

**REGULAR SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 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 Tuesday, September 8, 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, Mike Jones, Robert Setters and Melissa Chevers.

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 Setters 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 Vice Chairman Rigdon approving the August 4, 2009 Workshop Session Minutes, August 10, 2009 Regular Session Minutes and August 24, 2009 Special Called Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Setters. Motion carried unanimously.

Addition to Agenda:

Rental Agreement with Capital Defender's Office (J)
Ratifying the Endorsement of the Victim/Witness Assistance Program Grant (K)
Ratifying the endorsement of the Stimulus Grant through the Byrne Jag Funding (L)
Appoint Voting Delegate for Fall Policy Conference (M)

Motion to add these items to the Agenda under the letters J, K, L, and M was made by Commissioner Setters, seconded by Vice Chairman Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments:

Appointments:

1. Jennifer Edwards, Partnership Specialist with the U. S. Census Bureau advised the Board that the 2010 Census is up and moving. They have already started; some workers have been sent out already to do some address conversions and now are identifying Group Quarters. In March the counting will begin. In 2000 there was a 58% return rate for Tift County which includes door to door. The State average was 60% and the National average was 65%. We want to raise the return percentage this year by at least 5% this year. Ms. Edwards is here to share with you some ideas on forming the Complete County Committee. This is a volunteer Committee. The City of Tifton has appointed Samantha Lawson to be their liaison. Her request tonight is for the County to appoined a liaison to get the Complete Count Committee together. She stated that the Census is very important in order to get your fair share of funding and it also affects the voting districts. There is a difference this year in the form; in 2000 every 6th person got a long form, this year there is only 10 questions on the Census Form. This form will go out in March to be returned by April 1st. She told the Board that the Census is safe and confidential and that the information collected is held for 72 years then turned over to the National Archives. The County Manager will work with the Board to appoint a staff member work with Ms. Edwards to keep updates on the Census and give regular reports back to the Board.

Public Hearings: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

- B. Motion approving beer & wine license for Rash Patel for a Convenient Store at 3104 U S Hwy 41 South**
- C. Motion to accept the Georgia Highway Safety Grant**

D. Motion authorizing a Workforce Agreement with the Development Authority to mow the Industrial park and the County will be reimbursed for wages, fuel and materials

E. Motion approving for the Tift County Road Department to proceed with widening and drainage improvements on a portion of Purdue Road at the request of Moultrie Technical College

F. Motion to accept road Way and Right of Way from Travis Hurst in his new development known as Cotton Pointe Estates

G. Motion to accept the GEMA Performance partnership Agreement Grant with a local match of \$28,771 for Tift County EMA

Motion approving the Consent Agenda consisting of items B, C, D, E, F, and G was made by Commissioner Setters, seconded by Vice Chairman Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA:

A. Animal Control Fines for Magistrate Court: The County Manager advised that the County Attorney has made some revisions to Section 14-9 of the Animal Control Ordinance in order to cover the amount for violations dealing with this section in the Ordinance. Motion was made by Commissioner Setters to accept the revisions to the Animal Control Ordinance under Section 14-9 along with Addendum "A" which is marked as Animal Control Fines, seconded by Vice Chairman Rigdon. Motion carried with Commissioner Miley voting against the motion. The amendment to this Ordinance is made a part of these minutes noted by Exhibit & Addendum "A".

H. Award of Employee Health Insurance: The County Manager advised that the Board will need a motion to award the Health Insurance to the broker of their choice. Vice Chairman Rigdon declared a Conflict of Interest and will not vote. Under the new voting rules adopted by this Board when there is any Commissioner not voting, the Chairman will cast a vote. Motion was made by Commissioner Miley to accept Partners Benefit Group, Skip Hill & Associates as Tift County's broker for employee health insurance, seconded by Commissioner Setters. Motion carried unanimously and included the Chairman's vote.

