

**WORKSHOP SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2009 (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, March 3, 2009, 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 Buck Rigdon and Commissioners Donnie Hester, Mike Jones, Melissa Chevers, Robert Setters and Sherry Miley.

Public Comments: None

Appointments: None

EMA Update: Scott Bowers, EMA Director gave a brief update to the Board on what has been happening in Tift County from the Emergency Management Department. He announced that Tift County is now one of Georgia's 64 counties to earn the title as a "Storm Ready Community". Mr. Bob Goree with the National Weather Service was present to speak to the Commissioners about the hard work from the EMA staff that has been put into achieving this title. "We set the bar pretty high for the Storm Ready status and your staff has done an excellent job". He stated that he is very proud to recognize Tift County with this title. Mr. Goree stated that the sirens are a piece of the puzzle that a lot of counties do not implement. Mr. Goree present the County with two "Storm Ready Community" signs to be erected in the county. This Storm Ready recognition for Tift County will be valid for three years, expiring on October 29, 2011 and can be reapplied for renewed recognition prior to the expiration date. Mr. Bowers recognized Vickie Hickman, Deputy EMA Director and commend her for her hard work and dedication to this program.

Mr. Bowers gave CERT-update, advised of upcoming events and advised of grants recently awarded. We recently received grant funds in the amount of \$8,536 through the Emergency management Agency Citizen Corps Program that has and will continue to provide training for our Community Response Teams. Ms. Hickman has taken on this project and has the volunteer/training member up from 12 to 27. Tift County also received a grant in the amount of \$53,333 which is a 25% matching grant, the county's portion is \$13, 333 and the other \$40,000 are funds from FEMA. These monies will be dedicated to the purchase of 1300 weather radios to be programmed and distributed in the county.

Public Hearings:

A. TC-ZA-08-13: N. L. Bassford, Owner; Paul Newbern Agent request for rezoning of 64.529 acres located at the North West corner of Windy Hill Road and Oak Ridge Church Road from A-U (Agricultural Use) to WLI (Wholesale Light Industrial) for various sizes of warehouses on Tift County Tax Ma[061 parcel 130: Julia Shewchuk gave the staff report stating that it comes to the Board with an approval from both staff and Planning and Zoning Board with two conditions: 1) Any site development in excess of the currently proposed 160,000 square feet and in a different location closer to the residential uses to the west shall include a minimum 100 feet wooded buffer along the west boundary of the property. 2) An amendment to the Comprehensive Plan's Future Development Map and Character Area from Transitional Suburban to Urban commercial shall be initiated by the County within 30 days from this zoning decision in order to render the zoning compliant with the Comprehensive Plan.

B. TC-SE-09-01: Derreck Gibbs, Owner; Alan Parrish, Agent/Applicant request approval for a Special Exception as a Rural Farm Homestead according to Section 9-10 of the Tift County Zoning Ordinance for a tract consisting of 1.023 acre located at 465 Jacob Gibbs Road. Property is zoned A-U (Agricultural Use) and is a portion of Tift County Tax Map 018 Parcel 011 which consists of 93 acres: Julia Shewchuk gave the staff recommendations stating this request is in compliance and is consistent with all the Special Exceptions for Rural Farm Homestead. It comes with an approval from staff and Planning and Zoning Board.

C. TC-SE- 09-02: Derrick Gibbs, Owner; Alan Parrish, Agent/Applicant request approval for a Special Exception for three (3) Rural Farm Homesteads according to Section 9-10 of the Tift County Zoning Ordinance. Property is located at 970, 978, and 982 Upper Ty Ty Road. Each of the three (3) tracts consists of one (1) acre. The property is zoned A-U (Agricultural Use) and is a portion of Tift County Tax Map 006 Parcel 028 which consist of 96.7 acres: Julia Shewchuk gave the staff recommendation and found this request to be in compliance with the Special Exception for Rural Farm Homestead and comes with a recommendation of approval from Staff and Planning and Zoning Board.

Items to be discussed for Regular Session on March 9, 2009:

D. Resolution of Support for West Haven Sr. Village Phase II Housing of Older Person Housing Complex: Joseph Carter, Agent for the Developer gave the explanation of this request. In May of 2008, the Board approved PUD-08-01 for West Haven Sr. Village, Phase I to construct an Adult Apartment Development and Commercial Retail located west of Carpenter Road south of EB Hamilton Road on 10.82 acres. The Developer is now ready to begin the application process for Phase II funding and is requesting the Resolution of Support for this Phase.

E. Resolution authorizing the Community Development Block Grant application for drainage and street improvements to Red Bird Road: Darrell Wiggins gave the staff report stating that Red Bird Road is located off Old Union Road and has 42 households of which 35 are occupied with a total of 87 people. The proposed improvements will improve the quality of life for the residents and help reduce the annual public works budget by eliminating the weekly upkeep of this road. The projected cost for drainage and paving improvement is \$628,154. Applying for the CDBG will result in grant funds of \$416,418.00 if approved with a local cash match of \$46,014 for engineering and \$165,722 local in-kind services. This project appears to be a feasible for the CDBG Application. The Resolution needs to be approved by the Board to be submitted with the grant application.

