

**WORKSHOP SESSION  
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, MAY 2, 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 Tuesday, May 2, 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.

**Executive Session:** Motion was made by Commissioner Hester to go into Executive Session under OCGA 50-14-3(6) Personnel with the right to return to Workshop Session, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**Appointments:**

1. Bert Crowe, Superintendent of Recycling and Coordinator for Keep Tift Beautiful was present to give the required annual report. He stated that Keep Tift Beautiful is working to make every event held in Tifton and Tift County litter free. They are doing continuing education and won first place in the American Legion Fair on the Educational Booth they set up. Budget update figures were given. They have just completed a comprehensive awareness campaign called "On the Right Track". The pick up figures were satisfactory, noting to date approximately 82 tons. They have markets for all the products taken in and have found some new markets for other products. All the sites have been rearranged and upgraded; all trailers have been re-worked, painted and are in operational order. Previously, we have been losing money on recycling, but presently we are about at the break even point. This year will not be a break even year because of several factors, one being the price of fuel. Last year the budget was \$450,000 with revenues predicted to be around \$400,000, so it is looking much better. It is very important that with the recycling process, we are keeping recyclables out of the landfill.

**Public Hearings scheduled for Regular Session on May 8, 2006 at 6:30 PM**

- A. ZA 06-13 Jeff Crosby has made a request to rezone approximately 12 acres from existing AU (Agriculture) to R1 (Residential) along Highway 82 East in the Vanceville area:** Jon Mendenhall, Zoning Director handed out minutes from the Planning and Zoning meeting. He advised the request of Mr. Crosby comes to the Board with a recommendation of approval from staff and the Planning and Zoning Board.
- B. SUP 06-04 Thomas Cooper has made a request for a Special Exception to relocate a pre-1976 manufactured home currently in Tift County to 36 Ansley Road:** Jon Mendenhall, Zoning director advised the Board that this mobile home was moved without permits and Mr. Cooper was informed he would need to apply for this special Exception. Vice Chairman Bedell asked Mr. Mendenhall to check on any procedure of fines for folks that move mobile homes without permits.
- C. Closing a portion of Deerfield Lane:** The County Manager explained the portion of the road the County will be closing at the request of P. D. Fulwood. It does not involve the closing of the Clearview Cul-de-sac; it has been annexed into the City and was never deeded to the County.
- D. Closing of Pearman Railroad Crossing:** The County Manager advised this is the crossing we are closing in order to get assistance from the Department of Transportation to install cross arms at the Carpenter Road Railroad Crossing.
- E. Closing of Donna Lane:** The two businesses that this Road separates has requested to close this road in order to put up a gate and guard shack to hopefully stop vandalism at the back of their properties. The County Manager advised there is a power line through there and has contacted Georgia Power to see what footage of right-of-way we need to maintain for them to have access to the power lines.
- F. Creating a Special Street Light Tax District (Sunnybrook Subdivision):** A petition was signed by the property owners to install street lights in Sunnybrook Subdivision. Once the public hearing has been held, the power company will be notified and they will

install the necessary lighting and the charges will then be added to the property owner's tax bill.

