

**REGULAR SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, JULY 13, 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, July 13, 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, Melissa Chevers, Mike Jones and Robert Setters.

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.

Recognize Kadarius McDaniel: Chairman Thompson and Commissioner Chevers presented this young man with a Certificate of Appreciation for helping on the first cleanup day. This program is a volunteer program initiated by Commissioner Chevers called One Street at a Time Cleanup. Kadarius is 8 years old and spent Saturday morning helping clean up the trash and debris on Hill Avenue in South Tifton.

Minutes: Motion was made by Commissioner Setters approving the May 15, 2009 Special Called Meeting Minutes; June 2, 2009 Workshop Session Minutes; June 8, 2009 Regular Session Minutes and June 22, 2009 Special Called Session Minutes seconded by Commissioner Chevers. Motion carried. Commissioner Miley abstained because she was on vacation and had not read the minutes.

Public Comments:

Charles Howard, resident on East Golden Road address the Board and asked them to consider a change to the ordinance governing junk cars parked on lots and in yards. He said the current law only requires that the cars have a current license plate and the owners of the vehicles that have current license plates can't be forced to move them. The Board will take this under advisement and thanked the Howards for coming and addressing this issue.

Cindy Evers addressed the Board and asked that they reconsider the elimination of funding from the Tift County Department of Family and Children Services. Out of the \$58,000 that was requested from the state department, over \$14,000 of that money was used to assist foster children. There are currently 105 children in foster care homes in Tifton's 26 designated homes. Staff is concerned that if the money is not allotted to them they will lose foster parents. The state pays \$14 to \$18 per day to foster parents for each child and is given \$200 per year per child to purchase clothing for the children. She requested that the Board please reconsider this budget current and amend its budget to reinstate these funds that are need in Tift County.

Annie Clark, Director of the Tift County Department of Family and Children Services spoke with the Board and stated this cut in funding has been devastating to them. The entire amount will be used directly on and for the children and asked the Board to take another look at their request for funding.

Charles Lovett, resident on Church Street in Ty Ty spoke with the Commissioners that he is concerned with crime in his community and said he had fussed at everybody he knew that had the power to dos something about the problem but has gotten nowhere. He said he was here to ask for their help. We have problems with law and order in Ty Ty and stated he sleeps with a gun and knows many others in the neighborhood who do the same thing. He said he has witnessed cars going 70 to 80 mph down his street; dope peddling and loud music is a common thing there every day. Certain areas of Ty Ty need four way stop signs. Deputies make a round around the block and then they are gone back to Tifton. Ty Ty does not have a police office. A Neighborhood Watch Group has been formed but gets no support from the Ty Ty City Council.

Jason Jones with the Sheriff's Department was in the audience and he is aware of the problems.

Steve Wood, Tift County Coroner addressed the Board concerning the office and the morgue that has recently been renovated for the Coroner's use. He told the Commissioners that he appreciates them for providing the funding. Mr. Wood said it is often awkward to have to tell people that the coroner didn't have an official office. He now has a place that is available for the families to come and discuss things with him. The new coroner's office is located between the Tift County Health Department and the EMS Building on Tift Avenue.

Craig Sowell, Tift County Recreation Director was asked to speak to the Commission Board by the Chairman concerning the District and State Swim Meet to be held in Tifton. Mr. Sowell told the Board that the past weekend was the District Swim Meet on Saturday and there were about 235 swimmers. It was a tremendous success. This weekend, July 24th and 25th, beginning at 9 AM, Tift County will host the State Swim Meet. We are expecting 5,000 folks in Tifton and Tift County. He extended an invitation to all the Commissioners to come by and spend what time they can.

