

**SPECIAL CALLED SESSION
TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2009 (5:30 P.M.)**

The scheduled Special Called Session of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Vice Chairman Rigdon on Monday, August 24, 2009, at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Administrative Building. Member of the commission present were Vice Chairman Rigdon and Commissioners Donnie Hester, Sherry Miley, Robert Setters, Melissa Chevers and Mike Jones. Chairman Thompson was out due to being in Atlanta at a Georgia Environmental Facilities Authorities Meeting.

Vice Chairman Rigdon called to order the Special Called Session meeting of the Tift County Board of Commissioners at 5:30 P.M., the pledge to the flag was recited and then Vice Chairman Rigdon asked County Attorney Tony Rowell to give the invocation.

Vice Chairman Rigdon advised that both Health Insurance Vendors had been invited to make a presentation of their services. Each vendor will be allowed approximately 20 minutes to make their presentation, after which there will be a short question/answer period. It vendor's presentation will not be allow more than 30 minutes. Vendors will give their presentations to the Board separately without the presence of another vendor.

A. Presentations of Health Insurance Benefit Package for Tift County:

(1) Partners Benefit Group – Skip Hill & Associates: Skip was present along with his staff to give their presentation on the requested Request for Qualifications (RFQ) that was recently sent out by staff at the direction of the Board. Mr. Hill apologized he and his staff was not present at the previous Workshop Session but that he had met with the Administrative Staff and was not aware that it was necessary for him to be at that meeting. He opened by stating he wanted to talk about three things; 1] Insurance Products, 2] Services and 3] Solution to Healthcare today. He did give an addition hand out that provides with a summary of what is in the RFQ. Mr. Hill elaborated that health care is a large expense, tax payers have a vested interest, shifting cost is not the answer, the need to create a healthy population and it is the Brokers job to bring ideas to help control Health Care cost. He mentioned that his company was award the City of Tifton's health care plan in May of 2008 and they have implements Flexible Spending account which is pre-tax dollars and a Preventive Care Program. In closing he stated that he is aware that the current broker gives good service and technology. He asked that the Commissioners ask themselves this question when making their decision for a Health Care Provider: "What has your current broker done in the last three years that you feel like has made a difference to assist your employees to get healthy?" "Your employees are friends and neighbors of ours and we want them to be healthy. Some Commissioners had questions about different comments and they were answered to their satisfaction. He stated that at Open Enrollment is the perfect time to bring new ideas to the table and get them educated and thinking about what things might be coming once approved by the Board to offer options to the employees.

(2) Shaw Hankins: Scott Hankins along with members of his staff was present to give their presentation of the requested Request for Qualifications (RFQ) that was recently sent out by staff at the direction of the Board. He also thanked the Board for four years of business with Tift County Government. Mr. Hankins advised the Board that Open Enrollment has been completed and Human Resources have received all payroll deductions. This consisted of 237 man hours on site and meeting with each employee individually. He started with the Top Three Reasons, the feel the Board should consider continuing with Shaw Hankins. 1) Our People; 2) Our services and 3) Our Ability to Reduce and Stabilize Cost. A hand out was given to each Commissioner outlining each of these three services, discussion of the Call Center and how calls are handled by a live person. He advised that on page 12 of the handout listed are their Preferred Carrier Relationships which are some of the top insurance carriers. He stated that their position is to bring more value to you, cost containment and the services we do for you save you real money. Shaw Hankins offers Wellness Plans and has implemented many of them at other city and county agencies at their request with the recommendation from Shaw Hankins. Mary Quinn, Director of Wellness Plan Services with Shaw Hankins was present and she spoke with the Board about the Wellness Plans and how it can and does reduce your health insurance cost. In closing Mr. Hankins asked the Board for their consideration to continue with his company and allow them to continue providing the best health care plans available with cost savings to the County. Some Commissioner had questions about different comments and they were answered to their satisfaction. Many of the questions were the

same question directed to the previous vendor during his presentation.

B. GEFA Loan for Aeration System for Water/Wastewater Treatment Plant: Russ Dorman addressed the Board with a request for the County to enter into this agreement with the City of Tifton for a loan through Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority which they have applied for under a shovel ready, green project category. He stated that in SPLOST IV one million dollars was allotted to the treatment plant for the wastewater facility. They have submitted the application to GEFA in the amount of \$2 Million dollars which at closing, GEFA forgives 60% of the loan amount. The City of Tifton will be charged 2% for closing cost. When the 60% is forgiven at closing this will leave a balance of repayment on the loan in the amount of \$840,000. The Resolution states both governmental entities previously approved capital improvement projects for the Wastewater Treatment Facility and dedicated SPLOST funds for the improvements. This comes as a recommendation for the Management of the Wastewater Treatment Facility and the Strategic Wastewater Committee. The Resolution has a provision contained within that states the GEFA loan, all cost and any incurred interest shall be repaid within 30 to 90 days from the closing date with the SPLOST funds dedicated to same. Motion was made by Commissioner Setters to adopt the Resolution Regarding the City of Tifton Incurring Debt for Wastewater Facility Improvements, seconded by Commissioner Chevers. Motion carried. Commissioner Hester voted against the motion.

