

**WORKSHOP SESSION  
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2006  
6:30 P.M.**

The scheduled Workshop Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Grady Thompson on Monday, August 7, 2006, 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 Charlotte Bedell, Commissioners Donnie Hester, John Huggins, Frankie Mathis, Buck Rigdon and Hugh Webb.

**Appointments:**

1. Brian Tankersly, County Extension Agent addressed the Board to give updates on Agricultural related things happening in the County. Attending the meeting with Mr. Tankersly was the entire Extension Staff and a large number of the Tift County 4-H Group. Mr. Tankersly recognized each 4-H Group in the areas that they had recently won competition awards in various projects and programs at the State Level. He thanked the Board for their continued support in the Extension programs. Mr. Brian Ponder was also present and discussed with the Board the Bio-Energy Project proposed for the Tift County Area in which the Extension Agency is playing a vital role. Mr. Tankersly introduced Austin Suggs, who was recently elected to the State 4-H Board. The Board was introduced to a new food product that Judy Bland and students created. They presented the Board muffins made with peanut flour.
2. Ms. Harriette Rowe was the designated spokesperson for the Tifton/Tift County Library Board and addressed the Board concerning budget cuts. The full Library Board was present along with many interested citizens from the community. Ms. Rowe gave handouts to the Commissioners concerning libraries and library funding around the state. They were asking the Commissioners for reconsideration of the budget cuts. Staff recommended that the Library Board's budget request be decreased by \$13,000 from their last year's allocation of \$328,000. The budget funded amount for FY 2007 is \$315,000. The Board advised they would take their request under advisement.

**Items discussed by the Commission for action on August 14, 2006:**

- A. **Appointment of a new Board Member to the Tifton/Tift County Library Board to replace Joan Tolla:** The County Clerk reported that two Board Applications have been received for this vacancy. Ballots will be prepared for the Regular Session for the Board's vote to fill this position.
- B. **Adopt Resolution for filing 5311 Transit Program Application of FY 2007:** This is standard procedure to be included in the Application package for DOT funding of Tift Lift.
- C. **Special Events Ordinance:** Vice Chairman Bedell felt that the Commissioners have not discussed this Ordinance enough at this time to consider adoption.
- D. **Text Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance dealing with Bed & Breakfast Establishments:** Staff is recommending the Board consider approving this amendment to be taken before the Planning and Zoning Board for consideration of approval at their August 17, 2006 meeting. Should it come back to the Board with a recommendation of approval, action will take place at the September regular meeting. There needs to be some revision to Item 12 in this amendment.
- E. **Adopt Text Amendment to the Code of Ordinance on the display of decal on mobile homes as required by State Law:** This simply changes the County's local ordinance to comply with State Law on the display of the decal for mobile homes.
- F. **Fencing at Mott-Littman Gym:** The Recreation Director solicited bids for the fencing at Mott-Littman Gym and bids were received and opened on August 2, 2006. G&M Fence Company submitted a bid of \$6,150 and Yancey Fence Company submitted a bid of \$5,030. Staff is recommending the award to the low bidder.

- G. Consideration of County Extension Budget:** Vice Chairman recommended that this item be discussed in Executive Session under OCGA 50-14-3[6], Personnel Matter.
- H. Approval of Resurfacing Bids on Carpenter Road:** Roger Dill, Consultant solicited bids for the resurfacing of Carpenter Road from Whiddon Mill Road to Highway 82. Five bids were received with the low bidder from Folsom Construction Company in the amount of \$76,842. It is Mr. Dill's recommendation to accept the low bid.
- I. Discussion of Interview dates for County Attorney Proposals:** This will be discussed in Executive Session.
- J. Georgia Indigent Defense Service Agreement:** The County Manager advised the Board that staff would like to have some more discussions with the State people before authorizing the signing of the Agreement.

The Commissioners agreed to place items B, C, D, E, F, H, and J on the Consent Agenda for the Regular Meeting on August 14, 2006.

#### **County Managers Items:**

Gave Road Report Update and LARP Projects are moving forward  
Advised bids have been let on Old Brookfield Road  
Advised the permit for Ross Road has been approved and work will begin on that road  
Roger Dill advised that the paving project on Southern Avenue and Bruce Lane had been awarded

#### **Commissioner Comments:**

Commissioner Mathis advised that he attended a meeting with CASA and the PattiCake House and was left with the impression that they do not feel they will be able to continue to serve the citizens unless the county provides some more funds. They are in dire-straits and need additional funding in the amount of \$10,000 until they can get their state funding. He stated he has been advised the city has given the \$21,000. The finance Director advised that the County funded the full amount they requested in the amount of \$7,680 in this budget. CASA was not allowed any funding because there were no funds available through the 5% monies. He was advised that we fund Ruth's Cottage in the amount of \$48,000.

Commissioner Mathis stated there needs to be three [3] additional street lights installed in various places and he will discuss this with the County Manager. He asked how restricted covenants in a subdivision were enforced. The County Manager explained that would lie in the hands of the Homeowners Association.

Commissioner Webb reminded the Board of the Omega Pepper Festival and parade on Saturday, September 9, 2006 and invited Commissioners to ride in the parade.

Vice Chairman Bedell advised of the scheduled Road Committee Meeting on Wednesday.

Commissioner Huggins presented the list of names the City of Tifton is appointing to work on a Landscape Ordinance and respectfully ask the Board to appoint the same committee. He asked for a copy of the Fire Services Budget. He stated that it has been brought to his attention that some of the volunteers are being asked to work on their own time to paint fire hydrants and such and he does not feel they should be responsible for that. When they go out on a fire call, if a fulltime fireman is called out and stay over eight [8] hours, they get paid overtime; however, the volunteers only are compensated \$8.00, no matter how long they are out. He asked the County Manager to check on this and report back to him.

#### **Public Comments:**

Donald Adcock gave a copy of a newspaper article that he would like for the Board to look at and give some consideration to concerning political elections.

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

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

Chairman Thompson adjourned the meeting.

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Chairman Grady Thompson, Dist 7

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Vice Chairman Charlotte W. Bedell, Dist 6

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Commissioner Donnie Hester, Dist 1

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Commissioner Frankie Mathis, Dist 2

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Commissioner Hugh Webb, Dist 3

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Commissioner John M. Huggins, Dist 4

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Commissioner Fred W. Buck Rigdon, Dist 5

ATTEST:

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County Clerk

**REGULAR SESSION  
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2006  
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, August 14, 2006, 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 Charlotte Bedell, and Commissioners Donnie Hester, John Huggins, Frankie Mathis, Buck Rigdon and Hugh Webb.

Chairman Thompson asked Pastor Betty Walker Lanier from Herring Memorial United Methodist Church 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.

**Executive Session:** Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins to go into Executive Session under OCGA 50-14-2(1) with the right to return to Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to close Executive Session and return to Regular Session was made by Commissioner Hester, seconded by Commissioner Huggins. Motion carried unanimously.

**Minutes:** Motion was made by Commissioner Hester approving the minutes of the July 6, 2006 Workshop Session, July 10, 2006 Regular Session, and July 20, 2006 Special Called Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Huggins. Motion carried unanimously.

**Additions to the Agenda:**

Appoint Landscape Ordinance Committee	[K]
By-Law Changes to Keep Tift Beautiful	[L]
Road name change recommendation from EMS & E911	[M]

Motion was made by Commissioner Mathis to add these items to the Agenda under the letters K, L and M seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consent Agenda:**

- B. Adopt Resolution for filing 5311 Transit Program Application for FY 2007**
- C. Table the Special Events Ordinance for Tift County**
- D. Approval for Planning and Zoning to consider Text Amendment dealing with Bed & Breakfast establishments**
- E. Adopt Text Amendment to the Code Ordinance on display of decal on mobile homes as required by State Law**
- F. Award fencing bid for Mott-Littman Gym to Yancey Fence Company in the low bid amount of \$5,030**
- H. Award Carpenter Road Resurfacing Bid to Folsom Construction in the low bid amount of \$76,842**
- I. Table setting up interview dates for County Attorney Proposals**
- J. Table the execution of the Georgia Indigent Defense Service Agreement**

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bedell to approve all items on the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

**Regular Agenda:**

- A. Appointment to Library Board to replace Joan Tolla [Applications from Carolyn Abell and Lennie Vollmer]:** The County Clerk prepared and passed out a ballot for the Commissioners vote on this appointment. After the vote, the County Clerk announced that Carolyn Abell had been elected to the Tifton/Tift County Library Board to replace Joan Tolla. Motion was made by Commissioner Mathis authorizing the County Clerk to destroy the ballots, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

**G. Motion giving direction to County Manager on the County Extension and Library Budgets:** The Board will treat this as two separate items.

**Extension Budget:** The County Manager explained that at the July meeting the Board gave direction to continue the Extension Service funding under the current application of the Memorandum of Understanding until the August meeting. Motion was made by Commissioner Rigdon to return to our former method of compensation for the Extension Service in light of the Federal Status and the signed Memorandum of Understanding, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried with Commissioner Hester voting against the motion.

Motion to approve a Budget Amendment to move the money that will cover this budget request was made by Commissioner Webb, seconded by Commission Huggins. Motion carried with Commissioner Hester voting against the motion.

**Library Budget:** The County Manager updated the Board on the budget allocation for the Library stating that last year the county budgeted \$328,000 and this year they requested \$350,000. Staff looked at four line items in the budget and felt it feasible to make some cuts in those line items based on what they spent last year. He also pointed out that a grant was obtained through Saxby Chambliss' office to purchase some books. The cut in those four line items in the budget was arrived from the figures they actually spent last year thus netting the recommendation to cut the budget \$13,000. Their budget was reduced from the requested \$350,000 to \$315,000. The staff recommendation remains the same to fund them \$315,000. The Chairman stated that some other things are being worked on for them. Commissioner Huggins made a motion to continue the Library Board Budget discussion in Executive Session under land acquisition, seconded by Commissioner Webb. Motion carried unanimously. [Refer to Library Board Budget after Executive Session at the end of the minutes].

**K. Appoint Landscape Ordinance Committee:** At the Workshop Session, Commissioner Huggins presented the names that the City of Tifton has appointed to work on the Landscape Ordinance. This will be a joint venture between the City and the County and recommended the Board appoint the same committee. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bedell to appoint the same Landscape Ordinance Committee as the City of Tifton which consists of Jonathan Jones, Harold Harper, Paul Fulwood, III, Greg Brosius, Freddie Walker, Melissa Chevers, Syd Blackmarr, Bette Turner, Colton Smith, Nola Gentry, Bonnie Sayles, Tim Strickland, and Amy Heidt, seconded by Commissioner Huggins. Motion carried unanimously.

**L. By-Law Changes to Keep Tift Beautiful:** Mr. Bert Crowe advised the Board that these are very simple changes but have been pending since January. He noted that the Mission Statement has changed. The Board expressed some concern on voting on these changes at this time because they have not had the opportunity to go over the changes. Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins to table until the September meeting, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

**M. Road Name Change recommended from EMS & E-911:** There is a road near Omega and the Worth County Line that has been very confusing for emergency response. The Road is Flat Ford Road West that turns into Powell Road, however, there is not a stop sign where the road changes which makes it confusing and then off of Powell Road, a road cuts off that has been named Flat Ford Road. It is the recommendation of the emergency response forces of Tift County that Flat Ford Road West be changed to Powell Road. The emergency departments have contacted all residents on this change. Motion was made by Commissioner Hester to rename Flat Ford Road West to Powell Road as recommended, seconded by Commissioner Webb. Motion carried unanimously. [Map with designated road name change has been made a part of these minutes marked Exhibit "A"]

There was some discussion about installing some No Fishing Signs on this bridge because several Commissioners have had requests from residents to do so. The County Manager will ask the road department to post this road accordingly.

**County Managers Items:**

Gave an update on LARP Projects

Advised that the Weather Warning Siren was installed today on South Central and stated the siren will reach about a mile in any direction

Advised that we are in the testing stage on the vital sign transmissions between EMS and Tift Regional Hospital. He stated it seems to be working great and is a very important service we are able to offer.

**Commissioner Comments:**

Commissioner Hester apologized to Commissioner Webb for making the motion so quickly on the road name change since it involved his district. He stated he was thrilled about the weather warning siren installed in his district. He inquired about the testing date and could the residents be advised of the test dates so they would not be alarmed on those days. Mr. Park stated testing of the sirens is the second Tuesday of each month. Commissioner Hester asked the Board's support in giving direction to the County Manager to set up a meeting with the city concerning water rates. There has not been any progress in equalizing the water rates and this is still at the top of his list to address with the city. He stated that if the County is going to continue working with the city on services then we must move on this issue. Commissioner Rigdon advised he will secure a date for a Water Enterprise Fund meeting. Commissioner Hester also asked that Mr. Park check on a street light on Bell and 21<sup>st</sup> Street.

Commissioner Huggins addressed the weather warning devices and stated he would like to see one put in the Brighton Community. The County Manager advised and updated the Board on the grant the County received for the reverse 911. We are looking at software packages for warning devices and a study is underway to look at all of these types of sirens we now have in place. Once that is completed, coverage will be considered as to where installation of other sirens is needed in the County. Commissioner Huggins addressed the request from the Workshop meeting from Ruth's Cottage. The Finance Director advised that the County has already, at this point, advanced funding for the first two quarters of this budget year because of a funding crisis they have. Commissioner Huggins stated that since we have the new Brookfield Fire Station up and running, he would like to see the County advertise the old station as surplus property and the money could be put in the General Fund to help with the non-budgeted funding for the Extension Budget request.

Vice Chairman Bedell advised of the Road Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday morning at 7:30.

There were no public comments.

**Executive Session:** Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins to go into Executive Session under OCGA 50-14-3(6), OCGA 50-14-2(1), & 50-14-13(4) with the right to return to Regular Session seconded by Commissioner Webb. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to close Executive Session and return to Regular Session was made by Commissioner Huggins, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

**G. Library Budget Request:** Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins to table the Library Boards' request for reconsideration of funding, seconded by Commissioner Webb. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to adjourn was made by Vice Chairman Bedell, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

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Chairman Grady Thompson, Dist 7

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Vice Chairman Charlotte W. Bedell, Dist 6

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Commissioner Donnie Hester, Dist 1

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Commissioner Frankie Mathis, Dist 2

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Commissioner Hugh Webb, Dist 3

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Commissioner John M. Huggins, Dist 4

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Commissioner Fred W. Buck Rigdon, Dist 5

ATTEST:

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County Clerk