

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX – COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
AUGUST 13, 2019
9:00 AM
MINUTES**

Commissioners Present: Noah Lockley – Chairman, William Massey-Vice-Chairman, Joseph Parrish, Ricky Jones, Bert B. Boldt, II

Others Present: Marcia M. Johnson-Clerk of Court, Erin Griffith-Assistant Finance Director, Michael Moron-County Coordinator, Michael Shuler – County Attorney, Lauren Luberto-Deputy Clerk to the Board.

Call to Order

Chairman Lockley called the meeting to Order.

Commissioner Jones said a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments

Chairman Lockley asked for public comment. There were no public comments.

Michael Moron-County Coordinator-Weems CEO Resignation

Mr. Moron presented his report as follows:

1.) Inform the board that at the Wednesday, August 7th Weems Board of Directors Special Meeting, Mr. Cannington (CEO) tendered his resignation effective September 7, 2019. With this notification, I immediately started a search for a short-term interim solution that would allow this Board the opportunity to decide on a path forward for the management of Weems and the county's health care system. As I discussed this search with Mr. Doug Creamer, Weems BOD Chairman, we both agreed that Pastor David Walker, who currently serves on the Weems Board would be a very good candidate. What Pastor Walker may lack in hospital administrative experience, he makes up for in health department and other similar health program management. I have negotiated an agreement with Pastor Walker as the interim Hospital Administrator that would pay him \$10,416.67 per month for three months guaranteed. If necessary, the county could extend this agreement for three additional months, on a month to month basis. This should allow the County and the Weems Board of Directors sufficient time to determine how to move forward with the management of Weems Memorial

Hospital and the county's health care system. I am working on creating a support network, hopefully that will include Tallahassee Memorial, to assist Pastor Walker in his day to day management of Weems. Due to the short timeline, I was not able to present this plan to the full Weems Board for a recommendation as it my intention to have Pastor Walker start as soon as possible to take advantage of the time Mr. Cannington is here for a smooth transition. If the Board is inclined to accept this recommendation, a motion to accept Mr. Cannington's resignation is needed, and another motion is needed to authorize the agreement, as described, with Pastor David Walker. Attorney Shuler's services may be needed to create an agreement. ***Board discussion/action.***

Chairman Lockley reported the Board must replace the CEO and Pastor Walker has an impressive resume. **Commissioner Massey made a motion to accept Mr. Cannington's resignation and appoint Pastor David Walker as CEO. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.** Mr. Moron spoke about how many CEO's the hospital has gone through in the past and the Board's displeasure at having to pay fees for the cost of each transition. He said this is one of the reasons he looked locally. He discussed the critical access experience and said it should be with the Chief Financial Officer (CEO) because it is simply a different way to bill to recoup money. He explained the CEO administration does not need to address the critical access because it is more for billing and that is why he decided to just look for a good administrator. **Commissioner Massey amended his motion to accept the resignation of Mr. Cannington. Commissioner Boldt amended his second. Motion carried; 5-0. Commissioner Massey made a motion to accept Mr. David Walker as the interim CEO temporarily. Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion.** Commissioner Boldt stated it is important to look at the history they have had with several prior hospital administrators and make a guideline list of the wishes of this Commission to be followed by the administrator so they know where the money is going. He reported they were surprised the money market/savings account had been used and the Board did not know. Commissioner Boldt explained the Board declared the Hospital Board will have command control of working with that entity of the hospital and guidelines on how the administrator should present his point to the Board of Directors which also cascades to this Board. He reported maybe there are some of these in the archives that they have talked about. Commissioner Boldt stated he is glad they have time to go look for other talented leadership and other directions they can go. Chairman Lockley asked Mr. Walker to approach the podium. He questioned if Mr. Walker is prepared to accept the position. Mr. Walker answered yes. **Motion carried; 5-0.** Mr. Doug Creamer, Chairman of the Hospital Board, asked that this be immediate for this position Mr. Walker is assuming. The Board agreed it is immediate.

Michael Moron-County Coordinator-USDA Grant Application to Purchase Ambulance

Mr. Moron read the following item;

- 2.) As the fleet of ambulances continue to get older, I am attempting to take advantage of access to USDA grant funds that will give priority to counties that were affected by Hurricane Michael. If approved, this USDA grant would pay for 75% of two ambulances

therefore county match would be 25%. Based on information from "Louie", your EMS Director, a new ambulance will cost no more than \$220,000, therefore the county's match would be \$55,000 for each unit. In order to determine our eligibility, the county has to submit a pre-application. Submitting this pre-application does not commit the county to the grant or the match, only a determination of eligibility and a place on the list for funding. **Board action** to authorize the Chairman's signature on the USDA pre-application along with submission to USDA.

