

**WORKSHOP SESSION  
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 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, January 6, 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 Donnie Hester and Commissioners Mike Jones, Melissa Chevers, Buck Rigdon, Robert Setters and Sherry Miley.

**Public Comments:** None

**Appointments:** None

**Public Hearings:**

**A. TC-SE-08-05: Ty Ty farm, LLC, James Gibbs, Agent, request approval of a Rural Farm Homestead as a Special Exception at 457 Ty Ty Whiddon Mill Road consisting of 1.45 acres. This request is allowed as a Special Exception according to Section 9-10 of the Tift County Zoning Ordinance in the A-U (Agricultural Use) Zoning district. Property is a portion of Tift County Tax Map 005 Parcel 003:** Julia Shewchuk gave the staff report. Staff has reviewed the provisions and standards relating to Special Exceptions for Rural Farm Homesteads as outlined in Section 9-10 of the Tift County Zoning Code and has determined that this application complies and is consistent with all those standards. Staff recommends approval of this requests from James Gibbs, Sr. for a Special Exception to create a substandard lot for a Rural Farm Homestead on lot 0005 003 at 457 Ty Ty Whiddon Mill Road. It comes also as an approval from the Planning and Zoning Commission.

**Items to be discussed for Regular Session on January 12, 2009:**

**B. Appointment of County Clerk:** The County Manager advised that this position is a yearly appointment made by the Board of Commissioners.

**C. Appointment of County Attorney:** The County Manager advised that this position is a yearly appointment made by the Board of Commissioners.

**D. Appointment to Development Authority Board:** The County Attorney advised that there have been four (4) Board Appointment applications turned into the County Clerk for the vacant position created as a result of the resignation of Bob Reinhardt. Those applicants are Richard Golden, Lynn Lovett, Frankie Mathis and Ronald Nixon. As customary when more than one applicant has been submitted for a position on Boards or Authorities, the County Clerk will prepare a ballot for the Board's vote to fill the position which will require four (4) affirmative votes.

**E. Adopt Authorizing Resolution for the Tift Lift Grant Application of 2010:** The County Manager reviewed this with the Board stating the 2010 Tift Lift Budget is based on 5% reduction over the 2009 budget which is \$225,226.83. DOT grant estimated to be \$97,774 and fares estimated to average \$22,000 which leave local participation for fiscal year 2010 \$105,452.83. Darrell Wiggins is now present and discussed the application with the Board and answered questions from Commissioners. Commissioner Jones wanted to know how close is the 97,774 of the grant is to what we will received and do we have numbers showing how many folks are using this service. Mr. Wiggins stated that the total amount of trips was 10,284 and that more money had been added in staff salary to get us more money. He stated that this is a Public Transit System funded by 85% Federal Funds, 5% State funds and the County makes up the difference. The Department of Transportation buys and furnishes the transit vans at no cost to the County. Commissioner Jones asked if we have number showing how many folks use this service. Mr. Wiggins will provide the Board with some more supporting documents for review. We can establish whether or not Tift Lift is a viable part of Tift County. Commissioner Miley wanted to know the overall mission of Tift Lift. Mr. Wiggins responded that it is a Public transit System funded by Federal, State and Local funds. Mr. Wiggins stated it is a very much needed service. Discussion was to educate the public a little more on the system as some people assume it is for the handicapped people only. The County is presently running two vehicles. We may look to raise the fees however when you raise fees, assistance in funding goes down. The present fee for around town is \$2.00. Commissioner Hester stated this is a win/win program.

**F. Resolution adopting the Revised Solid Waste Management Plan that includes DNR Regulations as required by the Department of Community Affairs:** The County Manager advised that the Solid Waste Management Plan has been revised to include some DNR Regulations that is required by the Department of Community Affairs to be included before approving the Plan. The Board will need to adopt the Transmittal Resolution to submit the Plan with the revisions.

**G. Renewal Contract with Baseball/Softball Academy of South GA:** Craig Sowell, Recreation Director advised the Board that this is an Agreement we entered into in 2006 as a Public/Private Partnership with Baseball/Softball Academy of South GA and is located in the back of the Second Street Gym. Both Groups have growth in this venture and the skill development of our citizens who participate has improved greatly. This is a great example of public/private partnerships to help fill a niche that we could not easily undertake on our own. There have been no problems that should prevent this agreement from being renewed.

**H. County Resource Agreement Request for the use of Mott-Littman Field & Gym for MLK Day Celebration:** The request is being presented in conjunction with the Martin Luther King Celebration

Activities planned for January 19, 2009. Tift County has historically waived fees associated with this event since it has community wide impact. This request includes waiving any and all fees associated including security requirements, rental fees, supervisory costs, concession fees with the MLK celebration activities on Mott-Litman field and Gym site located at 2425 Emerson O'bynes.

The Board agreed to place items E, G and H on the Consent Agenda for the Regular Meeting.

**County Manager Items:**

- Along with Roger Dill an update on roads was given:

The Stimulus Packages is a hot topic of discussion right now and a request has been made to send projects that are completely ready to go. They have given some strict guidelines for submitting ready to go projects and they must meet the criteria in order to be considered. The only Federal Aid Project we have the hopper right now is Salem Church Road Bridge Replacement that we are obtaining and purchasing right of way and it is ready to be let. If this package becomes a two year program we would have several others ready to submit which includes Carpenter Road, Omega Road and the South Tifton By-Pass. We have discussed many time the State Route Intersection of 520 and 319; it needs improvement because it is a dangerous intersection, we are continuing to push this and keep it going. The portion of Goff Street that is a State Aid Project is set for funding in July 2009. We just have to stay in close touch with the Department of Transportation and our legislators to be ahead of the game in order to benefit as much as possible in the available funds.

**Commissioners Comments:**

Commissioner Chevers thanked the Board for welcoming her in and she looks forward to working with each of the Board members. She state that she thought they would find that she will be a great asset to the Board and that we will work together to get some things done for our community. She thanked her family and supports for being at her first meeting and she expected them to continue coming back.

Commissioner Miley recognized guest in the audience, Brad Day and Dallas Hunt and others, glad to have you here.

Commissioner Hester wished everyone a Happy New Year. He state Tift County is in the best shape we have been in for awhile, we have enough funds to run for four months if we completely shut down tomorrow. He welcomed Commissioner Chevers. He stated that his hope are that we continue doing our (the Board) jobs in a business and professional like manner. He addressed some roads in South Tifton that need to be repaired where they have been cut when installing new sewer lines on south Central, 19<sup>th</sup> Street, 27<sup>th</sup> Street and South Park. He also announced that this month the new water rates for equalization go into effect.

Commissioners extended a "welcome" to Commissioner Chevers. He stated that he is still looking for extended hours for the collection site on Whiddon Mill Road.

Commissioner Setters welcomed Commissioner Chevers stating that he will agree with others that it is a roller coaster ride, it is a learning and growing process. Congratulated Grady and Buck on their swearing in of another 4 years in office.

**Executive Session:** Motion was made by Vice Chairman Hester to go into Executive Session for Personnel and Real Estate, seconded by Commissioner Setters. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to close Executive Session was made by Vice Chairman Hester, seconded by Commissioner Chevers. Motion carried unanimously.

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Chairman Grady Thompson, District 7

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Vice Chairman Donnie Hester, District 1

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Commissioner Frankie Mathis, District 2

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Commissioner Robert Setters, District 3

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Commissioner Sherry Miley, District 4

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Commissioner Fred W. (Buck) Rigdon, District 5

ATTEST:

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Commissioner C. Michael Jones, District 6

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County Clerk