

**WORKSHOP SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 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, April 7, 2009, 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, Mike Jones, Melissa Chevers, Robert Setters and Sherry Miley. Vice Chairman Buck Rigdon was out due to a conflict in scheduling and had a prior commitment.

The Chairman asked Brain Tankersly to open the meeting with a word of prayer in light of the recent storms the County sustained last week.

Public Comments:

Carolyn Abel, resident of Fox Hill Subdivision addressed the Board to discuss the shape of the roads in the southern part of Tift County. The roads were severely damaged due to the flooding and beavers. She stated she realizes that numerous roads have damage but wanted to bring this section to their attention. She also requested that the Board re-address beaver control in the County.

Scott Bowers gave an update of the recent storms and the damage in Tift County that was sustained from the rains and the flooding. In all we got over 14 inches of rain and have had to evacuate over 100 people. The Red Cross had to open two shelters. At this point the overtime dollar amount has risen to \$43,308 for emergency work. There has been 36 roads that have been identified that will need extensive repairs; crop damages at this point is estimated to be 12.5 million dollars and 82 residents with damage with 11 of those being classified as being completely destroyed. The GEMA and FEMA folks are still in the area working and identifying all the damages. Also through to storms the 911 Center took two heavy lightening strikes of which the total cost of the repairs has not yet been established. Mr. Bowers applauded EMA, EMS, Sheriff Department and the Road Departments for their work and dedication to the county for all they did during the storms.

Commissioner Hester also commended the entire County Staff for their work. He also stated he was out there on April 2nd in 4 feet of water trying to help people and doing his part in the rescue attempts. He stated that most of the flooding was in his District. There are a lot of low lying areas down in his District and he feels we need to look at drainage improvements in these areas. We need to help those folks down there that do not have flood insurance. GEMA & FEMA agencies are in the County are we working with them and providing them with all the information they need for the county's assessment.

Commissioner Chevers stated that she appreciated all the phone calls and the updates that Scott and the County Manager gave the entire Board through this difficult time.

Appointments:

1. The Proclamation for Child Abuse Month will be presented at the Regular Meeting.
2. Brain Tankersly was present with the Tift County 4-H delegation. Each group introduced themselves and what their roll in 4-H deals with. Their accomplishments were highlighted during the meeting. Cotton Service Announcements are a part of the Consumer Science Judging. Ethan McBrayer gave his presentation and was applauded for a job well done. The Board thanked and commended the 4-Hers and their work.

The County Manager advised that staff will be asking the Board to amend the Agenda for the Regular Meeting to include two items. Item L will be dealing with citations related to mobile homes and Item M will be dealing with emergency repairs to infrastructure.

Public Hearings:

A. TC-SE-09-04: Darick and Tamala Jones request for approval as a Special Exception to allow a Manufactured Home in R-8 (Residential) Zoning at 114 Benjamin Street. The Manufactured Home is a 14' x 70' single wide manufactured by General which is currently located at 118 Benjamin Street. Tax map T-033 Parcel 209: In the absence of Julia Shewchuk, Carl Fortson gave the nature of the request and the staff report. It comes to the Board with a recommendation of approval from staff and Planning and Zoning.

B. Closing a Portion of Dunn Loop: The County Attorney advised the Board that this procedure has been properly advertised and landowners have been notified. The required public advertisement has run in the legal organ and the required public hearing will be held at the Regular Meeting on Monday night at 6:30.

Items to be discussed for Regular Session on April 13, 2009:

C. Approval to purchase a new Incinerator: Regenia Wells gave the staff report stating that the County needs a bigger incinerator. It is more feasible to purchase a new one as opposed to the estimated cost of the repairs to the old one. The cost of a new one warrants itself in the fact that in the last six months if the

number of dogs and cats euthanized had to be disposed of at the landfill, it would be almost the cost of a new incinerator.

D. County Resource Agreement for the Love Affair Celebration: Craig Sowell gave the staff report and the recommendation. The County has been involved with this Celebration since it has existed. Eleven (11) sets of bleachers is the request for this group and they will be delivered to Fulwood Park by staff for use during the Love Affair Events.

E. Loss Control & Safety Incentive 5% Discount on the County's Insurance Premium: The County Manager advised that this is an annual Incentive Discount Program offered through ACCG-IRMA. The County has in place a Safety Coordinator and an audit will be scheduled to make sure Tift County is in compliance with all other requirements. The Chairman will need to sign the Verification Form.

F. Award Bid for Resurfacing various roads in Tift County: Jason Jordan advised the Board that the bid opening was held on April 1st after proper advertisement for bids. Staff is recommending for the Board's consideration to award the resurfacing bid to The Scruggs Company in the low bid amount of \$868,317.74.