I. Payment of Loan from SPLOST funds for Lighting Project at E. B. Hamilton: Motion was made by Commissioner Setters authorizing the Finance Director to pay off the loan for the Lighting Project with the collected SPLOST funds, seconded by Vice Chairman Rigdon. Motion carried by a 5 to 1 vote. Commissioner Jones voted against the motion.

J. Rental Agreement with Capital Defender's Office: Motion approving the Rental Agreement with the State to house the Capital Defender's Office for rental of \$100 per month was made by Commissioner Miley, seconded by Vice Chairman Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

K. Ratifying the endorsement of the Victim/Witness Assistance Program Grant: The County Manager advised that this is funded through CCJC for the Victim/Witness Assistance Program. There was a deadline of last week and the Board was called individually for approval for the Chairman to endorse the grant so it could get in the mail by the deadline. This will simply need a motion to ratify. Motion ratifying the endorsement by the Chairman for the Victim/Witness Assistance Program Grant was made by Commissioner Setters, seconded by Commissioner Miley. Motion carried unanimously.

L. Ratifying the endorsement of the Stimulus Grant through the Byrne Jag Funding: The County Manager advised of this grant through Byrne JAG Funding and is a part of the result of the Stimulus Funding. This is a project through the Judicial Circuit that the Judges and DA are going to implement. This also was a time sensitive matter and each Commissioner was called for the approval of the Chairman to endorse. This is a 100% grant for 3 years. The attorney will put together a Memorandum of Understanding for future grant request from agencies advising of the fiscal agent and responsibilities of these grants. Motion was made by Commissioner Hester ratifying the endorsement of this Grant Application, seconded by Vice Chairman Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

M. Appoint voting delegate for Fall Policy Conference: Motion was made by Commissioner Hester nominating Melissa Chevers as the voting delegate for Tift County at Fall Policy Conference, seconded by Vice Chairman Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

County Manager Items:

- Reminded and invited Commissioners to the Managers Luncheon through the RDC and

- hosted by Tifton and Tift County to be held September 9th at Noon at the Hilton Gardens
- Advised the Board of the grant money awarded to Tifton and Tift County this week:

Awarded CDBG Grant for Red Bird Road in the amount of \$500,000

Awarded a \$300,000 CHIP Grant for the City of Tifton to assist in acquiring houses inside the city

Awarded \$35,300 Grant from DOT for computer, copier, radios, office equipment and security cameras for Tift Lift vans

Commissioners Items:

Commissioner Setters commented on the \$500,000 Grant we received for Red Bird Road. He said this road is in his District and stated that this just did not happen by itself. There were lots of calls received on this road and it will be a good asset for the County. It took lots of effort from lots of folks and he would like to thank Jason Jordan, Jim Carter, Tony Rowell, Watkins & Associates and Darrell Wiggins for their persistence in this matter.

Commissioner Jones also spoke about Red Bird Road and the efforts put forth for this funding and stated that Darrell Wiggins went door to door obtaining the right of way for this road and he did a great job.

Commissioner Hester thanked everyone for coming to the meeting tonight and hopes that the decision that was made on the health insurance will help the County. He noted that he sits on a very important Board through ACCG Public Safety and Courts Committee. He encouraged everyone to continue with the training to get education and support. Thanked the Road Department for restriping South Central and 17th Street by the school. He thinks we have one of the best Boards and Staffs in the State.

Commissioner Miley stated that it is time for us to take a look at the Tourism Board and some time needs to be set up to do this. We have two seats on that Board that has expired. She also thanked staff for all their hard work.

Commissioner Chevers reminded everyone of the next One Street at a Time Cleanup date which is September 12 at 8 AM. They are still looking for volunteers. The next Crime Summit is September 22nd at 6 PM at the Community Service Center. She thanked Code Enforcement for helping with the cleanup and Darrell Wiggins and his staff for their help and support.

Executive Session: Motion was made by Commissioner Hester to go into Executive Session for personnel, seconded by Vice Chairman Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to close Executive Session and Adjourn was made by Commission Hester, seconded by Commissioner Chevers. Motion carried unanimously.

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