The scheduled Workshop Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Grady Thompson on Tuesday, June 6, 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:

Marianna Keesee, spokesperson for the Library Board was present to ask for the Board’s consideration of adding the contents of the Library back to the County’s policy. It was explained that in 2008, ACCG requested a re-evaluation of all county properties for insurance purposes. At that time the Library was under renovations and the Library and its contents were being housed in the old Wal-Mart building. When the Library was re-evaluated there were no contents in the building and was omitted from the insurance policy. Since that time the renovations of the Library have been completed and they now are operating back in the original building however the contents of the Library has not been covered by insurance since the end of 2008. The cost to have the contents covered would add approximately $1900 to the County’s policy. The County Clerk advised that she wanted to make it clear that the Commissioners did not intentionally drop the insurance on the contents. It was simply an oversight at the time the re-evaluation was conducted. Several Commissioners questioned why the county should bear the burden of expense on something that does not belong to them, the contents are the property of the Library Board of Trustees. It was explained that the County does pay for the insurance premium on the building as a part of the Library budget funds. Commissioner Jones questioned from a legal standpoint how we could issue something that does not belong to us. It was stated by Lamar Howell, Chief Finance Officer for the Library that the insurance rates given to the county are much cheaper than those that the Library Board itself would be able to get. After further discussion it was agreed that staff would look at the situation and discuss it further with members from the Library Board and give the Board a staff recommendation within the next few days. It is believed that this issue can be handled through the budget issues and the County continuing to pay the insurance for the building itself if the Library can agree to pay the premium for the contents can add that back to the policy.

Appointments:

Roger Dill was present to give the Board an update on the status of Carpenter Road Project giving the estimated amount of the total cost, the estimated remaining costs and estimated costs remaining of 35% to Tift County and 65% to the Tift County Development Authority. The project now has a proposed let date of July 2012.

David Sheppard had requested to address the Board concerning a mobile home penalty on his tax bill but was not present for the meeting. The County Clerk has done some minute research and provided the County Manager and the County Attorney with the documents that has also been discussed with the Tax Commissioner. The County Manager will also address this issue with Mr. Sheppard.

Public Hearings:

A. TC-SE-11-05: Petition by Lashonda Horton for a Special Exception to locate a Manufactured Home in the R-8 Zoning District at 2911 3rd Avenue on Parcel T047-111: Sherry Davidson was present to give the staff report and the recommendation from Planning & Zoning. Staff has reviewed the petition and determined that it is in compliance with the Standards for the Exercise of Zoning Powers and the Standards for Special Exceptions. Staff recommends approval and it comes with a recommendation of approval from Planning & Zoning Board.

B. TC-ZA-11-01: Petition by Laverne Patricia Melton for a change in Zoning from WLI (Wholesale Light Industrial) to GB (General Business) for a funeral home use on .74 acres on Parcels T060-44 and T-060-45 at 2909 U S Highway 41 South: Sherry Davidson was present to give the staff report and the recommendation from Planning and Zoning. It is currently a vacant lot and the utility services are in place on the property. The property is located very close to the airport but has the clearance from the Airport Authority with no objections for the proposed use. Staff has reviewed the petition and determined that it is in compliance with the Standards for the Exercise of Zoning Powers. Staff recommends approval and it comes with an approval from Planning and Zoning Board.

Items to be discussed for Regular Session on June 13, 2011:

C. Moratorium on Issuing Alcohol License (Tabled from April Meeting): The County Attorney advised the Board that he is attempting to clean up a few items within the Alcohol Ordinance but there are still a few minor things to complete. He will be asking for the Board to table this issue until the July Meeting at which time he plans to have the Ordinance changes completed.
D. Renewal of FDA (Food & Drug Administration) Lease (Tabled from May Meeting): The County Attorney advised the Board that this Lease has been reviewed and revised and the new document will be ready for the Board’s consideration at the Regular Meeting. The original lease has been generated since 1994 and is a 65 page document that needs to be cut down with several items that needs to be revisited.

E. Honorary Road Name Change (Tabled from May Meeting): Commissioner Hester advised that the citizens that made this request has not gotten back with him with regard to the fee for the sign and will be asking the Board to remove this item from the Agenda until further notice.

F. Tift County Animal Disaster Plan: Regenia Wells advised the Board on the request for this Animal Disaster Plan is an addendum to the Tift County Emergency Operations Plan. The plan specifically addresses the care and housing of pets during a disaster and there are two disaster shelters set up; one on Carpenter Road and one at the Fairgrounds.

G. Award Road Department Truck Bid: The Board was advised that the Road Department had solicited bids for the purchase of a used Low Boy Truck. This will replace the current one that the County now has which is a 1990 F8300 International with high mileage and is in bad shape. Three request for sealed bids were sent out with only one vendor responding which was Yancey Truck Center. Their bid was a 2007 Conventional Day Cab Tractor, International Model 9400 in the amount of $66,800. Staff recommends accepting this bid.

H. Utility Vehicle Bid: Craig Sowell advised the Board that bids will be opened on Monday, June 6th to replace one of three worn out utility vehicles at the Recreation Department. This vehicle will primarily serve Friendly City Park and be utilized by maintenance staff on a daily basis. This is a heavier duty machine that has a clutch and transmission. Centrifugal clutch belt driven vehicles will not work for this piece of machinery. It will be used to haul and pull trailers, trash and other heavy objects around the park for daily maintenance operations. We will attempt to replace the other machines as funds become available. Four bids were received and staff is recommending the bid form Golf Ventures in the amount of $18,519 which is not the low bid however it is the best machine that meets the specifications and will do the job. The other bids were from Jerry Pate Turf at $16,542; Off Road Power Sports at $12,244 and Perrin Farm Equipment at $11,200. Several Commissioners discussed the Kubota vehicle bid by Perrin Farm Equipment which is the local vendor and was concerned because it was the recommendation of staff to purchase the machine from the high bidder if the Kubota would meet the specifications however after much discussion the Board agreed to put this item on the consent agenda for the purchase as recommended by staff even though it was the high bid.

I. E. B. Hamilton Football Storage Facility: Jason Jordan advised the Board that bids were solicited for a Football Storage Facility at E. B. Hamilton Complex and bids were opened on June 7th. The low bid was from Jones Construction Company in the amount of $173,500 and it is staff’s recommendation to accept this bid. The funding will come from SPLOST II and SPLOST IV. The contractor will have the facility completed before football season begins.

J. Right-of-Way Street Acceptance: Jason Jordan reported that Walter Stephens would like to deed two (2) roads and right of way to the County. Mr. Stephens was first advised that the roads did not meet the County Standards and he then took the steps to bring the roads up to the standards. Staff has inspected the work as it was being preformed and is confident that they meet the current County Standards and recommends the acceptance of these two roads which are Hunter’s Wood and Noah’s Way off Brighton Road.

K. Covered Parking Dock at Animal Shelter: Jason Jordan reported to the Board that this covered parking dock will give the Animal Control Officers the ability to unload animals and clean trucks during inclement weather conditions. Three bids were received and staff recommends the lowest bid by Excelsior Buildings in the amount of $7750. The other bids were $10,600 and $12,475. Funding will come from SPLOST IV.

L. Return to current owner Right-of-Way that was never used by the County: The Board was advised that there is a small piece of land (0.13 acres) that was deeded to the County as right of way several years ago intended to connect Southbrook Drive to Emerson O’Bynes Avenue however, for some reason it was never connected. Staff recommends returning the right of way back to the current owner. Mrs. Mary Young Morrow owns two (2) lots north and one lot west of the property and her intentions are to fence in the property and clean it up.

M. Resurfacing of 5,699 Square Yards of West Golden Road: Jason Jordan advised that this project is considered a Road Project and must be publicly advertised for bids. Because it was such a small job, bids were solicited without advertisement in error so staff is requesting the Board to table this issue until the July meeting. The section of West Golden Road had severe base failures and was repaired by County staff and now needs to be resurfaced.

N. Curb-Gutter and Sidewalk Project on MLK Drive: This project also has to be advertised for bids because curb-gutter and sidewalks are considered Road Projects and must be publicly advertised for bids. Staff is requesting the Board to table this issue until the July meeting. This project will connect the curb-gutter and sidewalk between Hughes Avenue and Emerson O’Bynes Avenue and this is the only section that does not have this on MLK Drive. It will provide a safer environment for children walking to J. T. Reddick School along with other citizens.
O. Microsoft Software License: Al Stephenson reported about the Tift County Local Area Network stating it is comprised of 175 workstations and 15 servers running a wide range of applications. The primary software vendor for providing these services is Microsoft. Microsoft licensing policy requires that each workstation and server have a unique license for each software package and operating system installed on these devices. A recent internal audit reveals that Tift County is grossly under licensed for these products and that many of the existing licenses are OEM licenses which are non-transferable from one device to another. In order for Tift County to remain in compliance with Microsoft licensing policy and to avoid huge fines should we be audited by BSA, licensing must be obtained for each server and workstation. Staff recommends Tift County enter into a Microsoft Enterprise Agreement with Microsoft to cover all existing workstations and servers and will bring the County into compliance. This agreement will also allow Tift County to upgrade to all future releases of operating system and desktop publishing software for the next three (3) years resulting in a long term savings for the County. This expenditure can be paid for from SPLOST IV funding at a rate of $50,320.95 annually for the next three (3) years.

P. Appointment to the Athletic Advisory Committee: Craig Sowell advised that the Athletic Advisory committee met on May 23rd and discussed vacancies recently filled and expiring terms of other members. Recommendation from this Committee is to reappoint Steve Hyman, Raymond Teal, Crystal Craft and Mitch Williams with these individuals term expiring May 2014. At your last meeting the Commissioners appointed Lori Gunn Baker however, it has been discovered that she had moved unexpectedly and would not be able to fulfill her appointment. The Committee then nominated Curtis Richards to fill this seat. If the Board so chooses to go with the recommendation to appoint Mr. Richards, his term would fill the unexpired three year term and end in May 2013.

County Manager Items:

- The County Clerk reminded the Board of the District 11 Meeting to be held on June 24th from 9:30 to 1PM in Atkinson County and reminded the Board to mark their calendars for the called Public Hearing for the Budget scheduled for June 20th at 6 PM and the called meeting to adopt the Budget schedule for June 27th at 6PM
- The County Manager advised the Board that there needs to be a meeting of all the local governmental entities since many of the Interlocal Agreements has been dissolved and in order to stay in compliance with the Service Delivery Strategy Plan, documents need to be signed by all entities and sent in to DCA. He will look at some dates with other groups and email several dates to choose from in the next week.

Commissioners Comments:

Commissioner Hester discussed some phone calls that he has received from residents that live on Ellis Bryan Road concerning moving mailboxes to the opposite side of the road. The County Manager and County Attorney advised that if they had been asked to move the mailboxes by the Postal System, that is a Federal matter and they should contact the Post Master.

Executive Session: Motion to go into Executive Session for personnel was made by Commissioner Hester, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

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