### **Items discussed by the Commission for action on May 8, 2006:**

- G. Fence Bids at the Recreation Department:** Craig Sowell, Recreation Director advised only one bid was received from G&M Fence Company of Tifton in the amount of \$9210. It is staff's recommendation to accept the bid.
- H. Adoption of Personnel Policy Manual:** The County Manager provided a summary sheet of a few changes in the manual. It has been totally revised and ready for the Board's consideration of adoption.
- I. Policy for County Resource Requests:** The County Manager and County Attorney have drawn up a draft policy for requests that comes to the County for use of County resources for the Board's consideration. Once the Board adopts a policy, the requests will be handled through this policy rather than having to come to the Board for action on each request.
- J. Appointment to the Department of Family and Children Service Board:** Mr. Perry McCranie's term on the Department of Family and Children Service Board expires on June 30, 2006. A letter has been received from the Department of Family and Children Services asking for the Board to consider reappointing Mr. McCranie for another five year term as he has expressed the desire to continue to serve.
- K. Appointment to Keep Tift Beautiful Board:** The County's present appointee has been unable to attend Board meetings due to illness. Commissioner Hester will submit a Board application form on Monday night for the Board's consideration to fill this position.
- L. Declare property as surplus located on Springhill Drive West where an abandoned well facility is currently located consisting of .152 acres:** The County Manager advised we have received a request from the adjacent property owner to purchase this small lot. There is an abandoned well facility on the property that the County no longer uses. If the Board declares it surplus, it will then need to be advertised for bids.
- M. Name Change Only for Alcohol License at Springhill Country Club:** Springhill County Club's General Manager has resigned therefore the alcohol licenses will need to be changed to the person in charge of the day to day operation. Chris Hammond serves as President of the Club and has requested the license be put in his name. He has followed the procedure of the Alcohol Ordinance and it has been approved by the Sheriff.

The Commissioners agreed to place items G, I, J, L, and M on the Consent Agenda for the Regular Meeting on May 8, 2006.

### **County Managers Items:**

- Reported that a request has come from a developer who is developing a subdivision to be allowed to build the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) house before he paves the road which is not allowed under our current Subdivision Ordinance but understands it has been allowed in the past. He requested guidance from the Board as to abide by the Ordinance or allow the developer to construct the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) house before paving. The Board instructed Mr. Park to have the developer abide by the Ordinance.
- Gave copies of the Outside Agencies Budget requests and asked the Board to review and contact him or Leigh Jordan, Finance Director with any concerns.

### **Commissioner Comments:**

Commissioner Rigdon gave compliments to Craig Sowell and the Recreation Department on how smooth the baseball season is running.

Commissioner Huggins asked the County Manager to continue pursuing the exercise equipment purchase if we have the money in the budget and to locate a place to put it at the Recreation Department. He requested the Commissioner Board have a representative come, maybe once a quarter, to give a report on the Development Authority.

Vice Chairman Bedell inquired about a traffic light at the intersection of Kent Road and New River Road. Commissioner Huggins is working on this but feels the traffic light should be at the 319 and New River Road intersection and then possibly move the caution lights to the Kent Road intersection. Vice Chairman Bedell recommended that Code Enforcement send political sign documentation to the candidates who are running so they would be in compliance with their political signage. She would also like to find out from Recycling if the signs can be recycled at

our facility. She mentioned some of the new legislation that was discussed at the Annual Conference in Savannah and would like for the County Attorney to research the new laws that were adopted and give a summary of the ones that would affect the County. Vice Chairman Bedell called for an Executive Session to discuss Real Estate and Personnel.

Commissioner Webb thanked the County Manager and County Attorney for the notification of the zoning information sent to the American Legion. He hopes this will help get the situation under control.

Commissioner Mathis recommended a street light be installed at the intersection of Tri County Road and Highway 82 East. The Board agreed to add this item to the Consent Agenda for May 8, 2006 meeting.

Commissioner Hester announced that Commissioner Mathis and Bill Park, County Manager received their Certified County Officials Certificates at the Annual Conference in Savannah last week.

**Public Comments:**

Ray Millette with Coastal Plains CASA addressed the Board concerning their budget requests and appreciates any support the Board can give them.

Donald Adcock announced his candidacy for Commission, District 3.

The County Clerk presented Vice Chairman Bedell and Animal Control Director, Regenia Wells with their NIMS Training Certificates.

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

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bedell to close Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Webb. 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, MAY 8, 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, May 8, 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 Commissioner Mathis 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.

**Minutes:** Motion was made by Commissioner Mathis approving the minutes of the April 4, 2006 Workshop Session and the April 10, 2006 Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Hearings:**

- A. ZA 06-13 Jeff Crosby has made a request to rezone approximately 12 acres from existing AU (Agriculture) to R1 (Residential) along Highway 82 East in the Vanceville area:**

Tift County Hearing Officer, Rob Reinhardt opened the public hearing and advised that this request comes to the Board with approval from both staff and Planning and Zoning.