F. Request from Judge Suzanne Johnson for the purchase of finger printing equipment for firearm license: Probate Judge Suzanne Johnson came before the Board stating that the Sheriff's office is no longer willing to fingerprint the applicants for Firearm Licenses. Electronic submission of fingerprints is required for a fingerprint based criminal history record check before a firearms license can be issued. She has gotten a price from Synergistic Software for the purchase of a live scan fingerprint system in the amount of \$9,569 and is asking the Board to consider this funding so that she can fulfill her duty as Probate Judge to issue firearm license. The County Manager advised the Board that there is a system available by Cogent Systems which installs GAPS (Georgia Applicant Processing Service) and the equipment is provided free of charge, the customer provides the labor and the internet connection. He stated that the City of Tifton is currently looking into this system and before the Regular Meeting he will have more information and will have discuss the county's options for use of this system and advise the Board.

G. Request to close Dunn Loop: Jason Jordan advised the Board that Mr. Johnny Dunn has requested this short section of road be closed. He is the primary landowner on both sides of the road. The Road Department is in agreement to close this section of the road.

H. Surplus of Sheriff Department Vehicles to be transferred to the Board of Education: The County Manager advised that the Sheriff's Department has two 2003 Crown Vics they have turned over to the County and removed from their fleet. The Board of Education has asked that these vehicles be transferred to them for their use in return for a surplus school bus to be utilized by the Recreation Department.

I. Renewal Lease Agreement with Brookfield Community Club: The term for the lease agreement between Tift County and the Brookfield Community Club as for one year beginning March 2008. The original lease was for \$1.00 per month. The Board, if desires, needs to renew the lease agreement for another year.

J. Road Project request for the bid process: Jason Jordan explained to the Board that DOT contracts are being held and staff would like to recommend proceeding with projects not being considered for State funds. Multiple short road resurfacing projects county wide are in need of resurfacing. The following roads are in need of immediate attention and SPLOST dollars are currently available to resurface these roads. The Road Committee has the following recommendation for resurfacing of these roads. Sprinks Drive, Regent Road, Old Ocilla Road, Omega Eldorado Road, Cricket Drive, Coventry Way, Central Avenue, Back Forty Drive, Luke Road and Tifton Eldorado Road.

K. Road Item: Roger Dill addressed the Board concerning Carpenter Road. Due to some lapse of time on the project a part of the Environmental Engineering assessment had to be redone which put the City and County over the estimated \$35,000 by \$4,970. He is here tonight asking for the Board's consideration to approve the County's portion of this figure which is 35% amounting to \$1,739.50. This funding will come from SPLOST IV dollars.

L. Request for Outdoor Weather Sirens from Capital Outlay Funds: Scott Bowers advised the Board that money was allotted in the Capital Outlay Budget for the purchase of two new Outdoor Weather Sirens and is asking approval of this purchase. The sirens will be place at the Tift County Animal Control Shelter and at EB Hamilton Softball Complex. He has received bids for the sirens and recommends purchase from Hasty's Communications in the low bid amount of \$40,920 for both sirens.

M. A T & T Contract for Long Distance Calls: Leigh Jordan advised the Board that due to change from BellSouth to A T & T, the County needs to sign a new contract for long distance service. If the County enters into this contract with AT & T the long distance rate currently at .0494 per minute will be reduced to .0337.

N. Approval of funds for a County Morgue for use by the Corner: The County for years has been about to utilize private Funeral Homes for the storage of dead bodies. Several factors now contribute for the need to provide a permanent space for the Coroner to work from and the bodies to be stored. This expenditure was funded in the current budget in the amount of \$10,000. There are some funds left over from the recent remodeling of the Hasty's building for the Drivers License office which can be moved to help fund the remodeling of the butler building attached to the Tift County Health Department for a Morgue/Coroner's Office for the County. The total expenditure will be \$22,000.

O. Engineering Services Contract: During the budget process the Board agreed to enter into a contract for professional engineer services. Watkins and Associates has handled the bulk of work for the County and is willing to continue to do so. The County Attorney recommends that the professional relationship between Watkins Engineering and the County needs to be placed in writing so both entities understand responsibilities and expectations. He has prepared the contract for your review and will answer any questions the Board may have concerning the structure and fees in the contract.

P. Review of Board Appointment process by the County Attorney: The County Attorney asked the Board to be prepared to advise him at the Regular Meeting the direction they wish to go on the appointment process to Boards and Authorities. Once the Board has made their decision he will structure the documents to go on record and that will be the official way this Board will conduct business when appointments for Boards and Authorities arise.

Q. Award bid on the Paving of Parking Lot for Drivers License Building: Jason Jordan discussed this with the Board stating that he has bid this project. The funding was approved in the budget process that included the refurbishing of the old Hasty's Building at the Airport to house the Georgia Drivers License Office. This request is to ask the Board to award the paving of the parking lot at this building to Scruggs Company in the low bid amount of \$30,915.18.

The Board agreed to place items D, E, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, and Q on the Consent Agenda for the Regular Meeting.

County Manager Items: None

Commissioners Comments:

Commissioner Chevers inquired as to when the County Webpage would be update to current information. The County Manager advised that we are currently working on the new site and it should be up and running soon. She also requested that the Agenda for the meetings be put on the website.

Commissioner Miley thanked the County Manager for leaving his family to look at Tift County during some recent severe weather. She would like for all the bids to be included in the package for the Commissioners to review when bids are solicited for different things. She feels that the Board should make the decision and review all the bids and not just take the Department Heads word on the bidders.

Commissioner Setters would like to have an update about the Agenda being put in electronic form.

Executive Session: None

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

Chairman Grady Thompson, District 7

Vice Chairman Fred W. (Buck) Rigdon, District 5

Commissioner Donnie Hester, District 1

Commissioner Melissa Chevers, District 2

Commissioner Robert Setters, District 3

Commissioner Sherry Miley, District 4

ATTEST:

Commissioner C. Michael Jones, District 6

County Clerk