreement for Advanced Federal Funding for FEMA 1833 Flood Event Site 10:

The County Manager addressed items C, D and E. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has declared three sites as eligible for federal funding and the Memorandums of Agreement would hold the county liable to the state to refund the money if the federal money was for some reason no reimbursed to the state. The state will advance \$121,280 for work at Tifton-Eldorado Road at Reedy Creek and \$123,938 for work at Tifton-Eldorado Road at Gum Creek. These tow project have been completed and were paid from the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax fund. The third project on Whiddon Mill Road at Heard Creek has not been completed and the state has agreed to advance \$190,000 for the repairs.

D. Memorandum of Agreement for Advanced Federal Funding for FEMA 1833 Flood Event Site 11:

E. Memorandum of Agreement for Advanced Federal Funding for FEMA 1833 Flood Event Site 12:

F. Transfer of Franchise Agreement from CityNet to Plantel: The County Manager advised that this Ordinance would give their approval to transfer the broadband telecommunications franchise from the City of Tifton which was formerly CityNet to Plant TiftNet who has recently purchase CityNet. This Ordinance would allow the County to collect five (5) percent of PlantNet’s revenues on annual bases and will override our current franchise agreement with Planttel.

G. John Burgess has requested an Appeals Hearing before the Board for denial of coaching for the

Recreation Department: The County Manager advised the Board that Mr. Burges has asked for an Appeals Hearing. All documents for review in this matter are in each Commissioner’s Notebook. The Appeals Hearing will be held at the end of the Regular Meeting on Monday night so that the Board will be able to take action in that meeting.

The Board agreed to place items A, C, D, E, and F on the Consent Agenda for the Regular Meeting.

County Manager Items:

- Advised that we have received a request from ACCG to make a County Appointment for contact to the Water Advisory committee for the Statewide Water Management Plan. He requested that this be an add on item to the Regular Agenda for action by the Board
- Advised that a call went out to citizens last week advising them of the Code Red System and how and when to register for weather alerts, 16,000 calls went out in 13 minutes
- Advised of an issue with changing our Broker of Record with Ameritus on the dental and vision insurance for employees. This will stay with Shaw Hankins for the remainder of this contract period and Partners Benefit is aware of this. Rates will be renewable in July
- Requested an Executive Session for Legal

Commissioners Comments:

Commissioner Jones mentioned the Bike Path need to be scrapped if possible before the Bike Group gets in town. He stated that Craig and his staff need to work with this group and that we need to participate in the event, it a big undertaking. The County Manager advised that it is time to start clipping the shoulders and he will check to make sure this is about to get underway. He also advised that Commissioner Setters will be riding with the bikers while in Tift County.

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

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

Chairman Grady Thompson, District 7

Vice Chairman Fred W. (Buck) Rigdon, District 5

absent
Commissioner Donnie Hester, District 1

absent
Commissioner Melissa Chevers, District 2

Commissioner Robert Setters, District 3

absent
Commissioner Sherry Miley, District 4

ATTEST:

Commissioner C. Michael Jones, District 6

County Clerk