Jeff Crosby of 4903 Woodland Court spoke in favor of his request stating he is proposing to subdivide this property into five (5) lots to build houses. The houses will have city/county water. The houses will face Old Brookfield Road.

There was no opposition. Mr. Reinhardt closed the public hearing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins to approve ZA06-13, rezoning request from Jeff Crosby, seconded by Vice Chairman Bedell. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. SUP 06-04 Thomas Cooper has made a request for a Special Exception to relocate a pre-1976 manufactured home currently in Tift County to 36 Ansley Road:**

Tift County Hearing Officer, Rob Reinhardt opened the public hearing and advised that this request comes to the Board with approval from both staff and Planning and Zoning. The Zoning Ordinance does not allow pre-1976 mobile homes to be moved into Tift County, however, this mobile home was already located in Tift County and the owner has moved it from one location to another within the County.

Thomas Cooper of 36 Ansley Road spoke in favor of his request for a Special Exception stating he has already moved the mobile home but was unaware he needed to obtain a permit. He is working with Development Support Services and doing some work on the mobile to bring it up to standard and be in compliance with the Codes.

There was no opposition. Mr. Reinhardt closed the public hearing.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bedell to grant SUP06-04, Special Exception request from Thomas Cooper, contingent upon the improvements required by Development Support Services be completed, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried. Commissioner Webb voted against the motion.

- C. Closing a portion of Deerfield Lane as requested by P.D. Fulwood:**

Tift County Hearing Officer, Rob Reinhardt opened the public hearing and explained the nature of the petition to close a portion of Deerfield Lane and Clearview Drive (Cul de sac) and it has been properly advertised in the Legal Organ of the County for the required two weeks.

P. D. Fulwood spoke in favor of his request of the closing of Deerfield Lane from Clearview Drive down to King Road which is presently not in use. The County has reserved a utility easement for the purpose of access to the utility lines.

There was no opposition. Mr. Reinhardt closed the public hearing.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bedell that the County has determined that this section of road has ceased to be used by the public and serves no substantial public purpose, declare this section of the county road system abandoned, seconded by Commissioner Huggins. Motion carried unanimously. **Legal Description has been made a part of these minutes by Exhibit "A".**

#### **D. Closing of Pearman Railroad Crossing:**

Tift County Hearing Officer, Rob Reinhardt opened the public hearing and explained the nature and proposed purpose of the closing this portion of the county road system that crosses over the railroad crossing at Pearman Road south of Carpenter Road in Chula.

No one was present to speak in favor of the closing. The County Manager reviewed with the Board that this request is to improve the safety of crossing the railroad tracks in Chula. He also reminded the Board that the County has a commitment for DOT to provide funding for the cross arms installation at the Carpenter Road crossing in the amount of \$254,000 and a \$15,000 safety incentive grant funding hinges on the closing of this crossing because it is within approximately 300 feet of the Carpenter Road crossing.

Reid Jones of 357 Cromer Road and Frank Jones of 1017 Carpenter Road spoke in opposition to the closing of this crossing mainly because there is a lot of agriculture traffic that uses this crossing. Chula Peanut and Grain is located at this crossing. It is the best crossing for them to use with peanut trailers because there is sufficient right of way and if there is heavy traffic they are able to get the vehicle and trailer completely off the road. There is not enough of room to do this at the Carpenter Road crossing and that crossing is very, very steep and presents problems with pulling the trailers across.

There were no other comments and Mr. Reinhardt closed the public hearing

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bedell to table for further investigation, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **E. Closing of Donna Lane:**

Tift County Hearing Officer, Rob Reinhardt opened the public hearing and explained the nature of the request to close this road. The two businesses that this road runs between are proposing to close the road that will enable them to install a gate to keep people from going behind their business after hours which has caused some vandalism. He advised that the County has reserved a thirty foot (30') Right of Way for utility purposes.