G. Request to close a portion of Vance Road that crosses Sutton Road and extending Vance Road to tie into Christie Lane and that road name will no longer exist: Jason Jordan explained the nature of this request stating that there are currently six (6) intersections in this area and presents some problems. The Road Department recommends that there only needs to be two intersections for safety purposes. Staff is seeking permission from the Board to start the proceedings to close this section of road.

H. Three appointments to the Keep Tift Beautiful Board to fill vacancies: The County Attorney addressed this and the next two items dealing with the appointment to Boards. He advised that he had put together a process of handling appointments. The taking of applications for these Board seats will continue. What he is recommending as means of making these appointments is as follows:
The Chairman will open the floor for nominations from the applications presented.

Nominations will be received from any Board member. Once all nominations have been received, the Chairman will then close the nominations.

The Chairman will call for the votes on each person nominated after a motion and a second for that particular person. If the motion fails to receive a second then that nominee would fall from the selection. When the vote is taken, if the proper amount of votes to carry is not received then that person would not be selected due to the lack of a majority vote. The process will continue in this manner until a motion, a second and four affirmative votes have been received. The vote shall be done verbally or by a show of hands and recorded in the minutes.

If a position on a Board or Committee is available but no applications have been received for that position, the Commissioners can give names of someone that could be contacted to serve on that Board however, that person will still need to complete the application.

The Board has agreed to try this process to see how this system will work for filling vacate positions on Boards and Committees.

The County Manager then advised the three names submitted for Keep Tift Beautiful Board: Monica Shultz, James B. Carson and Leann Culbreath.

I. Appointment to the Planning and Zoning Board to fill vacancy: The County Manager advised that Joe McNair and Jonathan Garvey are the two applicants for the vacancy on this Board.

J. Chairman needs to appoint two members to the Joint Development Authority (Tift, Turner & Worth Counties): The County Attorney advised that he has discussed this Authority with Brad Day, Chamber Executive and another county has been added to this Joint Development Authority which is Cook County. Since another county has been added, Tift County now will have three positions on this Authority that will need to be appointed. Mr. Day is taking the lead role in trying to get this Authority back active so that these counties will be eligible for incentives from this authority.

K. Department of Family & Children Services Lease Renewal: The County Manager advised the Board that this is an annual renewal of this Lease, which is basically a maintenance agreement in lieu of a rental lease. The County pays the maintenance of the building throughout the year and at the end of the year calculates a monthly rental fee for the upcoming year based on the prior year's actual cost to maintain the building.

The Board agreed to place items C, D, E, F and K on the Consent Agenda for the Regular Meeting.

County Manager Items:

- The County Manager asked the Board to consider the amending of the Agenda for the Regular Meeting on April 13 to add the following two items:
Allowing Tax Assessor's Office to issue citations related to mobile homes. He will be giving further details at the Regular Meeting
Emergency Repairs to infrastructure. He gave out a handout where Governor Perdue declares State of Emergency for six counties. We, here in Tift County have several roads that are impassible. We will discuss at the Regular Meeting some emergency procedures so that we might be able to move forward with some of these severely damaged roads in Tift County. The Board agreed to allow the Special Projects Manager to proceed with getting prices for repairs to these roads under the emergency provision as provide in OCGA as opposed to the bidding system.
- He advised that he needs a short Executive Session for legal and real estate

Commissioners Comments:

Commissioner Miley stated that we have a lot of dirt roads in the county that are closed from the recent floods and she would also like priority attention on these roads to get them back open. These roads are as important as paved one. She also extended a special thanks to the Sheriff's Department for sitting in on the Commission Meetings.

Commissioner Chevers discussed some phone calls that she has received on roads and ditches that need to be cleaned. The special project manager will get these on the cleanup schedule. The streets are Cole, Pecan, 4th Avenue and Benjamin. We need to let these residents know that when they clean their yards they cannot put the debris in the ditches and that you cannot burn in the ditches. We do have language in code Enforcement that addresses these issues. She also mentioned that she had received a call from Mr. Sinai Church in Eldorado requesting a slow sign be installed at the curve. This church is on State Highway 41 South and that would come through the Department of Transportation.

Commissioner Hester has a citizen from his District in the audience and he has talked to him about his concerns about the ditch that is behind his house. He was advised that GEMA will also take a look at the situation. Once the Declaration has been made and signed by the President, FEMA will open up an office here in Tifton to assist folks with financial aid.

Executive Session: Motion was made by Commissioner Hester to go into Executive Session for personnel, legal and real estate, seconded by Commissioner Setters. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Chairman Grady Thompson, District 7

(absent)
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