REGULAR SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2011 (6:00 P.M.)

The scheduled Regular Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman on Monday, September 12, 2011, at 6:00 P.M. in the Commissioner’s Meeting Room of the Administrative Building. Member of the commission present including Chairman Thompson were Vice Chairman Robert Setters and Commissioners Buck Rigdon, Donnie Hester, Melissa Chevers, Sherry Miley and Mike Jones.

Chairman Thompson asked Rev. Chess Smith to give the invocation followed by the pledge to the flag.

Minutes: Motion approving the minutes of August 2, 2011 Workshop Session; August 8, 2011 Regular Session was made by Commissioner Hester, seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

Addition to Agenda:

Appoint a Voting Delegate for the 2011 Legislative Conference to be held in Atlanta in October

Motion to make this addition to the Agenda under the letter (H) was made by Commissioner Hester, seconded by Commissioner Jones. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments:

Donnie Connell, 4814 Forest Lakes Drive addressed the Board on behalf of a group of residents from Forest Lakes Subdivision to ask for favorable consideration to help with the entrance way to Forest Lakes Subdivision because they believe it is a dangerous intersection. Mr. John Ellis and Dr. Ches Smith were also present and addressed the Board regarding the safety of the intersection. The intersection of Mount Olive Church Road, Sutton Road and Forest Lake Drive which is the primary entrance into the subdivision. The subdivision to present date has 166 residences and there have been several serious accidents. The more the traffic increase in the area, the more dangerous this intersection gets. Mr. Connell stated that there are several reasons why the intersection has become more dangerous which included roads being paved, the high school being moved closer to this area and people coming to Tift Regional Medical Center and the overall growth of north Tift County. This area is in Commissioner Miley’s District and she stated she is very familiar with the problem out there and asked if the group has any idea as to what kind of change they are wanting. She stated that she believes that Sutton Road has become a cut through road and the traffic is getting heavier in the area. Mr. Connell stated that there is vacant property that could be used to put an entrance perpendicular to Sutton road instead of coming in at an intersection and there is right of way further east of Olive Church Road that could be used for an entrance. Some of the residents have talked with the owner of the subdivision, Chip Morris and he has given his blessing on any improvement to the entrance. He could not be at the meeting tonight because he was out of town but is aware that they have approach the Board with the situation. The County Manager said that staff needs to take a good hard look at the situation as to the standards and rules and to see what is feasible. We want to try to fix it if we can but we have to first look at what possibilities we have to work with. The group gave the Board a hand out stating their request and some ideas of possible solution along with an aerial photo of the area. Each gave Mr. Carter their contact information. Staff will begin looking and studying this to see what the County can come up with to help them.

Informational items for Discussion Only:

The County Manager advised the Board that a Public Information Meeting has been set up for public review of the proposed redistricting maps. This meeting will be for informational purposes only and both the Tift County Board of Commissioners and the Board of Education Board Members need to be present throughout the meeting. The RDC will be present to help answer any questions the public may have. This meeting is set up and advertised for October 6, 2011 from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM and will be held at the Chamber of Commerce Civic Room. The present plan after this meeting then is to place the map of choice to be adopted on the November
Agenda to be adopted on November 14, 2011. This will then give us time to get all documentation ready to send to the State for approval.

PUBLIC HEARING:

A. TC-ZA-11-02: Petition by Paul & Peggy Akins: Carlton Fleming & GEMHP; and Bruce Warrant, Agent for a Change in Zoning form RP (Residential/Professional) Zoning District to GA (General Business) Zoning district to locate a Recreational Vehicle Campground on 6.65 acres on Parcel T016-01 at 1210 Whiddon Mill Road and 2.00 acres on Parcel T016-003B: Julia Shewchuk gave the presentation of this request same as was stated in the Workshop Session and stated that it comes to the Board from Planning and Zoning with a recommendation of approval with the two stipulated conditions.

The County Manager declared the Public Hearing open sighting the posting on the wall as it relates to the Exercise of Zoning Powers and Conflict of Interest posting. No one declared a Conflict of Interest.

Brother Fleming 73 Eagle Drive spoke on behalf of the request and asked the Board to favorable consider the rezoning of the property. He also advised that the proposed Recreational vehicle Campground is in the planning stages with much other work to be completed once the rezoning is in place.

Commissioner Jones stated that a concern of his is the congestion on Whiddon Mill Road and wants to make sure that the applicant understands there are concerns there.

Commissioner Miley stated that her concern is the limited sight coming over the bridge over I-75 and having to make a left hand turn. There is a turn lane to the right but not to the left on that road at this area.

There was no opposition and no further comments. The County Manager closed the Public Hearing.

Motion to approve TC-ZA-11-02, rezoning request by Paul and Peggy Akins was made by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Miley. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

C. Motion to award the paving contract for Wood Duck Way, Drake Lane and a Portion of Jacob Hall road to Littlefield Construction in the low bid amount of $128,641.80 to be funded from SPLOST IV

D. Motion to award the 24 Bridge and Culvert Repair Project Contract to Southern Concrete in the bid amount of $649,200 to be funded from SPLOST IV

E. Motion to approve the Amendment to the Technical Standards Manual: Section 6.1 page 22, Section 6.7 page 23 referencing Stormwater Design Standards and Specifications and Section 6.24.3 page 33 to be deleted from the Manual

F. Motion authorizing approval to start the process of demolition of dilapidated County owned buildings as presented to the Board of September 6, 2011 to make way for the approved Parking Lot that was designated in SPLOST III

G. Motion to surplus a 2001 Ford E450 Ambulance – VIN 6087 and a 2002 Ford E450 Ambulance – VIN 9175 and designate one to the City of omega to be donated to their volunteer Fire Department to be used as a First Responder Vehicle and one to Moultrie Technical College to be used for training purposes with the EMT Program

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda, Items C, D, E, F, and G was made by Commissioner Hester, seconded by Commissioner Chevers. Motion carried with a 5 to 1 vote. Commissioner Jones voted against the motion.

REGULAR AGENDA:
B. Appointment to the Behavioral Health & Development Disabilities Board: Motion was made by Commissioner Hester to remove this item from the Agenda until further notice, seconded by Commissioner Miley. Motion carried unanimously.

H. Appoint a Voting Delegate for the 2011 Legislative Conference to be held in Atlanta in October. Motion was made by Commissioner Miley to appoint Grady Thompson as the Voting Delegate for Tift County for the 2011 Legislative Conference, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

County Manager Items:

- Advised the Board that he has been approached by David Nelson with Plantnet about a TV Show called Your Government At Work and would like to start filming the Board of Commissioner’s Meetings which will later air on a public access channel. This will be brought up before you at a later date as an Agenda Item in which the Board will need to make this decision

Commissioners Items:

Commissioner Chevers advised that a Ribbon Cutting has been planned for Friday, October 7th for Copeland Park at 5:30 PM. She also thanked staff for the sidewalk work on MLK Drive; it is coming along very well.

Chairman Thompson asked the Commissioners to mark October 12th on their calendars for an event to be held at the Tifton Conference Center called Celebrate Rural Georgia. He also stated that the Governor will be in town for this event.

Executive Session: None

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

Chairman Grady Thompson, District 7

Vice Chairman Robert Setters, District 3

Commissioner Donnie Hester, District 1

Commissioner Melissa Chevers, District 2

Commissioner Sherry Miley, Dist. 4

Commissioner F. W. (Buck) Rigdon, District 5

Commissioner C. Michael Jones, District 6

Attest: Glynda Hemby, County Clerk

9/12/2011