C. Appeals Hearing for Kelvin Jackson – Recreation Issue: The County Attorney read into the record the Appeal Process from the Articles for Establishment of the Policies and Procedures for the Athletic Advisory Committee. Referring to Article IV, Section 3, states the appeal process will use the hearing guidelines. Mr. Kelvin Jackson has in fact, in writing, appealed to the Tift County Board of Commissioners. The guidelines for the hearing are found in Article III of the Policies and procedures for the Athletic Advisory Committee.

Steve Hyman, Chairman of the Athletic Advisory Committee spoke first and the Board was given a timeline letter of the review of the records concerning Mr. Jackson which consisted of coaching requests and know ejection history. This particular time was not the first time for Mr. Jackson: in 2005 he was ejected for sideline conduct; 2006 his application to coach was denied; 2007 he was not approved as head coach but was allowed to be assistance coach with no written problems brought to the Board; 2008 he was approved as an assistant coach and was ejected from a game for unsportsman like conduct and after ejection made verbal threats in October; 2008 he was put on the Agenda in December 2008 and did not appear. In February 2009 he was placed on the Agenda again and he showed up for the meeting but left prior to the ACC getting to him.

Commissioner Chevers asked if the ACC was suspending him from all recreation activities and Chairman Hyman answered yes. He will be eligible to apply to coach again in 2010.

Commissioner Miley asked if he was just suspended from coaching or did it keep him off all recreation property. Chairman Hyman stated he is not allowed on recreation property.

Commissioner Hester asked, "How in the "H" can ya'll do this to a citizen of Tift County". This means that he cannot even go to the Mott Littman Gym on MLK Day or set foot on any recreation property for any reason. This is not right; you cannot do this to a person. He understands the suspension from coaching but it is not right to not allow a citizen to come on to County property.

Commissioner Setters asked that if he asks the Recreation Director and he advises him that he can, is that allowed. The answer was yes.

Commissioner Chevers asked if the verbal language was toward the children and was told no. She then asked how many coaches they suspend for unsportsman like conduct. Chairman Hyman stated that 3 or 4 other coaches have been suspended for a year.

Commissioner Miley asked that at any time during his outburst was the police called and she was told no.

Kelvin Jackson then spoke to the Board. He stated that he didn't do his homework. He had a letter from Sgt Kromer but had not made copies for each Board member. It was presented to the County Manager to look over but returned to him before the end of the hearing because that was his only copy. Mr. Jackson stated that the same coaches from 2005 are the same coaches that threw him out this time. He stated that he did not curse the kids.

Commissioner Chevers asked Mr. Jackson, “You stated you do not have any kids coming up so you are really upset about being suspended from any activities rather than just coaching, right”? Mr. Jackson responded that it was both. He stated that they are saying he walked out of the hearing, not did not show up like Hyman stated. He said Eric Bozeman told him to be at the meeting and he waited for 1 hour and 15 minutes and left. He said by that time member of the AAC were leaving.

Mr. Jackson stated he had only had two ejections, one in 2005 and one in 2008.

Commissioner Setters asked what happened to make the last one a year suspension. Reply from Craig Sowell was that at one of the ejections he was only suspended for the remainder to that ball game and the next game. The latter ejection resulted in his only suspension.

Commissioner Hester state that Sgt Kromer stopped him and explained what happened that night. If it was so bad, why wasn’t the police called. No answer. It was just said that eventually Mr. Jackson left the field after stopping along the way talking with several folks.

He was then asked by a Board member because of the conflict and all the confusion, “Why do you want to Coach?” Mr. Jackson stated that he has a son that plays and want to be in his life. If I want to go to a game, I think I should have the right. We may want to have a family outing and go watch a football game.

Both parties and all other people in the room then left the room for the Tift County Board of Commissioners deliberations.

All was called back into the room and decision was rendered to all parties. The Tift County Board of Commissioner’s decision was to uphold the decision of the one year suspension as a coach but not to uphold the decision not to be allowed as a spectator. However, if there are any further incidents then it will probably revert back. The County Attorney advised that a letter will be draft with the Board’s decision and sent to both parties explaining the upheld part and the reversed part.

Motion was made by Commissioner Miley to uphold the suspension decision of the AAC for Kelvin Jackson from coaching for one year and to reverse the decision to ban him from County Recreation property, seconded by Commissioner Chevers. Motion carried with 5 yes votes. Vice Chairman Rigdon abstained.

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

absent
Chairman Grady Thompson, District 7

Vice Chairman, Fred W. Rigdon District 5

Commissioner Donnie Hester, District 1

Commissioner Melissa Chevers, District 2

Commissioner Robert Setters, District 3

Commissioner Sherry Miley, Dist. 4

Commissioner C. Michael Jones, District 6

Attest: _____
Glynda Hemby, County Clerk