No one was present to speak in favor nor in opposition to the request and Mr. Reinhardt closed the public hearing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Mathis that the County has determined that this section of road has ceased to be used by the public and serves no substantial public purpose, declare this section of the county road system abandoned, seconded by Commissioner Webb. Motion carried unanimously. **Legal Description has been made a part of these minutes by Exhibit "B".**

#### **F. Creating a Special Street Light Tax District (Sunnybrook Subdivision):**

Tift County Hearing Officer, Rob Reinhardt opened the public hearing advising the Commission that the petition with the proper amount of signatures has been submitted to create a Special Street Light Tax District at Sunnybrook Subdivision in accordance with the Ordinance adopted on October 13, 1997.

There was no one present to speak in favor nor in opposition to the creation of the Special Street Light Tax District and Mr. Reinhardt closed the public hearing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Mathis that the County proceed with the creation of the Special Street Light Tax District at Sunnybrook Subdivision, seconded by Commissioner Huggins. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consent Agenda:**

- G. Award the fence bid at the Tift County Recreation Department to G & M Company in the amount of \$9210**
- I. Adopt the Policy for County Resources Requests**
- J. Re-appoint G. Perry McCranie, Jr. to the Department of Family and Children Service Board to serve another five year term expiring on June 30, 2011**
- L. Declare property located on Spring Hill Drive West consisting of .152 acres as surplus and authorize staff to proceed with advertising for bids**
- M. Approval of alcohol license for Springhill Country Club to be changed to Chris Hammond**
- N. Approve the installation of a street light at the intersection of Tri County Road and Highway 82 East**

Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins approving the items listed on the consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

**Regular Agenda:**

**H. Personnel Policy Manual:** Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins to adopt the revised Tift County Personnel Policy & Procedures Manual as presented, seconded by Commissioner Webb. Motion carried unanimously.

**K. Appointment to Keep Tift Beautiful Board:** A Board application has been received from Martha Mike indicating her interest in serving on this Board and was recommended by Commissioner Hester. Motion appointing Martha Mike to the Keep Tift Beautiful Board was made by Commissioner Hester, seconded by Commissioner Webb. Motion carried unanimously.

**County Managers Items:** Mr. Park advised the Board that he has contacted Georgia Power for a price quote on the street light to be installed at Tri County Road and Highway 82.

**Commissioner Comments:**

Commissioner Huggins reported he had a conversation with Mr. Bob Reinhardt concerning update reports from the Development Authority. Mr. Reinhardt will plan to come give an update report to the Commission Board hopefully on a semi-annual basis. Commissioner Huggins inquired about the status of the Library property. The County Attorney advised that nothing at this time is happening but will be in touch with them and give the Board an update at the next meeting. He asked the County Manager the status of the exercise equipment he had previously mentioned. Mr. Park asked for a little more time for investigation and to talk to the City to see if they can incorporate a portion of this funding in their budget and hopefully be able to utilize the exercise equipment at the Senior Citizens Building.

Commissioner Webb discussed the violation of the Noise Ordinance at the fairgrounds and if it happens again we notify them that the County will impose a fine in accordance with the law. The American Legion has also been informed of the Zoning Ordinance and the criteria under their current zoning (Wholesale Light Industrial) does not allow for private parties. Any event held at the fairgrounds shall be opened to the general public and be of public interest.

Vice Chairman Bedell asked several questions of the County Manager concerning the memos he had passed to them. She asked what he would like to know from the Commission on the County Resource Agreement Draft as well as the vehicle list. Mr. Park advised that he would like for the Commission to review the Resource Agreement and if there are any changes or issues with the way it is written to please contact him. Also, he requested the Board look very closely at the vehicle list provided to employees in certain departments and to go over the funding for the Outside Agencies and would like to have their feed back from this documentation as it related to

the budget. Commissioner Rigdon stated that since some of these request deals with compensation to employees, he would like for this to be discussed in Executive Session. Vice Chairman also mentioned the memo on the Political Sign information for the candidates who are running for office, she would like for Mr. Park to check both the Zoning and the Environmental Ordinance that relates to this.

