

JANUARY 30, 1991

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF MEETING JANUARY 30, 1991
SPECIAL MEETING

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

S. DONNELL WHITFIELD
PACK BOWDEN
ELLIS MELVIN
TRUMAN GRANT
MONROE COX

PRESENT AND ACTING:

WILLIE D. WISE, CLERK
GAIL O'BRYAN, ADMINISTRATIVE
WILLIAM G. SMITH
BILL CORBIN, COUNTY ATTORNEY
JOE TAYLOR, FINANCE

THE BOARD MET THIS DATE IN SPECIAL SESSION. SHERIFF SMITH CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER, FOLLOWED WITH PRAYER BY COMMISSIONER BOWDEN AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG.

COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD WELCOMED THE AUDIENCE TO THE MEETING AND TURNED THE MEETING OVER TO COUNTY ATTORNEY CORBIN TO REPORT ON RESEARCH DONE BY HIM ON THE OPTIONS FOR CALHOUN GENERAL HOSPITAL.

ATTORNEY CORBIN REPORTED HE FELT THERE WERE SIX OPTIONS TO CONSIDER REGARDING THE HOSPITAL AND THEY WERE AS FOLLOWS:

1. SELL HOSPITAL--WOULD TAKE A SPECIAL ACT BY LEGISLATURE TO ALLOW SALE.
2. LEASE HOSPITAL FOR A MAXIMUM OF 30 YEARS--MUST PUBLISH NOTICE FOR BID FOR 2 CONSECUTIVE WEEKS.
3. CONTRACT WITH MANAGEMENT FIRM--MUST PUBLISH NOTICE FOR BID FOR 2 CONSECUTIVE WEEKS.
4. COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ACTING AS TRUSTEES TO OPERATE HOSPITAL
5. GOVERNOR APPOINT TRUSTEES TO OPERATE HOSPITAL
6. CLOSE HOSPITAL

HE REPORTED OPTIONS 4 & 5 WOULD REQUIRE ADDITIONAL FUNDS, HOWEVER, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COULD PUT IN PLACE A MSTU EITHER WITH VOTER APPROVAL OR BY ORDINANCE. HE SAID, AS HE SEES IT, THE MOST VIABLE OPTIONS ARE THE FIRST 3 OPTIONS AND EXPLAINED TIME FRAMES INVOLVED FOR ACCOMPLISHING EACH OPTION.

ATTORNEY CORBIN STATED IF THE BOARD DECIDED TO GO WITH A LEASE OR MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT THE BOARD WOULD NEED TO FORM A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION SO THAT THEY COULD ENTER INTO A LEASE WITH A NON-PROFIT AGENCY OR MANAGEMENT GROUP. HE ALSO SAID, IF THE BOARD CHOOSES TO GO WITH OPTION 2 OR 3, THE HOSPITAL WILL NEED FUNDING FOR APPROXIMATELY A MONTH OR SO UNTIL A LEASE OR MANAGEMENT CONTRACT CAN BE ENTERED INTO. HE ADVISED THE BOARD THAT THEY NEEDED TO MAKE MEDICAL STAFF APPOINTMENTS TONIGHT.

AFTER DISCUSSION ON INFORMATION PRESENTED BY ATTORNEY CORBIN, COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD STATED HE FELT THE OPTION OF CLOSING THE HOSPITAL WAS OUT, NO TIME FOR THE GOVERNOR TO APPOINT BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND SELLING OF THE HOSPITAL WAS NOT AN OPTION AT THIS TIME.

CLERK WISE STATED IN ORDER TO KEEP THE HOSPITAL OPEN FOR THE NEXT 2 OR 3 WEEKS THE BOARD WOULD NEED TO INCREASE THE LINE OF CREDIT FOR THE HOSPITAL WITH C & L BANK OF BLOUNTSTOWN. HE SAID HE HAD SPOKEN WITH MR. SANDUSKY OF C & L BANK AND HE HAD AGREED TO INCREASE THE LINE OF CREDIT TO \$373,000.00 IN ORDER THAT THE HOSPITAL COULD OPERATE UNTIL A LEASE OR MANAGEMENT CONTRACT WAS WORKED OUT. HE SAID THE LOAN WOULD BE REPAID WITH COST REPORT SETTLEMENT FUNDS.

DR. JOHN PORTER STATED WHATEVER MONEY THE BOARD BORROWS, HE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THEY PAY IRS LIEN OF \$82,000.00. HE REPORTED THE HOSPITAL NOW HAS APPROXIMATELY \$26,000.00 IN THE BANK AND ESTIMATES ANOTHER \$30,000.00 IS NEEDED TO COVER PAYROLL AND DOCTORS PAY.

THE BOARD, CLERK, COUNTY ATTORNEY AND AUDIENCE DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF IMPOSING A MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAX FOR OPERATION OF THE HOSPITAL. ATTORNEY CORBIN EXPLAINED A RESOLUTION OR ORDINANCE COULD BE PASSED BY THE BOARD FOR A MSTU TAX TO BE PUT ON REFERENDUM. HE REPORTED NO TAX COULD BE PLACED IF THE HOSPITAL WAS LEASED.

COMMISSIONER MELVIN STATED HE FELT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SHOULD BE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HOSPITAL.

