

**REGULAR SESSION  
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MONDAY, MAY 11, 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, May 11, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Administrative Building. Member of the commission present including Chairman Thompson were Commissioners Donnie Hester, Sherry Miley, Melissa Chevers, and Robert Setters. Vice Chairman Buck Rigdon was out due to illness and being hospitalized. Commissioner Mike Jones was out due to a prior commitment.

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 April 7, 2009 Workshop Minutes and the April 13, 2009 Regular Session Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Chevers. Motion carried unanimously.

**Additions to the Agenda:**

Grant Award for EMA (I)

Surplus a truck in the Sheriff's Department and transfer to Board of Education (J)

Motion to add Item I and J to the Agenda was made by Commissioner Hester, seconded by Commissioner Setters. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comments:**

Jackie Gurz addressed the Board on behalf of the homeowners in McInnis Mills Subdivision for an update on the drainage problems during the April floods. She stated that many are still not back in their homes. The County Manager stated the County is currently involved in a detailed study of the entire area and an engineer is surveying and looking for some sort of solution. The County has applied for FEMA mitigation dollars to help make changes to the drainage basin but we are not relying entirely on this possible funding. Ms. Gurz asked if individual homeowners could apply and the response was no, it has to be done by the government entity. Carter stated we don't have any answers yet and that the engineer will be at the June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting to answer questions and discuss possible solutions.

Stoney & Hope Layfield addressed the Board with a comment that the County has had eight years and two months and nothing has been done about this drainage problem. Ms. Layfield requested the information that was to come from Safe Dams Inspection. She was told FEMA was going to re-do the maps and now we all are going to be in a flood zone. We have flooded two times in seven days; we were told we was not in a flood zone, when the map is re-done, we all are going to be in a flood zone so what do we do now.

**Public Hearings:**

**A. TC-SE-09-07: Petition by Gary Crowell, as agent for C. David Johnson III, for a Special Exception to locate a Personal Service Shop (Barbershop) in the R-P Zoning District at 1958 Old Ocilla Road Parcel 0058 062:** Carl Fortson gave the staff report stating that it comes with a recommendation of approval from Staff and Planning and Zoning Board.

The County Attorney opened the public hearing with no conflict of interest declared from any Board member.

Gary Crowell was present to speak on behalf of his request and asked the Board's consideration

of the Special Exception to allow him to open a Barbershop at this location.

There was no comment against the request. The County Attorney closed the public hearing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Mile approving TC-SE-09-07 Special Exception for Gary Crowell seconded by Commissioner Chevers. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consent Agenda:**

**B. Motion to ratify the phone vote authorizing the Chairman to sign a Resolution of submission of a “Wish List” for capital items for 5311 Transportation Program funding from the Economic Stimulus funding should the monies become available.**

**E. Motion to approve getting the right of way staked and the deeds drawn up on Spring Hill Church Road.**

**F. Motion to approve the establishing of the right of way limits for drainage improvements on Elizabeth Drive.**

**H. Motion approving the purchase of two mosquito sprayers in the amount of \$15,740 with the agreement from the City of Tifton to pay one half of the total purchase price due to a jointly funded department.**

Motion approving the Consent Agenda was made by Commissioner Hester, seconded by Commissioner Miley. Motion carried unanimously.

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

**C. Appointments to the Athletic Advisory Committee:** Craig Sowell explained that Belinda Green, Ray Merritt, Craig Grace and Buck Rigdon are the current members that are up for re-appointment and have expressed an interest to continue serving. These four have been recommended by the Athletic Advisory Committee for re-appointment. The second part of this request is to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Render Heard. Jeff Robbins submitted a Board Application and was previously nominated by the Committee in August of 2—0 and has been approved and recommended by the Committee to be appointed to fill the vacant position. Some members of the Board questioned if Mr. Robbins was the only person considered for the position. Mr. Sowell responded that Robbins received the highest amount of votes out of the three names that were considered. The other two were Mark Hasty and Kyle Percival but their applications were not included in the Board’s packet which was the possible cause for the confusion. A copy of the by-laws was provided to the Commissioners for their review of the process of making recommendations for appointments to the Athletic Advisory Committee. Commissioners Miley and Chevers still had some questions in this matter.

Motion was made by Commissioner Setters to appoint Jeff Robbins to the Athletic Advisory committee seconded by Commissioner Hester. The motion did not carry based on a 2 – 2 vote. Setters/Hester voted for the motion; Miley/Chevers voted against the motion. Since two commissioners were absent, there was no need for the Chairman to vote because 4 affirmative votes could not be reached. There was no action taken on this matter at this time.

Motion was made by Commissioner Miley to re-appoint Belinda Green, Ray Merritt, Craig Grace and Buck Rigdon to the Athletic Advisory Committee for another three year term to expire May 2012, seconded by Commissioner Chevers. The motion first received a 3 – 1 vote; Miley, Chevers and Hester for and Setters against. The Chairman then voted for the motion allowing the motion to carry by a 4 -1 vote.

**I. Homeland Security Grant Award for 911:** The County Manager advised that this is a Homeland Security grant through Georgia Emergency Management in the amount of \$57,542 and requires a 50% local match. The local match of \$28,771 has been included in the budget and the Chairman needs to be authorized to endorse the grant. Motion was made by Commissioner Miley authorizing the Chairman to endorse the grant, seconded by Commissioner Chevers. Motion carried unanimously.

**J. Consideration to Surplus a 2001 F-150 Pick up Truck in the Sheriff’s Department to be transferred to the Board of Education:** The County Manager advised that the Sheriff’s Department has a 2001 F-150 truck with 83,687 miles on it that they are requesting the Board to declare surplus. The Board of Education has a need for such a vehicle and the Sheriff wishes to transfer the vehicle to them. Motion was made by Commissioner Miley to declare the vehicle

surplus and transferred to the Board of Education, seconded by Commissioner Chevers. Motion carried unanimously.

**County Manager Items:**

- Needs to have a short Executive Session for Legal and Real Estate

**Commissioners Items:**

Commissioner Chevers stated she is hosting a Crime Summit Phase I on May 16, 2009 to take input and ideas on how we can help come up with a solution of crime in Tift County. Then on May 30, 2009 will be Phase II and she encourages public input from the community. These meetings will be held at the Neighborhood Service Center. She also reminded everyone of the One Street at a Time Clean up in June. They will be starting with Hill Avenue and encouraged everyone to help if possible, "your street may be next." She reported that she has visited the new DDS Building (Drivers License) and is very impressed; it is a very nice building.

Commissioner Miley spoke of a section of road on I-75 from Brighton Road that is loaded with debris and looks very bad. She wanted to know if there is anything the County can do to get this area cleaned up. The County Manager advised that we can talk to the DOT folks to see if they can get this area cleaned up some.

Chairman Thompson thanked Commissioner Chevers for her efforts in solutions for the crime in Tift County as well as the One Street at a Time cleanup.

**Executive Session:** Motion was made by Commissioner Hester to go into Executive Session for Legal, Personnel and Real Estate, seconded by Commissioner Setters. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Setters, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

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Chairman Grady Thompson, District 7

absent \_\_\_\_\_  
Vice Chairman, Fred W. Rigdon District 5

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Donnie Hester, District 1

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Sherry Miley, Dist. 4

absent \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner C. Michael Jones, District 6

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