**Public Comments:**

Betty & Bobby Hurley of 61 Hillside Drive spoke with concern about an advertisement she read in the paper concerning the railroad stating the construction of a road where railroad tracks are presently. They have some concerns because it is the area where they live. The County Staff was quite concerned and confused about this discussion but will do some further investigation. Mr. Park will be in touch with them.

Bobby Pittman of 44 Hillside Drive addressed the Board with concerns of a drainage ditch through his property stating that all the water from the School Bus Shop comes over on his property. He personally has cleaned out 686 feet of the drainage ditch. He has had Harry Doss and Kurt Seigler from the County to look at the ditch; he has had the City people come look at the ditch and neither the City nor the County will claim the ditch. He also stated that Commissioner Hester has been out to look at the ditch. He would like to know whom he needs to contact for help with this situation. The Board advised Mr. Pittman that the County Manager would take a look at it and help him solve the problems.

Ronald Nixon of 2700 South Park addressed the Board on the water rates. He stated that he had read in the paper where the City had recently adopted something to do with water and wastewater but gave no specific details. Mr. Nixon was advised that was the mechanism for the day to day operations of the water and wastewater. The County had previously adopted the Ordinance in February and the City had just realized they had not adopted the same Ordinance. Commissioner Rigdon also advised that the rate study was started and should be finished by early in June and would be brought before the Enterprise Fund Committee. Various options to rate equalization are being discussed. Commissioner Rigdon will make sure that Mr. Nixon is advised of the next water meeting.

Leonard Tubbs spoke to the Board about the noise at the fairgrounds and stated that they are not complying with the new provisions in the Ordinance. They are still hearing the music up to 2 AM and he stated he called the Sheriff's department and 911. He also stated that the tractor pull did not stop the noise within the time frame either. Commissioner Webb stated that the County Manager should issue another letter and outline the sanctions of what will happen in the future should the Ordinances be violated again and the maximum fine will be imposed.

Captain Larry Taylor with the Tift County Sheriff's Department was asked to give a report about calls and patrolling the area at the fairgrounds. Captain Taylor advised that there were extra deputies on duty at the event Saturday night and an incident report was written up. He advised that he has a copy of the letter that was issued to the American Legion concerning the violations and he assured the Board that the Sheriff's Department is doing their part. He would not have any problems with the county shutting the entire place down because there are more important issues in Tift County to handle than chasing down loud music. He stated that the situation is very dangerous in general as well as a very dangerous situation for the deputies that work the fairgrounds. There have been many times that the situation has gotten totally out of hand and the deputies are working hard to keep it under control. Another letter will be composed by the County Manager and the County Attorney outlining the sanctions of both the Noise and Zoning Ordinances.

**Executive Session:** Motion was made by Commissioner Huggins to go into Executive Session under OCGA 50-14-3(6) Personnel, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon Motion carried unanimously.

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

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

TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL CALLED SESSION  
TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2006

The Tift County Board of Commissioners met in a Special Called Meeting on Tuesday, May 23, 2006, at 6:30 PM in the Commissioner's Room of the Kent Administrative Building for the purpose of Executive Session Only under OCGA 50-14-3[6], Personnel. Chairman Grady Thompson called the meeting to order. Members of the commissioner present including the Chairman were Vice Chairman Charlotte Bedell, Commissioners Donnie Hester, Frankie Mathis, John M. Huggins, Buck Rigdon and Hugh Webb.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rigdon to go into Executive Session for the purpose of Personnel under OCGA 50-14-3[6], seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

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

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Grady Thompson, Chairman

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Charlotte W. Bedell, Vice Chairman

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Commissioner Donnie Hester

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Commissioner Frankie Mathis

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Commissioner John M. Huggins

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Commissioner Fred W. Rigdon

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Commissioner Hugh Webb

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk