

**WORKSHOP SESSION  
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2007  
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, April 3, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Administrative Building. Members of the commission present including Chairman Thompson were Commissioners Donnie Hester, Frankie Mathis, Buck Rigdon, C. Michael Jones, Sherry Miley and Robert Setters.

**Proclamation:** The Chairman presented a Proclamation to Mr. Greg Millotte declaring the month of April 2007 as Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness month in Tift County.

**Public Comments:** None

**Appointments:**

1. Joan Howard, spokesperson for Greenwood Cemetery Organization addressed the Board with a budget request. The cemetery is a South Tifton Historic Landmark. It is becoming an increasing challenge to find funding to keep the cemetery maintained. She stated the present budget for the cemetery is \$16,800 per year and their request is for the consideration of half their budget which is \$8,400 per year from county funds. She thanked the Board in advance for their consideration and support. The Board will take the request under advisement. The County Attorney will give a legal opinion to the Board.
2. Sharon Miller and Darlene Paulk with Department of Drivers Services had requested to address the Board concerning the building they are house in on Fulwood but was not present for the meeting.
3. David Lawrence addressed the Board concerning Animal control. He gave some illustrations of statements that he had been told he had to comply with by Animal control but has from them not to be true. Animal Control told him he had his dog pen in the wrong place on his property. Animal Control took his dogs away from him.

**Public Hearings for Regular Session on April 9, 2007:**

**Request from Hall and Lee Properties, LLC to close Chula Main Street, a road that has not been used.** The County Clerk advised the Board that this has been properly advertised and notification has been sent to the adjoining landowner.

**Items discussed by the Commission for action on April 9, 2007:**

- A. Request for Final Subdivision Plat approval from Joey Hampton on a proposed subdivision located on Carpenter Road.** Carl Fortson advised no public hearing is required and that the Final Plat has to be approved by the Board so it can be recorded.
- B. Authorize the Chairman to endorse DPT contract for the paving of the addition to the parking lot at Moultrie Technical College.**
- C. Declare property known as Arnett Mills surplus**
- D. Approve Beer and Wine License for Dr. Larry Moorman for the Club House at Forest Lakes:** The County Clerk advised that this has been approved by the Sheriff
- E. Probate Judge Suzanne Johnson will explain an appointment made through her office that will require the Board's approval of an annual fee for such person serving:** The county Attorney advised this is an appointment to handle estate matters. The Probate Judge has the authority to appoint this person however the governing authority has to give consent for the annual fee. Attorney Lynn Kelly has accepted this appointment at a fee of \$180 per hour. The County is responsible for payment of fees.
- F. Authorize the Chairman to execute the memorandum of Understanding with the County Extension Office**
- G. Library Board members reappointment and appoint a replacement for Harriette Rowe:** The County Clerk advised of the request of the two reappointments and that Ms. Harriette Rowe is no longer able to serve on this Board to health reasons. Two applications have been sent in for consideration.
- H. Reappointment of Ms. Jo Hunt to the Southeast Georgia Area Agency on Aging Council whose term expires June 30, 2007**

**I. Request for an increase in Pauper Burials from \$250 to \$650**

**J. Report and Proposal from Air Purification Specialist from Administration**

**Building:** Mr. Dill advised that the proposal from Air Purification Specialist is the result of them doing an inspection on the Administration Building. This work needs to be performed which includes some air duct work and other air purifications needs. The amount is \$24,296.00 and is not a budgeted item. Mr. Dill also stated we have some roof leaks that need to be addressed.

**K. Beaver Management discussion:** Mr. Dill advised a meeting had been held concerning this that he attended. Further discussion will be on Monday night. This is through USDA and their people are fully trained. Three counties will need to enter into a two year contract for this service at an approximate cost of \$80,000.

**L. Airport Runway Extension Proposal and Cost Figures:** Mr. Dill advised that we have received a cost estimate from the engineers for the airport and we have worked up our own cost estimate. The cost of the repairs for the Old Hasty building will be around \$80,000 and the driving range for the Department of Drivers Services would cost around \$37,000. The estimate of moving the dirt and doing the in-kind work for the airport extension will be around \$1.2. The bid estimate the airport has is about \$2.5. Mr. Dill is offering two proposals. He has talked to Dr. Anderson, Chairman of the Airport Authority and he stated he would offer the funds for the repairs to the Hasty Building in exchange for the County doing the in-kind work for the extension of the runway. The second proposal is that when Tifton and Tift County host the Annual State DOT meeting in May that we put this on the tour of needs for the County to see if we can get some funds through the DOT and the FAA. This project will take approximately two years for completion.

**M. Discussion of contract agreement with Department of Corrections for liter pick up:**

Mr. Dill advised that the Sheriff's Department has obtained an agreement that Colquitt County uses with the Department of Corrections for liter pick up and other services they can do under the agreement. The cost will be \$37,000 per year which will include the County getting 8 to 12 people on a daily bases. The County will also have to provide a vehicle for them.

The Commissioners agreed to place items A, B, D, E, F, H, & J, on the Consent Agenda for April 9, 2007.

**County Managers Items:**

- Mr. Dill thanked those that came to "Operation Clean -Up" on Saturday, May 24, 2007 which was the Sheriff's Department, The Chamber of Commerce, The City and County crews. He also extended appreciation to Wal-Mart and Target for providing refreshments and water.
- Gave an updated Road Committee Report
- Reminded the Board that May 4, 2007 is Tifton/Tift County Day and is being held in conjunction with The Love Affair. Asked that all Commissioners attend the events if possible to talk with our Legislators.
- Craig Sowell discussed with the Board some inquiries dealing with the construction of a Skateboard Park. There are some interested citizens and they will be holding a discussion meeting on April 12, 2007. He will give them further information and keep them updated.

**Commissioner Comments:**

Commissioner Setters gave a report on a meeting that he and Commissioner Jones attended at the Chamber with Developers and Contractors concerning making the building permit process easier. Plans are for this to be a joint venture with the City and discussion was to open a small office for all permits. This will be brought before the SDCC Committee. Commissioner Setters asked to be give a status report on Red Bird Road and he was advised that we do not have all of the right-of-way deeds and he stated that if someone would go with him, he will be glad to see if he can talk to the ones that have not given right-of-way.

Commissioner Jones thanked the Road Department for the cleanup of the Bike Paths. He supported Commissioner Jones on the One Stop Shop for Permits. He would also like for us to continue looking at an Interlocal Agreement with the City for Public Works.

Vice Chairman Hester stated he is still concerned about issues with the City. He stated until the water rates are equalized, he is not subject to anymore discussion about consolidation. He feels the City thinks he is going away; He is not going away until it is handled sufficiently.

Commissioner Mathis stated he is receiving called from citizens and folks from the American Legion. He reported he spent a couple of days with the DCA and the EMAG group and that there is a need for us to upgrade our Comprehensive Plan. He stated in the last Road Committee Meeting there were several road mentioned that Cassetta Road, TC Gordon Road, Massey, Hickory and the end of West Golden Road are being looked at and a cost estimate is being worked up for these roads. He addressed the trailer park on Ferry Lake Road that was approved by the Board and he has received some calls that in the agreement there was suppose to be a privacy fence installed that has not been done. He asked the County Clerk to look this information up and report back to him. They have put up a four foot chain length fence which is not classified as a privacy fence.

Commissioner Rigdon made mention of the untimely death of Michael Cantlebury whom he had work with in the Juvenile Court System for many, many years. He died very suddenly on the soccer field Sunday.

Commissioner Miley advised she had also had received calls on the mobile home park on Ferry Lake Road. She thanked Jason and Richard for always taking care of any problems with the Road Department that she calls with in a timely manner. She asked about the status of Grimsley Road and that she understood there was one person on the road that we could not get the right of way. She asked if Richard would go with her and she would see if she could help obtain the right of way. She also stated that there seems to be a beaver problem in her District. She discussed Cedar Ridge subdivision and advised that there is no street light where the children catch the school bus. Mr. Dill will check into this. She supports Vice Chairman Hester concerning the equalization of the water rates. She reported that she went to the first Brookfield Community Club Meeting held on Saturday and stated there was a real good turn out and she was impressed the way things was handled.

**Executive Session:** Motion was made by Commissioner Setters to go into Executive Session under OCGA 50-14-2[1], OCGA 50-14-3[6], and OCGA 50-14-13[4] seconded by Vice Chairman Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Chairman Thompson adjourned the meeting.

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Chairman Grady Thompson, Dist 7

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Vice Chairman Donnie Hester, Dist 1

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Commissioner Frankie Mathis, Dist 2

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Commissioner Robert Setters, Dist 3

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Commissioner Sherry Miley, Dist 4

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Commissioner Fred W. Buck Rigdon, Dist 5

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Commissioner C. Michael Jones, Dist 6

ATTTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk

REGULAR SESSION  
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MONDAY, APRIL 9, 2007  
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, April 9, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room of the Administrative Building. Members of the commission present including Chairman Thompson were Vice Chairman Donnie Hester, Commissioners Sherry Miley, Frankie Mathis, Buck Rigdon, C. Michael Jones and Robert Setters.

Chairman Thompson called to order the Regular Business Meeting of the Tift County Board of Commissioners at 6:30 PM.

Chairman Thompson asked Commissioner Robert 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 which will be stipulated as such.

**Public Comments:**

Buddy Coarsey, 854 Lower Brookfield Road addressed the Board stating that he owns land on Parker Road and he let the County use some of the land to widen the road. He claims he still owns the land and would like for the County Attorney to draw up papers or some type of agreement to state the land still belongs to him and not the county. He is not opposed for the county to continue the use of the land for the road because in the area it is, it makes it safer but he wants to make sure the land is not taken from him.

He state he would like for the County to post any land, equipment and etc. on the front door of the Administration Building and sell it at a public auction rather than sealed bid.

**Minutes:** Motion was made by Vice Chairman Hester approving the minutes of the March 6, 2007 Workshop Session, and the March 12, 2000 Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Hearings:**

Request from Hall & Lee properties, LLC to close Chula Main Street, a road that has not been used: Mr. Dill opened the public hearing.

James Ray, adjoining property owner spoke to the Board concerning this closing, stating that he thought the road had been closed for years but was certainly in favor of the request.

There were no further comments and Mr. Dill closed the public hearing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jones to close Chula Main Street and remove from the County's Road System, seconded by Commissioner Miley. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consent Agenda:**

- A. Motion to approve the Final Subdivision Plat from Joey Hampton on a proposed subdivision located on Carpenter Road
- B. Motion authorizing the Chairman to endorse DOT contract for the paving of the addition to the parking lot a Moultrie Technical College
- D. Motion to approve Beer & Wine License for Dr. Larry Moorman for the Club House at Forest Lakes
- E. Motion approving the compensation of the appointment for a County Administrator through the Probate Judge of Tift County
- F. Motion authorizing the Chairman to endorse the memorandum of Understanding with the County Extension Office
- H. Motion reappointing Mrs. Jo Hunt to the Southeast Georgia Area Agency on Aging Council for another 3 year term
- J. Approve the proposal from Air Purification Specialist for the Administration Building in the amount of \$24,296.

Chairman Thompson stated Items H and J need to be removed from the Consent Agenda for further information to be obtained and discussed at a later date. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Hester to remove these two items from the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Setters to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of items A, B, D, E and F, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously

**Regular Agenda:**

C. Declare property known as Arnett Mills surplus: Commissioner Miley wanted to make sure the County has no use for this property. The County Attorney advised that this property was acquired back to the Revolving Loan Fund because of a loan default. The property has been appraised and it consists of 3.93 acres and some buildings. The money received for the sale of the property will need to go back into the Revolving Loan Fund for other economic loans that may present themselves. Motion to declare the Arnett Mills Property surplus and authorize the County Clerk to advertise the property for sale was made by Commissioner Miley, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

G. Library Board members reappointment and appoint a replacement for Harriette Rowe: Ballots were given to the Board members containing two names that have been submitted for the replacement of Harriette Rowe which is Lennie Vollmer and Linda L. Norman. The ballots were cast, reviewed by the County Clerk and the County Attorney and announced the Board had elected Lennie Vollmer to this position. Motion was made by Commissioner Mathis, seconded by Vice Chairman Hester to reappoint Dr. Hal Henderson and Bertha Daniels to serve another term on the Library Board.

I. Request for an increase in Pauper Burials from \$250 to \$650: Ronald Nixon was asked to address the Board on this item by Mr. Dill. Mr. Nixon did not start the petition for the increase from \$250 to \$650 but did sign it. He clarified the difference between indigent funerals and pauper funerals. Indigents may be a family with no funds for a regular burial. Paupers are transients, migrants or no family to be found. The Department of Family and Children Services and the Coroner does the investigation. He discussed the cost of a burial. The \$250 law was passed years ago but today the cost of funerals has increased. He believes the figure should be \$1200 and at that, the funeral homes are not making a profit. He asked the Board to be compassionate, sensible and fair in helping funeral homes to bear the brunt of the expense. He asked the Board to consider putting at least three in the budget. The money may or may not be used. Motion was made by Commissioner Mathis to hand this to the new County Manager for research and bring a recommendation back to the Board, seconded by Commissioner Miley. Motion carried by a 5 to 1 vote. Commissioner Jones voted against the motion.

K. Discussion on Beaver Management: Mr. Dill advised the Board that we would need to see what counties wanted to participate. The cost of this agreement would be approximately \$27,000 per year and will come back to the Board for consideration when three counties have agreed to sign a joint agreement to begin in the new budget year. Motion was made by Commissioner Miley to participate in the Beaver Management program in the amount of \$27,000 contingent upon two other counties joining with Tift County, seconded by Commissioner Jones. Motion carried unanimously.

M. Discussion on Agreement with the Department of Corrections: Mr. Dill reported that this agreement would be with the Department of Corrections out of Colquitt County and would include 8 to 12 people, five days per week. The primary use would be for liter pick up. A vehicle would have to be provided for the work crew. Commissioner Hester wanted to know if the crew could help with the request to clean up the cemetery that was requested at the Workshop Session. It was clarified that they can work anywhere in the county as long as we have a contract with the Department of Corrections and if it is county owned property. The legal issues are yet to be answered with further research by the County Attorney.

**County Manager Comments:**

- Asked the Chairman to appoint a committee to work on a study for the Mid Step Building and bring some recommendations back to the Board for consideration. The Chairman appointed Commissioners Rigdon, Setters and Jones to work on this
- Suggested that it would be advisable to put a Customer Service Desk in the front entrance of the Administration Building

- Transportation Enhancement Meeting will be held at the Department of Transportation office in Tifton on April 24<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 to 2:30. Jason Jordan, Projects Manager will attend this meeting
- Tifton-Tift County Day will be May 4<sup>th</sup>
- Extended an invitation to the GA Department of Transportation State Board meeting that will be held in Tifton on May 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>
- Mr. Dill stated this is his last meeting as Interim County Manager and has enjoyed serving the county in this capacity and welcomes new County Manager to his post

Commissioner Comments:

Vice Chairman Hester thanked Mr. Dill for a job well done serving as Interim County Manager. He advised that Board that he will be going back to the City concerning the equalization of water rates but clarified that he was not specifically naming the south side of Tifton as stated in the paper, he wants the rates equalized for all of Tift County.

Ronald Nixon addressed the Board with a request for the Board to consider having a live person answering the telephone, not an answering machine.

**Executive Session:** Motion was made by Vice Chairman Hester to go into Executive Session under OCGA 50-14-3(6), OCGA 50-14-2(1); OCGA 50-14-3(4) seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

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

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

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Chairman Grady Thompson, Dist 7

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Vice Chairman Donnie Hester, Dist 1

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Commissioner Frankie Mathis, Dist 2

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Commissioner Robert Setters, Dist 3

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Commissioner Sherry Miley, Dist 4

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Commissioner Fred W. (Buck) Rigdon, Dist 5

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Commissioner C. Michael Jones, Dist 6

ATTEST:

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County Clerk