COMMISSIONER COX SAID THAT HE HAD NO DESIRE TO BE A HOSPITAL BOARD MEMBER, AND THAT HE BELIEVED WE STILL HAVE SOME QUALIFIED PEOPLE IN CALHOUN COUNTY THAT ARE CAPABLE OF DOING THIS JOB. HE ALSO SAID THAT AS LONG AS THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ARE THE HOSPITAL BOARD, HE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT OUR RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY COVERS. UNTIL THEN, HE SAID HE WAS NOT COMFORTABLE WITH TELLING THE ADMINISTRATOR THAT HE HAS FULL AUTHORITY TO RUN THE HOSPITAL AS HE SEES FIT, AND THOUGHT THAT WAS A BROAD STATEMENT. HE SAID HE FELT THAT ALL WE NEEDED TO DO WAS TO TELL THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATOR THAT WE WANTED HIM TO STAY ON IN THAT CAPACITY.

COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD STATED BASED ON THE INFORMATION THE BOARD HAD RECEIVED, HE RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD ADVERTISE FOR A LEASE OR MANAGEMENT CONTACT. HE ALSO SAID HE WOULD NOT VOTE FOR IMPOSING A TAX ON CITIZENS WITHOUT THOSE CITIZENS VOTING ON IT.

COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD POLLED THE BOARD FOR THEIR OPINIONS ON THE FIRST 3 OPTIONS.

COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD--IN FAVOR OF ADVERTISING FOR LEASE OR MANAGEMENT FIRM. HE SAID HE DID NOT PARTICULARLY CARE FOR BEING A HOSPITAL TRUSTEE.

COMMISSIONER MELVIN--STATED HE WAS IN FAVOR OF A SPECIAL ACT APPOINTING BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AS BOARD OF TRUSTEES. HE SAID HE WAS NOT IN FAVOR OF APPOINTING ANOTHER BOARD OF TRUSTEES DUE TO LACK OF CONTROL.

COMMISSIONER COX--IN FAVOR OF ADVERTISING FOR A LEASE. HE SAID HE DID NOT WANT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF RUNNING THE HOSPITAL.

COMMISSIONER BOWDEN--IN FAVOR OF ADVERTISING FOR A LEASE.

COMMISSIONER GRANT--IN FAVOR OF ADVERTISING FOR A LEASE. HE SAID HE FELT WE COULD BUY TIME WITH MONEY.

AFTER A LENGTHY DISCUSSION, COMMISSIONER GRANT MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION TO INCREASE LINE OF CREDIT FOR HOSPITAL AT C & L BANK OF BLOUNTSTOWN BY 118,000.00 AND TO REPAY IT WHEN MEDICAID-MEDICARE COST REPORT FUNDS ARE RECEIVED.

2ND BOWDEN
MOTION CARRIED 5-0

DISCUSSION FOLLOWED REGARDING PHYSICIANS AND AVAILABILITY, SALES TAX AND ITS PROPER USE, AND INDEPENDENT TAXING AUTHORITY.

DURING DISCUSSION, DR. PORTER, ADMINISTRATOR OF CALHOUN GENERAL HOSPITAL STATED THAT THE OPINION OF THE PHYSICIANS SHOULD BE KNOWN ON THEIR INTENTIONS REGARDING SERVING AT CALHOUN GENERAL HOSPITAL. HE SAID AT PRESENT, DR. WHITE IS THE ONLY PHYSICIAN ON STAFF.

COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD POSED THE QUESTION TO DR. BRISTOL ABOUT WHAT IT WOULD TAKE FOR DR. BRISTOL AND DR. BAKER TO STAY.

DR. BRISTOL SAID HE COULD NOT ANSWER FOR DR. BAKER, BUT SAID THE DOCTORS NEED TO SEE SOME STABILITY OF THE HOSPITAL. HE COMMENTED THAT THE PHYSICIANS REQUIRE LONGEVITY TO STAY AND THAT THERE IS NO STABILITY AND THAT THERE IS A LACK OF SYSTEM TO RUN AND STAFF THE EMERGENCY ROOM.

QUESTIONS AND INFERENCES WERE MADE THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF CALHOUN GENERAL HOSPITAL.

THE BOARD RESPONDED THAT THEY HAD NO FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY OR MANAGEMENT OF CALHOUN GENERAL HOSPITAL UNTIL THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESIGNED ON JANUARY 24, 1991.
MANAGEMENT

SUSAN BARBER STATED THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DID WORK WITH THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND THAT COMMISSIONER BOWDEN AND COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD MET MANY TIMES WITH THEM. SHE SAID THE HOSPITAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESIGNED IN ORDER TO TURN THE HOSPITAL OVER TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SO THAT SOMETHING COULD BE DONE.

THE IRS LIEN WAS DISCUSSED AND THE BOARD APPROVED PAYMENT OF \$82,000.00 TO IRS.

COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE COUNTY ATTORNEY TO ADVERTISE FOR BID.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER BOWDEN TO AUTHORIZE COUNTY ATTORNEY TO PREPARE A PROPOSAL FOR ADVERTISING FOR MANAGEMENT OR LEASE.

2ND COMMISSIONER COX
MOTION CARRIED 5-0

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER GRANT FOR BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO FORM A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION IN ORDER TO OPERATE CALHOUN GENERAL HOSPITAL.


2ND COX
MOTION CARRIED 5-0

COMMISSIONER HELVIN RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEET ONCE A WEEK AT CALHOUN GENERAL HOSPITAL WITH ADMINISTRATOR OF THE HOSPITAL. THE BOARD AGREED AND SCHEDULED THE FIRST MEETING FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1991 AT 5:00 P.M.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE BOARD DID ADJOURN.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CALHOUN COUNTY, FLORIDA



WILLIE D. WISE, CLERK

S. DONNELL WHITFIELD,
CHAIRMAN, BCC