

**WORKSHOP SESSION  
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2006  
6:30 P.M.**

The scheduled Workshop Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Grady Thompson on Tuesday, April 4, 2006, at 6:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Administrative Building. Members of the commission present including Chairman Thompson were Vice Chairman Charlotte Bedell, and Commissioners Donnie Hester, John Huggins, Frankie Mathis, Buck Rigdon and Hugh Webb.

**Proclamation:** Chairman Thompson read and presented a Proclamation to Ms. Ina Woodruff proclaiming the month of April as Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month in Tift County.

Chairman Thompson stated that a Proclamation has been prepared at a request from Brad Stephenson proclaiming the month of April as Confederate Heritage Month in Tift County. No one was present to receive the proclamation. The County Clerk will mail the Proclamation to Mr. Stephenson at his request.

**Appointments:**

1. Stacy Duckworth of 536 Brighton Road addressed the Board concerning Duckworth Road. There is a 300 foot section of Duckworth Road, off Bellflower Road, which is not paved. Mr. Duckworth is purposing to deed this property to Tift County and is requesting procedure to pave this portion. Mr. Park has discussed this request with Mr. Duckworth and the only problem he sees is because of the way the rest of the road is paved, it may create a non conforming lot on the corner. This issue may be resolved by having Stacy's mother, who owns the property, to deed it to his brother who owns the property adjacent to it, thereby eliminating any non conforming property. Staff will then ask for approval to have this section surveyed. After receipt of the right of deed, Duckworth Road will be evaluated for priority as an addition to the list of roads to be paved.
2. Jimmy Allen had requested to address the Board but withdrew his request to appear.

**Public Hearings scheduled for Regular Session on April 10, 2006 at 6:30 PM**

- A. **ZA 06-5 Quality Growers Gin & Peanut requests a zoning map amendment for 37.11 acres from its existing Au (Agriculture) to WHI (Wholesale Light Industrial) at the intersection of Old Tifton Moultrie Road and Omega Excelsior Road:** This comes to the Board with an approval from Staff and Planning and Zoning.

**Items discussed by the Commission for action on April 10, 2006:**

- B. **Authorize the Chairman to execute DOT Contract for Federal and State Funding for construction of a 9 Unit T-Hanger at the Airport:** This is a new project at the Airport that is funded 95% with Federal money, 2.5% with State money and 2.5% match from the Airport Authority. Tift County will serve as the pass through for this grant funding.
- C. **Beer and Wine License for Dev Dhanda for the Raceway on Highway 82:** The application is in order and has been approved by Sheriff Vowell.
- D. **Lease for a Caterpillar Excavator:** The lease of this piece of equipment replaces the loss of an excavator owned by the county that burned in January 2006. The county has been operating this excavator under a rental agreement since February.
- E. **Lease for John Deere Motorgrader:** The lease of this piece of equipment replaces the loss of a motorgrader destroyed in a train wreck in December 2005. The county has been operating this motorgrader under a rental agreement since January.

- F. Tax Proceed refund to Hardy Jones:** This property was sold on October 5, 2004 by the Tax Commissioner for unpaid taxes. The property owner by law is entitled to the proceeds from the sale in the amount of \$261.22.
- G. Tax Proceed refund to James and Deborah Finch:** This property was sold on November 2, 2004 by the Tax Commissioner for unpaid taxes. The property owner by law is entitled to the proceeds from the sale in the amount of \$4,647.23.
- H. Authorize the County Clerk to advertise and proceed with closing of Donna Lane as requested by Agri Supply and Royster Clark:** Donna Lane is left off of South 41 which runs between these two businesses. Both businesses continue to have problems with people driving through and parking in the rear and have several incidents of stolen chemicals and other items. The County Clerk has checked with EMS, Fire, Sheriff and Road Departments and they have no objection to closing this road.
- I. Approval to start proceedings to close Pearman Railroad Crossing:** The DOT has indicated they will fund cross arms on North Carpenter Road. In order for the County to receive this funding, they have asked us to close Pearman Road crossing south of Carpenter Road to take advantage of a safety grant in the amount of \$15,000. The Board will need to authorize the procedure to close this crossing. Mr. J. B. Womack of 3385 Highway 41 North, was present to address the Board concerning this crossing. Mr. Womack is in favor of closing this very dangerous railroad crossing.
- J. Discussion of Tractor Pull:** The County has a request through Tourism for the Road Department to do the track preparation for the Annual Truck and Tractor pull to be held at the fairgrounds in April. The County will be reimbursed for fuel. This has raised some question as to workers' compensation and other matters. It is the recommendation to develop a policy for the Board to consider for adoption to cover events of this nature.
- K. Award Resurfacing Bids and Paving Bids:** Kurt Seigler sent out bids for the resurfacing of Mt. Olive Church Road, Leslie Locke Road, Quay Court and a section of Rutland Road to be funded from SPLOST dollars. Those bids will be opened on Friday, April 7, 2006 and staff will be giving a recommendation at the Regular Meeting. Stacy Watkins has sent out bids for the paving of Southern Avenue and Bruce Lane. Mr. Watkins will be present at the Regular Meeting with a recommendation for the Board to consider awarding the bid.
- L. Consideration of Adoption of New Personnel Policy Manual:** The County Manager has presented a summary of the changes made in the newly revised Personnel Policy Manual for Tift County and is making a recommendation for adoption at the Regular Meeting. The County Attorney called the Boards particular attention to the section dealing with personnel records (Section 17.02) and has offered two options and would appreciate the Board giving direction on the option of preference.
- M. Maintenance Resolution from DOT accepting Access Roads:** There are several access roads in connection with I-75 that have been brought up to standards and have been reviewed by Kurt Seigler. The DOT has upgraded the roads and Mr. Seigler stated the roads are acceptable to be added into the Tift County Road System. The Board will need to adopt the Maintenance Resolution.
- N. Authorize the county clerk to advertise and proceed with closing a portion of Deerfield Lane as requested from P. D. Fulwood:** The County has a request from P.D. Fulwood to close Deerfield Lane from Clearview Drive to King Road. Vice Chairman Bedell has talked to Mr. Fulwood about his request and recommends to the Board that we authorize the closing procedure. Mr. Fulwood was present to discuss this with the Board and answer any questions and stated that the road is not presently being used. The County Manager inquired about any utilities that run through this area. He advised that we need to maintain a utility easement. He will ask Kurt Seigler to investigate the utility easement.
- O. Agreement between Tift County Board of Commissioners and Tift Regional Medical Center for medical care of inmates:** The County Manager advised we have already been working under this agreement; it just needs to have the Board's approval for the Chairman to endorse the documents.

The Commissioners agreed to place items B, C, F, G, H, I, M and O on the Consent Agenda for the Regular Meeting on April 10, 2006.

**County Managers Items:**

- Reminded the Board of the RDC Legislative Dinner at Banks Lake on April 27<sup>th</sup>
- The county has received a petition asking that a street light be installed at the corner of Old Ocilla Road and Bellflower Road. He stated it is a very busy intersection and it is very dark at night. He recommends the County install a street light to be funded through the Special Street Light District. There will be no installation cost and it will be \$10.75 per month for the light. The Board agreed to add this item to the Monday regular agenda.
- Reminded the Board that its budget time and if any Commissioner has any special interest as it relates to the budget please let him know. Vice Chairman Bedell would like a report of the department heads requests that has been cut from the budget as far as the operations of their offices.

**Commissioner Comments:**

Commissioner Mathis requested to have an Executive Session for a Personnel matter.

Vice Chairman Bedell suggested, concerning the events at the American Legion that we might revisit the 11 PM cut off time. She mentioned the number of faxes that we receive concerning the noise and such there, however, they are always anonymous and it is hard for the Board to address their concerns unless they give names or come forward with their complaints.

Commissioner Hester reminded the Board that the amendment states only the music must stop at 11 PM, not close the facility or the event. Commissioner Webb stated until the alcohol is stopped, we will continue to have problems. Commissioner Hester stated the discussion needs to end, policy has been set and we need to stick with it for a period of time to see if it is going to work. The board did request the paper report that those anonymous people need to come show their face and address the Board if they continue to have problems. The Commission can not act on anonymous allegations. Commissioner Huggins agrees with Commissioner Webb about the alcohol drinking there, problems will continue until this is stopped.

Commissioner Hester paid compliments to Code Enforcement for clean up in his district. He thanked Commissioner Rigdon for changing the time on the scheduled April 11<sup>th</sup> water meeting to 6 PM which will allow him time to make the meeting.

Commissioner Huggins asked Kurt Seigler if a red light is being purposed on the truck route study at Highway 319 and new River church, he stated this is a dangerous intersection and needs to be looked at. Mr. Seigler advised this is being handled through the DOT but he would think it would be a priority. He also has several requests for cleaning ditches and asked Kurt to get with him and he will give him the areas. Commissioner Huggins stated that previously they had a request from the Magistrate Court on some supplements for fuel/vehicle use; we need to see if there is some way we can give them some assistance. The County Manager reported that a list of all supplement requests during budget meetings will be given to the Board for direction. He asked that consideration be given to Teresa Lupo and the Tax Assessor's Office in getting them some additional help to find folks that are not buying mobile home decals and requested the County Manager work on this. Commissioner Huggins addressed the County Manager and Craig Sowell, Recreation Director about a notice of a sale of exercise equipment from a proprietor in town and he would like for them to pursue this and see if the equipment can be incorporated into the Recreation Department.

**Public Comments:**

Bobby McLean of 801 West County Line Road, Sycamore, addressed the Board about the fairgrounds. He stated he is working on the alcohol drinking; they have stopped all beer from going in the door. They are also addressing the gangs being out there and the fighting. Commissioner Huggins suggested he police the area very well to make sure what happens out there is within the bounds of the law and policy. Bobby stated there is a request to have a rodeo outside at the fairgrounds. The rodeo will be held in the day time hours. A getlemen spoke to the Board about the rodeo. The Board advised that they can have whatever they wish to hold out there as long as they stay within the bounds of the Ordinance as related to the music.

**Executive Session:** Motion was made by Commissioner Mathis to go into Executive Session under OCGA 50-14-3(6) Personnel and OCGA 50-14-2(1) Legal, seconded by Vice Chairman Bedell. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Chairman Thompson adjourned the meeting.

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Chairman Grady Thompson, Dist 7

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Vice Chairman Charlotte W. Bedell, Dist 6

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Commissioner Donnie Hester, Dist 1

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Commissioner Frankie Mathis, Dist 2

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Commissioner Hugh Webb, Dist 3

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Commissioner John M. Huggins, Dist 4

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Commissioner Fred W. Buck Rigdon, Dist 5

ATTEST:

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County Clerk

**REGULAR SESSION  
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2006  
6:30 P.M.**

The scheduled Regular Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Grady Thompson on Tuesday, April 10, 2006, at 6:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Administrative Building. Members of the commission present including Chairman Thompson were Vice Chairman Charlotte Bedell, and Commissioners Donnie Hester, John Huggins, Frankie Mathis, Buck Rigdon and Hugh Webb.

Chairman Thompson asked Vice Chairman Bedell to give the invocation followed by the pledge to the flag.

Rev. Ray Dawson of Union Grove Church was to give the invocation but because of a misunderstanding of time he arrived late. Chairman Thompson asked him to give the closing prayer at the end of the meeting.

All actions taken in this meeting are results of Commissioners votes with the Chairman not voting except in the case of a tie which will be stipulated as such.

**Minutes:** Motion was made by Commissioner Hester approving the minutes of the March 7, 2006 Workshop Session and the March 13, 2006 Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Huggins. Motion carried unanimously.

**Additions to the Agenda:**

Street Light at the corner of Old Ocilla Road and Bellflower Road  
Approval to survey Duckworth Road

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bedell to add these two items to the Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Thompson added these two items as letters P and Q.

**Public Hearings:**

- A. ZA 06-7 Quality Growers Gin & Peanut requests a zoning map amendment for 37.11 acres from its existing AU (Agriculture) to WHI (Wholesale Light Industrial) at the intersection of Old Tifton Moultrie Road and Omega Excelsior Road:**  
Hearing Officer Rob Reinhardt opened the public hearing and announced that this comes to the Board with an approval from staff and Planning and Zoning.

Stephen Rakestraw of 83 Ty Ty-Omega Road, representing Quality Growers Gin and Peanut spoke in favor of their request stating they are seeking to expand this business.

No one spoke in opposition. Mr. Reinhardt closed the public hearing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Webb to approve ZA 06-7 request to rezone 37.11 acres from AU (Agriculture) to WLI (Wholesale Light Industrial), seconded by Commissioner Rigdon. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consent Agenda:**

- B. Authorize the Chairman to execute DOT Contract for Federal and State Funding for construction of a 9 Unit T-Hanger at the Airport**  
**C. Approve Beer and Wine License for Dev Dhanda for the Raceway on Highway 82:**  
**F. Approve Tax Proceed refund to Hardy Jones in the amount of \$261.22**  
**G. Approve Tax Proceed refund to James and Deborah Finch in the amount of \$4,647.23**  
**H. Authorize the County Clerk to advertise and proceed with closing of Donna Lane**  
**I. Approval proceedings to close Pearman Railroad Crossing:**  
**M. Adopt Maintenance Resolution from DOT accepting Access Roads:**  
**N. Authorize Chairman to execute Agreement between Tift County Board of Commissioners and Tift Regional Medical Center for medical care of inmates**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mathis approving the items listed on the consent Agenda, seconded by Vice Chairman Bedell. Motion carried unanimously.

**Regular Agenda:**

**D & E. Lease for Caterpillar Excavator and John Deere Motorgrader:** The County Manager advised these leases are for replacement equipment at the Road Department. Commissioner Rigdon previously has some questions concerning the leases and a memo of explanation was presented with the requested information. Motion was made by Commissioner Hester to approve the leases for the Caterpillar Excavator and the John Deere Motorgrader, seconded by Commissioner Huggins. Motion carried unanimously.

**J. Tractor Pull:** There was one remaining question of the request to prepare the track at the fairgrounds for this event which concerned workers' compensation. The County Attorney advised that if the Commission authorized use of the county equipment, we could ask for reimbursement of salaries for workers and workers' compensation handled through a contract to include an indemnity agreement. The County Attorney advised that he and the County Manager are looking at putting a policy together for the Board's review and approval to take care of this and other similar request in the future if the Board chooses that direction. The County Manager advised we have two more requests already out there, one from the Agriarama and one from Tifton Quality Peanuts and the policy would take care of these requests. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bedell authorizing the request to prepare the track for the Tractor Pull for service and the county be reimbursed for all costs incurred including workers' compensation, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously. Direction was then given to the County Attorney and the County Manager to draw up a draft policy for these types of requests for the Board's consideration to adopt.

**K. Resurfacing Bids and Paving of Southern Avenue and Bruce Lane:** Staff recommends the award of the low bid to Ross of Georgia in the amount of \$479,546.97 for the paving of Southern Avenue and Bruce Lane. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bedell awarding the bid to Ross of Georgia, seconded by Commissioner Mathis. Motion carried unanimously.

Staff recommends the award be given to the low bidder, Folsom Construction in the amount of \$155,739 for resurfacing of a Rutland Road, Leslie Locke Road, Quay Court and Mt. Olive Church Road. Motion to award the bid for this resurfacing to Folsom Construction was made by Vice Chairman Bedell, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

**L. Personnel Policy Manual:** Motion to table was made by Commissioner Huggins, seconded by Commissioner Webb. Motion carried unanimously.

**N. Closing a portion of Deerfield Lane:** Vice Chairman Bedell made a motion to authorize the County Clerk to advertise and proceed with the closing of a portion of Deerfield Lane, seconded by Commissioner Huggins. Motion carried unanimously.

**P. Street Light at the Corner of Old Ocilla Road & Bellflower:** The County Manger stated this is a very dark intersection and recommends that the County install a street light with the monthly charge of \$10.75 to be paid from the Special Tax District funds. Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Huggins, seconded by Vice Chairman Bedell. Motion carried unanimously.

