

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX
April 12, 2006
1:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Cheryl Sanders - Chairman, Russell Crofton – Vice-chairman, Noah Lockley, Jimmy Mosconis, Bevin Putnal

Staff Present: Marcia Johnson – Clerk of Court, Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services, Michael Shuler – County Attorney, Michael Morón – Board Secretary

Call to Order

Chairman Sanders called the Special Meeting to Order at 1:00 PM

Weems Memorial Hospital

Gail Dodds, of the Health Council, reviewed items on the Administrative Summary, submitted by the Hospital Board to the County Commission

Board questioned and discussed the items of the Administrative Summary with Ms. Dodds, Attorney Shuler, and Mr. Pierce.

Ron Wolfe, interim CEO, addressed some of the Board's concerns; stated that County should start to receive payments this month

Attorney Shuler stated that total fines are approximately \$860,000.00 between AHCA, GE, and Medicare (Medicaid)

Board discussed Tallahassee Memorial's interest in providing health care in Franklin County; discussed, with Attorney Shuler, the issue of the hospital employees becoming 'vested' in the state retirement system. The State requires that after 6 months of employment, the County would have to begin paying employee retirement benefit into the state system.

Attorney Shuler discussed 6 month rule for 'vesting' hospital employees and stated that extensions are not granted for this rule. The Board recognizes that paying retirement benefits would not benefit the hospital employees because the Hospital employees would not have to remain County employees for 6 years. In order to collect any benefits the County does not expect to manage the employees that long, so there is no point payin into the retirement system.

Curt Blair, of the Hospital Board, discussed the option of the Hospital Board to negotiate a management agreement with Blackhawk.

Mr. Pierce informed the Board of his research regarding management costs around the state.

Marcia Johnson, commented on the issues discussed, including the recommendation for the County to establish \$2 million line of credit.

Board, Ms Dodds, and Curt Blair discussed the line of credit and urgency for the Board to make a decision on the management of Weems Memorial

Motion by Mosconis, seconded by Crofton, to direct Ms Johnson, the County Clerk, and Attorney Shuler to gather information from the local banks to establish a \$2 million dollar line of credit for the operation of Weems Memorial Hospital and report back to the Board at the April 18 Regular Meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Janice Hicks, of the Apalachicola Health Council, commented on Medicaid billing Board discussed this issue.

Ms Johnson inquired as to the total amount owed by the Hospital.

Ron Wolfe stated that until the County has access to the Dasee's records regarding Weems Hospital, a total amount cannot be determined.

Board and Attorney Shuler discussed the litigation with GE regarding Dasee

Motion by Mosconis, seconded by Lockley, to have the Hospital Board meet with the Clerk and her Staff and discuss Hospital Board recommendation. Motion carried 5-0.

Board discussed options for the management of Weems Memorial Hospital and proposed sales tax

Ms Dodds commented on this issue

Ron Wolfe discussed his experience with other hospital management companies and experiences at Weems since January 1, 2006

Motion by Lockley, seconded by Crofton, to direct staff to start the process for transferring hospital employees to leasing or management company. Motion carried 5-0.

Board discussed the proposed tax and indigent care

Adjourn

Chairman Sanders adjourned the Special Meeting at 2:45 pm

Cheryl Sanders, Chairman FCBCC

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk of Court