

**WORKSHOP SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, November 3, 2015 (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, November 3, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room of the Administrative Building. Members of the Commission present were Vice Chairman Hester and Commissioners Robert Setters, Greg Wood, Buck Rigdon, Stan Stalnaker and Melissa Hughes.

Public Comments:

Appointments:

1. Tiftarea Greenways Association representatives have asked to address the Board concerning Rails to

Trails: Ray Barber, 29 Springhill Drive, Tifton addressed the Board on behalf of Tiftarea Greenways Association concerning a project they would like the Board's support to get underway for Tifton and Tift County residents. They propose to use the old CSX rail bed that runs through Tifton and would plan this in 2 Phases. The first would be from I-75 out to E. B. Hamilton Complex with Phase II go downtown and possibly out to New River. He showed a power point presentation of what the passage way looks like now and what it could look like when completed. He also gave out brochures of Rails to Trails from Moultrie, Douglas and others. The Board advised that it would first be their Associations responsibility to obtain the right-of-way before they could consider the any help or input to such project. The Association asked for support from the County in this endeavor. They will talk with the landowners to see where they get with obtaining right-of-way.

2. Hal Baxley, 72 Eagle Drive, Tifton asked to address the Board concerning Fire. He has many concerns about the Fire Departments separating and each going a different way. Prior to this meeting he did advise that he had had the opportunity to sit down and talk with the County Manager for some time and some of his questions answered. He is deeply concerned about the situation because we have good fireman. His first concern is the reasoning why the plan and then what the total cost would be, what kind of long term funding and how does it benefit us (the citizens of Tifton and Tift County). The County Manager explained that we have a viable plan and the reasoning behind it goes deeper than just the fire department. Right now there is a struggle between City and County about funding and fairness of it. Mr. Baxley was concerned about the firefighter's years of service, their retirement fund. Bothe the County Manager and the County Attorney addressed a good many of his questions. There was some input from the Board. Mr. Baxley stated that he just wanted to go on record that he had come to the Board of Commissioners with his concerns.

Public Hearings:

A. TC-ZA-15-01: Rezoning request for New River Baptist Church for one acre located at 35 Old Brookfield Road from AG (Agriculture) to RR-1 (Residential): Carl Fortson advised the Board that of this rezoning request and stated that the Public Hearing has been advertised for the Monday Regular Meeting. This request was heard by the Planning and Zoning Board and comes to this Board with a recommendation of approval. Upon approval the church plans to sell the former pastorium which is an existing single family residence. The property is a portion of Tift County Tax Map 072 Parcel 067 which currently consists of 6.16 acres.

Items to be discussed for Regular Session, November 9, 2015

B. Request for Annexation from the City of Tifton to annex 2805 Circle Drive: The City of Tifton request approval to annex 2805 Circle Drive into the incorporated Tifton City Limits. The property consists of 2 acres and is currently owned by Walter m. Thompson. Per a letter for the City Attorney the subject property will be rezoned to City Planned Development Overlay and will be used for a 200 unity gated apartment complex. The City requests that the County waive the mandatory requirement concerning annexations of thirty days in order to proceed with the annexation/rezoning application. This parcel is contiguous with Tift County Map 045 Parcels 033 and 033B which are located within the current City Limits of Tifton.

C. Purchase of a new truck for Animal Control: Regenia Wells, Animal Control Director advised the Board that she has solicited bids for a new F-150 4x4 pickup truck. Staff recommends accepting the low bid from Griffin Ford in the amount of \$29,148.

D. Public Safety Portable Mobile Radios: Jason Jones stated that in August 2014 the County installed a new 800 MHz emergency radio system. Staff is recommending the purchase of the following portable/mobile radios which will allow the County to use the radio system to its' fullest potential and replace aging and unreliable equipment. The distribution of these radios will be: EMS will received 14 portable and 7 mobile with accessories; Animal Control will received 5 portable and 5 mobile with accessories; Fire/Rescue will receive 18 portable and 2 mobile with accessories. The total purchase cost is \$180,000.

E. Rental Agreement with Tifton Judicial Shelter (Ruth Cottage): The County Manager advised that it's

time to renew the Rental Agreement between the County and the Tifton Judicial Circuit Shelter (Ruth's Cottage). The new lease extends until June 2016 and contains 2 automatic 12 month renewal periods.

F. Resolution to submit Grant Application for Tift Lift for FY 2017: The County Manger advised that it is time to submit the grant application for the FY 2017 for the operational fund for Tift Lift. A resolution needs to be adopted to be submitted with the application.

G. Surplus Vehicles: The County Clerk advised that 8 vehicles have been turned in that is no longer in use by County Departments. Road Department has (2) Ford Crown Vic; EMS has (1) Ford Crown Vic and (1) Ford Ambulance; Sheriff Department has (4) Dodge Charges. The Board will need to declare them surplus and then they will be placed on GovDeals.com for sale.

H. USDA Lease Agreement: The current lease agreement with USDA Service expired on July 31, 2015. They have expressed their need for continued occupancy and have sent in a lease amendment that would extend the lease agreement through December 31, 2016. They have continued to make timely payments even though the lease agreement was expired in the amount of \$3,129.39 monthly.

Commissioner's Comments: None

County Manager's Comments: None

Executive Session: Motion was made by Vice Chairman Hester to go into Executive Session for Legal seconded by Commissioner Stalnaker. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to close Executive Session was made by Commissioner Hughes, seconded by Vice Chairman Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting.

Chairman Grady Thompson, District 7

Vice Chairman Donnie Hester, District 1

Commissioner Melissa Hughes, District 2

Commissioner Robert Setters, District 3

Commissioner Stan Stalnaker, District 4

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

ATTEST:

Commissioner Greg Wood, District 6

County Clerk 11/3/2015