Public Hearings: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Motion to set the Final Millage Rate for Tift County for 2009 at 10.39 Countywide and 2.130 in the Special Tax District

D. Motion authorizing the Chairman to sign the work Agreement between Tift County and FSA for the performance of renovations at the Agricultural Center

E. Motion approving the Motorola Service Agreement in the amount of \$71,499.49 and authorizing the Chairman to sign the Renewal Agreement

F. Motion authorizing the Chairman to endorse the DOT Contract for Goff Street for grading, drainage, base, plant mix surfacing, curb and gutter and traffic light in the amount of \$350,757

Motion approving the Consent Agenda consisting of items A, D, E, and F was made by Commissioner Setter, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA:

B. Re-appointment of Hospital Authority Board Members: Vice Chairman Rigdon is the appointed Liaison to the Hospital Authority Board and he addressed this issue with the Board stating that experience is very important in these appointments. It would be his recommendation to re-appoint both of these members to the Hospital Authority Board because they have both served for several years and have the experience.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Rigdon to re-appoint Jimmy Allen for another 5 year term expiring on September 30, 2014, seconded by Commissioner Miley. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Rigdon to re-appoint Dallas Hunt for another 5 year term expiring on September 30, 2014, seconded by Commissioner Miley. Motion carried unanimously.

C. ACCG-IRMA Property & Liability Renewal: The County Clerk discussed the premium and options with the Board. She also advised the Board that the properties belonging to the Development Authority come up under our blanket policy and she invoices them for their portion of the premium which this year is in the amount of \$25,746. At the Workshop Session the County Clerk was asked to run a two year history on claims to determine if it would be feasible to change from a \$2500 deductible to a \$5,000 deductible per occurrence. The Board was also advised that this premium reflects the re-evaluation of County properties that was conducted by ACCG this year for the first time in over 8 years and that many of our property values were below market value. Craig Sowell spoke with the Board briefly about the Safety Programs we participate in through ACCG which entitles us to discounts on our premium. It is the recommendation of staff to continue with the \$2500 deductible. Motion was made by Commissioner Hester to selection Option 1 on the ACCG –IRMA Renewal continuing with our \$2500 deductible and authorizing payment of the premium in the amount of \$305,445, seconded by Commissioner Chevers. Motion carried.

Commissioners Jones and Miley voted against the motion.

County Manager Items:

- Advised the Board of a vacancy on the Keep Tift Beautiful Board and if they knew of anyone that might be interested, please see the County Clerk for an application

Commissioners Items:

Commissioner Setters stated that back when we had all the rain and flooding, we had several people come up here and talk to us about how bad the roads were. He wanted to thank the Road Department for their diligence in working hard to get the roads passable as quickly as they did and for doing a good job.

Commissioner Hester stated that we need to put the new website in force; it has been about 6 or 7 months and it needs to be up and running. He advised that he is Vice Chairman of the Public Safety and Courts Committee for ACCG and that he wished the Steve Wood, Coroner was still present to know this because they implement a lot of things that need to be done. He has had several coroners' call him from around the state about a number of things. He asked about the status of the leak in the Mott-Littman Gym roof and was advised that we are still working on this. They are trying to hold the original contractor that installed the roof to the leak repairs. They have been contacted again. He is concerned about the \$35,000 floor getting ruined with the leaking roof. Jason Jordan advised Commissioner Hester that we are having the same problem at the gym at the New Multi-Purpose Building with the same type of roof.

Commissioner Jones echoed Commissioner Miley's request to have the County Manager follow up on the request to reinstate the \$15,000 in the Department of Family & Children Services budget.

Commissioner Miley requested that the County Manager follow up on the Department of Family and Children Services request to add back the \$15,000 in the budget. She also requested an update on the status of the new website. She would like to make some suggestions for the site such as the Boards that Tift County appoints members to be listed in a place on the website, listing all the Boards, who serves, how long the terms are, meeting dates and times and when a person's term that is now serving is up. She would like to have the bids on the website for anything the County is taking bids on. We also need to get updated pictures of the Commissioners posted on the site.

Commissioner Chevers reminded everyone that the next street to be cleaned is James Avenue and that will be July 18th at 8 AM. She also extended an invitation to attend the next Crime Summit Meeting on July 20th at 6 PM at the Neighborhood Service Center.

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

Chairman Grady Thompson, District 7

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

Commissioner C. Michael Jones, District 6

Attest: _____
Glynda Hemby, County Clerk