Commissioner Parrish made a motion to authorize the Chairman's signature on the USDA pre-application along with the submission to USDA. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Chairman Lockley asked if this is a new full ambulance. Mr. Moron answered yes not a box but two brand new ambulances. He pointed out a few months ago the Board ordered a new ambulance but it is still being built and it takes a long time to get one. Mr. Moron said he will bring back the full application once it is completed. He said Mrs. Griffith is working on these applications. Chairman Lockley asked how many good ambulances the county will have when these are received. Mr. Moron said he will have the ambulance director come give a report on the status of the ambulances. Mr. Moron stated this will give the county 3 new ambulances. Mrs. Griffith reported several months ago one ambulance was totaled in an accident and they are working through the insurance process. Mr. Moron explained once they have 3 new ambulances then they should keep 1-2 ambulances as backup and send the rest of the old fleet to auction. Chairman Lockley agreed they should receive an update at the next meeting. Commissioner Parrish asked if the money received at auction can be used toward the 25% so the county's match would be a little less. Mr. Moron agreed this could be done. Commissioner Boldt said if they decide to go with this grant where will the money for the match come from. Mrs. Griffith suggested the HCTF. Chairman Lockley stated this will come out of the capital side of the HCTF. Mr. Moron agreed that is where the money would come from. Commissioner Massey said they are going back to the HCTF. Chairman Lockley asked about the grant they got in the past to purchase ambulances. Mr. Moron explained they used to get a small EMS grant and a large one for ambulances but he has not seen the large grant in some time. He stated this information will be relayed to the Board of Directors so their Chairman can investigate the grant situation. Commissioner Boldt reported he has a health care background and is a physical therapist and speaks a lot of the language of health care and have a lot of health care contacts. He stated access first is with the ambulances and he encourages a rich supply of these units in the county. Chairman Lockley agreed they need good ambulances. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Michael Moron-County Coordinator-USDA Grant Application to Install Fire Sprinkler/Suppression System in Fort Coombs Armory

Mr. Moron presented the following request for action:

- 3.) I would like to submit another USDA 75% - 25% split grant fund pre-application for the fire sprinkler/suppression system installation, interior painting, and roof replacement at

the Fort Coombs Armory. Based on the architect's estimation, the total project cost should be around \$850,000, which would have the county's match at \$212,500. Part of this match will come from the State's Fire Marshall's Office \$100,000 grant that was awarded to the County last year. The balance of the match could come from the \$100,000 that TDC dedicated to the County last year for the installation of the fire sprinkler/suppression system and from the recent legislative appropriation. Before that determination is made, the county needs to submit the pre-application to USDA for eligibility. As stated with the ambulance issue, this will not commit the county to the match funds or the grant. **Board action** to authorize the Chairman's signature on the USDA pre-application along with submission to USDA.

Commissioner Parrish made a motion to authorize the Chairman's signature on the USDA pre-application along with submission to USDA. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Chairman Lockley said this would be a good time to finish that project and start on something else. **Motion carried; 5-0.**

Mrs. Amy Ham Kelly, Zoning Administrator, offered the following request:

Request for a Public Hearing to rezone a .29 acre parcel from C-1 Commercial Fishing to C-3 Commercial Recreation. Parcel is located at 332 Patton Drive, Eastpoint, Florida. Request submitted by Susan Reeder, owner.

Mrs. Ham-Kelly said this was presented to the Board in June and their recommendation is to go to C-3 Commercial Recreation since they would like to do cottages. She reported the Planning & Zoning Commission made a motion to do this under a special exception in C-1 Commercial Fishing. She stated they are requesting 4 mobile cottages and they will meet the 50 ft. setback. She explained there is a possibility they will need a variance for the front and 5 ft. of the side setbacks. Mrs. Ham-Kelly stated these would be modest variances but they would be addressed by the Board of Adjustment. She said she encouraged them to keep the 50 ft. setback out of the critical habitat zone whether it was C-1 or C-3 and they kept the setback. She explained these cottage units will be similar to the cottages at Coastline RV Park. Mrs. Ham-Kelly said these units will have quick disconnect from water, sewer and power sources. She stated in the event of a storm they will be required to evacuate the units outside of the area. She reported they must be road ready tagged and they must be moved at least one time every 180 days to be in line with the flood ordinance. She said it is up to the Board whether or not they send this to the public hearing to go forward with the original request for rezoning instead of a special exception under the C-1 uses. Chairman Lockley stated this is not the owner's fault the oyster business has declined but they still have to pay their taxes. He explained this is like survival mode and they had to leave one business that was doing bad and go to another one. He reported it is unknown when the oyster industry will come back, if at all. Chairman Lockley stated they still have bills to pay and he would not give up either. Commissioner Jones asked if the request today is just for the public hearing. Mrs. Ham-Kelly answered yes. **On motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Massey, and**

by unanimous vote of the Board present, it was agreed to grant the request to have the hearing. Mrs. Ham-Kelly stated the public hearing will be set for September 3rd. Commissioner Jones asked for the time. Mrs. Ham-Kelly said either 10:00 a.m. or 10:15 a.m.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

Noah Lockley - Chairman

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts