The scheduled Workshop Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Grady Thompson on Tuesday, March 8, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners’ Meeting Room of the Administrative Building. Members of the Commission present including Chairman Thompson were Vice Chairman Robert Setters and Commissioners Buck Rigdon, Sherry Miley, Melissa Chevers, Donnie Hester and Mike Jones.

Public Comments: None

Appointments:
1. Skip Hill and Carla Hall were present to give update on the Wellness Program. Mr. Hill explained to the Board the results of and how the Wellness Program worked and was conducted. There were 228 employees that participated in the program. There was approximately $44,900 budgeted for the program and at this point there has been about $37,700 paid out in expenses with about 2 months left in this budget. Mr. Hill stated that he would like to form a Wellness Committee, survey has been given to employees to see some of the things they would be interested in participating in and some items for the Board to consider going forward.

Public Hearings: None

A. TC-SE-11-01: Petition by Billy J. Sandifer for a Special Exception to create one (1) Substandard lot for a Rural Farm Homestead on part of Lot 0080-085 located at 1074 Jacob Hall Road: Todd Miller was present to give the report on this request. Staff has reviewed the provisions and standards relating to Special Exceptions for Rural Farm Homesteads as outlined in the Zoning Code and has determined that this application complies and is consistent with those standards and recommends approval with the condition that the following variance be granted (1) a 4’ foot variance from the required 70 foot front yard setback requirement.

Items to be discussed for Regular Session on March 14, 2011:

B. County Resource Agreement for Art’s In Black Community Festival at Fulwood Park on March 26: Craig Sowell, Recreation Director advised the Board this is an Annual Event and they are requesting the same services the County has always provided which is bleachers, tables and chairs.

C. Community Health Fair with Tift Regional Medical Center: Craig Sowell, Recreation Director advised the Board that this event has been put together with Tift Regional Hospital, County Departments, Community Partners and assisted by Commissioner Chevers. The plan is to hold a Community Health Fair slated for May 7, 2011 from 7:30 AM to 12 Noon at Mott-Litman Gym and Field. Areas that are being coordinated for this event are screenings for Heart Disease, HIV/AIDS, Blood Pressure, Cholesterol, Obesity, Smoking Risks, Diabetes/Blood Sugar, Nutrition, Breast Self Examination and a potential Blood Drive and collection site. We are trying to stimulate and assist in order to help produce and inform the public with health and wellness to create healthier environments. This event will also help showcase our new walking track at the park.

D. Resolution/Tift County Application for FY 2012 for Tift Lift: The County Manager advised the Board that this is the yearly application process to operate Tift Lift. A Resolution will need to be adopted to be sent with the application. The application will request $181,715 in stated and federal funds to assist the Tift Lift Transit Programs broken down as follows: $103,145 or 50% of the fiscal 2012 operating budget of $206,291 and $78,570 or 90% of the 87,300 Capital Improvements Expense.

E. Appointments to the Dangerous Dog Board: Regenia Wells, Animal Control Director requested the Board’s consideration of adopting the following 4 member to the Dangerous Dog Board Committee. Currently we only have two members, Doris Yancey and Willie Gainer. This Committee is established to review bite cases in Tift County and it would required a three person committee. New Members for consideration are Patty Beasley, Nancy Joseph, Heath Barry and Steve Wood.

F. Beer License for Holiday Mart located at 4468 Hwy 319 – New Ownership: The County Clerk that this beer license application is for the new ownership at the Holiday Mart located at 4468 Highway 319. The applicant’s Criminal History and Fingerprints have been run and is submitted for the Board’s review. The application has been processed and meets the Ordinance qualifications. The County Attorney addressed the Board on some issues of concern in the Ordinance and that going forward we need to make some changes in the Ordinance and that he will be looking up some law on the issues and submit a recommendation to the Board. However, as the Ordinance presently reads, this application meets the requirements. The Sheriff has no objections under the current Ordinance to approve the license.

G. Cool Decking at the Recreation Pool – SPLOST IV Funding: Jason Jordan advised the Board the cool decking that is in place at the Recreation Pool has started coming up due to age and needs to be repaired. Cool
decking prevents swimmers from slipping and controls the heat while walking around the pool. He is getting quotes from several pool professionals and will have those available at the Regular Session. The cost can be funded from SPLOST IV.

H. Air Conditioner at the Mental Health Facility: Jason Jordan advised that the system has had problems since it was installed about 14 years ago. We are proposing a new method of cooling the building by using a water chiller. Commissioner Setters has helped staff by putting us in touch with companies that sell and/or manufacture this type of system. We are only doing the cooling side of the unit as the heating side is still functioning properly. He is getting quotes and will have those available at the Regular Session for the Board’s consideration. The cost of the replacement of the cooling system can be paid from SPLOST III.

I. Recommendation from the Road Committee/ Two Bridges on Ferry Lake Road: Jason Jordan advised that as a recommendation from the Road Committee, staff is requesting consideration of approval to proceed with the engineering for the replacement of the two bridges on Ferry Lake Road and submit to the Georgia Department of Transportation for 2012 LMIG funding. We will be eligible for around $370,000 from the LMIG funding through GDOT and there are also some SPLOST IV funds available for this project.

J. Brookfield Community Center Lease Agreement: The County Manager advised the term for the Lease Agreement between Tift County and the Brookfield Community Club was for one (1) year beginning in March of 2008 and has been renewed yearly since. The Board needs to consider the renewal of this lease which is for $1.00 per month.

County Manager Items:
- The County Manager asked for the Board’s consideration to add the following two items to the Regular Agenda:
  - Grant Application for the 2011 CDBG Grant in the amount of $500,000 to assist with drainage, paving and sewer system expansion improvements for T. C. Gordon Road Project.
  - Full Depth Reclamation on 5 Roads that the City has upgraded the water and sewer on and plans to resurface them. Staff is requesting to be allowed to ask the City to include the full depth reclamation of these roads in their project and the County will reimburse for the cost of this.
- He advised that staff will be taking down the two oak trees in the front parking lot and one in the back parking lot because they show significant signs of decay. Mr. Joseph LaForest with the University of Georgia and a Chair of the Tift/Tift County Tree Board has been asked to look at the trees and render an opinion. In an official notification his recommendation is to remove the trees from the grounds of the Administration Building.