**Q. Survey Duckworth Road:** The County Manager advised this is a 300 foot section of existing roadway and recommends the County get it surveyed and then put on the paving list in the priority it would fall. Motion approving the survey was made by Commissioner Huggins, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

**County Managers Items:**

- Explained that the handouts before them are preliminary information from Department Heads on SPLOST and Capital Improvements as a part of the Budget process
- Advised that the Public Works Director position has been posted on the ACCG website and will also be advertised in some local newspapers

- Gave a memo from a request of Commissioner Huggins concerning mobile home decals stating many of those have been handled through Code Enforcement and will be looking at the need to hire temporary, part time workers for this purpose
- American Legion: He has discussed this issue further with the County Attorney and they are going to further investigate the zoning of the property to address the private parties and talk to the Sheriff and the Solicitor about looking at open container laws and alcohol use. Mr. Reinhardt has talked to the Solicitor already about the under age drinking and he has agreed to work with the county to get this under control
- Received a proposal from Ed Moore on the trees at the Road Department and will keep the Board updated

**Commissioner Comments:**

Commissioner Mathis advised that he now has the sufficient amount of signatures on a petition to create a Special Street Light Tax district in Sunnybrook subdivision. Commissioner Mathis made a motion to authorize the county clerk to advertise the required public hearing and proceed with the requirements to create the Special Street Light Tax District, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Mathis strongly urged the Board to consider giving the County employees the Friday before Easter off. Motion was made by Commissioner Mathis to give County employees the Friday before Easter as a holiday for April 2006, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Bedell announced that the Road Committee needs to meet and she will set a date and notify the members of the Committee. Commissioner Mathis requested to attend this meeting.

For public knowledge, Vice Chairman Bedell advised that the County has a very open opinion Board and even though they do not all agree all the time, they openly speak their minds and usually come to a satisfactory agreement on issues.

Commissioner Hester thanked Carl Fortson and staff for the clean up of dilapidated houses in the County. He then requested an Executive Session for a personnel matter. The Board agreed.

Commissioner Huggins stated he has some questions on the memo about capital improvements and will get with the County Manager to discuss. He thanked Kurt and Richard for the clean up of some ditches he requested and thanked the County Manager for checking into the mobile home decal issue. Commissioner Huggins directed thanks to the County Attorney for the assistance concerning a red light at an intersection on Highway 319. He gave a handout that he picked up at a Health Seminar that he, the Chairman and the Vice Chairman attended last month and would like the commissioners and the press to review the profile of where Tift County is on the state average in various categories.

**Public Comments:**

Diane Brown of 1903 Churchill Drive, Albany, Georgia addressed the Board with some issues of concern about the Tift County Sheriff's Department that involved a member of her family.

Carl Fortson advised that the County did not have to demolish the property at 1707 South Park; the property owner hired a private contractor to tear down the house and clean up the lot.

**Executive Session:** Motion was made by Commissioner Hester to go into Executive Session under OCGA 50-14-3(6) Personnel and OCGA 50-14-2(1) Legal, seconded by Commissioner Huggins. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Mathis to close Executive Session and return to Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

The Chairman called Regular Session back to order.

Mr. Rodney Thomas appeared before the Commission exercising his right to an appeal on a decision made by the Tift County Athletic Advisory Committee on April 3, 2006. The decision was to deny him from participating in any sports held at any location of the Tift County Recreation Department.

The Board heard from Mr. Thomas and two character witnesses. Steve Hyman, Chairman of the Athletic Advisory Commission was present and Craig Sowell, Tift County Recreation Director, both gave comments on the issue.

After hearing from all parties, the Board of Commissioners referred the issue back to the Athletic Advisory Committee to be reviewed again.

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

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Chairman Grady Thompson, Dist 7

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Vice Chairman Charlotte W. Bedell, Dist 6

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Commissioner Donnie Hester, Dist 1

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Commissioner Hugh Webb, Dist 3

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Commissioner John M. Huggins, Dist 4

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Commissioner Fred W. Buck Rigdon, Dist 5

ATTEST:

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County Clerk