

**WORKSHOP SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, January 7, 2014 (6:00 p.m.)**

The scheduled Workshop Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Grady Thompson on Tuesday, January 7, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room of the Administrative Building. Members of the Commission present including Chairman Thompson were Vice Chairman Miley and Commissioners Robert Setters, Mike Jones, Donnie Hester, Buck Rigdon and Melissa Chevers/

Public Comments: None

Appointments:

1. **Dr. Greg Fonsah** was present and addressed the Board concerning an upcoming Gala & Fundraiser Event in Tifton and Tift County in July. Dr. Fonsah is a native of South Africa and serves as the Crown Chief of his village. Each year they hold a National Convention. They have been all over in the big cities however this year his group has told him that they want to come to where he lives, here in the City of Tifton, Georgia. He has been and is associated with so many wonderful people in Tifton and has began talking about this with many and a committee has been formed to assist him in bring this Convention here. Commissioner Melissa Chevers has graciously accepted to chair the committee. This will be a big boost for the community and tourism. The dated for the event will July 18 through 20. On Saturday, July 19th they will have an International Soccer Team coming. The event will promote African Culture and a Taste of Africa. He invited all to attend and be involved and asked that a Welcome Speech be given from the Board Members. The Gala Funds raised will be going toward education of children of South Africa.

2. **Kim Brownlee** had asked to address the Board however it was concerning the rezoning issue and was advised prior to the meeting that her comments would need to be expressed at the Regular Session during the Public Hearing process.

Public Hearings:

A. TC-ZA-13-02: Request by Anna Jensen Massey to rezone 13.271 acres located at the Southeastern Quadrant of the Intersection of State Route Hwy 125 North and Brighton road from Community Commercial (CC) and Agricultural (AG) to General Business (GB) to construct a 10,000 square foot Grocery/Convenience Store and a 20,000 square foot building for Agricultural Equipment Sales and Storage D/B/A Aimtrac. The property is a portion of Tift County Tax Map 057 Parcel 038.

Todd Miller with Southern Regional Commission was present to give the staff view and recommendation of the rezoning request. Staff has reviewed the application and brought it before the Planning and Zoning Board and found it not consistent with the Tift County Comprehensive Plan and was denied by a 3 to 1 vote. Staff has reviewed the petition and determined that it is not in compliance with the Standards for the Exercise of Zoning Powers and recommends denial of the rezoning application.

In the further discussion of this application Commissioners Jones, Miley and Setters had several questions which were answered to their satisfaction. It was asked if the proposed Round-A-Bout that the DOT is considering out that way play a part in the decision in this issue. It was not really an issued because it is very long range plans for the DOT. The official public hearing has been advertised and will be held at the Regular Meeting on Monday.

Items to be discussed for Regular Session on January 13, 2014:

B. Appointment of County Attorney: The County Manager advised that this is an annual appointment.

C. Appointment of County Clerk: The County Manager advised that this is an annual appointment.

D. Appointment to Southern Regional Commission to replace Ronald Nixon: The County Clerk reminded the Board that Mr. Nixon has resigned from the Southern Regional Commission. An application for this seat consideration has been received from Brian Marlowe.

E. New EOC/911 Concept: Jason Jones, E-911 Director, addressed the Board and advised that a set of plans for the new EOC/911 Building has been provided for the Board. The concepts must be reviewed and approved by the Board prior to bid solicitation. It will then be sent out for bids for a Construction Manager. The Architect will send these out and will set up a selection schedule. County staff will be using the same concept with this process that was used with the Road Department Facility.

F. Motorola Radio System Change Order: Jason Jones, E-911 Director advised the Board that Motorola has agreed to provide dispatching furniture to Tift county for a reduced price of \$138,574 but in order to take advantage of the price reduction the equipment must be purchased as part of the radio system. There will need

to be an approved change order in that contract however, the furniture will not be financed as the radio system is through B B & T; the furniture will be paid from the EOC SPLOST Funds that has been allocated for the building. Staff recommends approval. The Commissioners had several questions about the issue and inquired if prices had been received from other companies that furnish this type of furniture. This is the most efficient furniture manufactured by a company that deals strictly in providing E-911 stations and equipment. Per the drawings attached, dispatch Consoles DP1 through DP9 was quoted at \$262,871. The company offered a State Contract discount of \$40,297 and a Large System Project discount in the amount of \$84,000 which brought the price down to \$138,574 if purchased as a Change Order to the Motorola P25/E-911 upgrade contract #13-102274 during the system implementation. This price included delivery and installation of the consoles and equipment.

G. Set Qualifying Fees for 2014 Election: Mike Walker advised that it is the responsibility of the Commissioners to set and adopt the Qualifying Fees for the upcoming elections in 2014. The fees are based on a set 3% of the salary of the elected official and must be adopted and published in the County's legal organ on or before February 1st.

H. Forest Lakes Water System: The County Manager and Attorney gave this history and an overview of the Forest Lakes Water System. It appears that when Leonard Morris was putting in the private water system at Forest Lakes the EPD required a Trust Deed to assure the continuity of operations of that water system and under that Trust Deed if Morris failed to operate and manage the water system properly the County could take immediate possession to operate and maintain the system. The Trust Deed was entered into between Tift County and Leonard Morris in November 1984 and thereafter the City of Tifton purchased the water system for \$100,000 in a meeting on July 27, 1992 and took over the management of the system. The Trust Deed specifically states that trustee which is Tift County shall hold title until the system is taken over by another governmental authority thus this matter should have been handled at the time the City of Tifton made the purchase but was not. Staff recommends that the Board vote to have the County Attorney quitclaim the system directly to the City of Tifton since they are in control of they are in control of the system and have managed it for 20 years.

County Manager Comments:

Commissioner's Comments: None

Executive Session: None

Chairman Thompson adjourned the meeting.

Chairman Grady Thompson, District 7

Vice Chairman Sherry Miley, District 4

Commissioner Donnie Hester, District 1

Commissioner Melissa Chevers, District 2

Commissioner Robert Setters, District 3

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

ATTEST:

Commissioner C. Michael Jones, District 6

County Clerk 1/7/2014