

BOARD MINUTES FOR 07/09/04

JULY 9, 2004

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, IN AND FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, MET ON THE ABOVE DATE AT 1:00 P. M. AT THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ANNEX, BOARD MEETING ROOM, 1331 SOUTH BOULEVARD, CHIPLEY, FLORIDA WITH COMMISSIONERS BROCK, CORBIN, FINCH AND HALL PRESENT. ATTORNEY HOLLEY, ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT, CLERK COOK AND DEPUTY CLERK CARTER WERE ALSO IN ATTENDANCE.

ATTORNEY HOLLEY OFFERED PRAYER WITH COMMISSIONER FINCH LEADING IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG.

PATSY JUSTICE, AL CLEVELAND AND DR. RADWAN SABBAGH WITH THE WASHINGTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT MET WITH THE BOARD TO DISCUSS A SITE FOR A NEW HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

JUSTICE UPDATED THE BOARD ON \$275,000 HAVING BEEN IN THE STATE TRUST FUND FOR A NEW HEALTH DEPARTMENT; IT HAD BEEN TAKEN BUT SENATOR PEADEN HAD IT REINSTATED. SHE EXPLAINED A FIVE ACRE SITE WOULD BE NEEDED TO LOCATE THE FACILITY.

JUSTICE ADVISED THE \$275,000 WOULD BE USED FOR DESIGNING AND PLANNING AND IT WOULD BE UP TO THE BOARD TO LOBBY THE LEGISLATORS TO SUPPORT FUNDING TO BUILD THE FACILITY.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON POSSIBLE SITE LOCATIONS. COMMISSIONER FINCH QUESTIONED IF THE PROPERTY LOCATED BEHIND THE HOSPITAL HADN'T BEEN EXCLUDED FROM THE HOSPITAL LEASE WITH NORTHWEST FLORIDA HEALTH- CARE FOR THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT SITE; ATTORNEY HOLLEY ADVISED THAT PROPERTY WAS INCLUDED IN THE HOSPITAL LEASE.

JUSTICE TOLD THE BOARD THE FACILITY WOULD NEED TO BE LOCATED IN THE COUNTY SEAT; IT DOESN'T NEED TO BE MOVED AWAY FROM THE HOSPITAL, COURTHOUSE, BUILDING DEPARTMENT, ETC.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN ADDRESSED THERE BEING A LOT OF PRESSURE TO LOCATE THE NEW FACILITY AT SUNNY HILLS OR VERNON SO IT WOULD BE MORE CENTRALLY LOCATED.

THE INDUSTRIAL PARK AND THE PROPERTY AT THE OLD ROULHAC MIDDLE SCHOOL WAS ALSO DISCUSSED AS A POSSIBLE SITE FOR THE NEW FACILITY.

COMMISSIONER BROCK UPDATED THE BOARD ON THE CITY OF VERNON BEING WILLING TO DONATE SIX ACRES, THE OLD SHADY GROVE BALLPARK, TO CONSTRUCT A NEW HEALTH DEPARTMENT; THIS PROPERTY HAS WATER AND SEWER ALREADY AVAILABLE. HE FELT THIS LOCATION WOULD BE A FAIR SITE AS IT IS LOCATED IN THE CENTRAL PART OF THE COUNTY.

JUSTICE EXPLAINED THE BOARD NEEDED TO LOOK AT SOMETHING THAT WOULD BE A PERMANENT STRUCTURE SO THE CITIZENS OF THE COUNTY WOULDN'T BE INCONVENIENCED.

WHEN QUESTIONED ON HAVING A SATELLITE OFFICE IN CHIPLEY AND LOCATING THE NEW FACILITY IN VERNON, JUSTICE EXPLAINED THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH STAFF TO SPREAD OUT NOR ENOUGH MONEY TO OPERATE TWO FACILITIES. JUSTICE ADDRESSED SOME OF THE PROBLEMS AT THE CURRENT HEALTH DEPARTMENT FACILITY; NOT ENOUGH SPACE AND PATIENT PRIVACY.

WHEN QUESTIONED ON USING THE NEWER WINN DIXIE BUILDING FOR THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT, ATTORNEY HOLLEY ADVISED WINN DIXIE IS STILL LEASING THIS FACILITY.

JUSTICE STATED THE \$275,000 COULD BE USED FOR DESIGNING AND PLANNING FOR A NEW HEALTH DEPARTMENT WITH SOME MONIES LEFT OVER FOR EQUIPMENT OR IT COULD BE USED TO RENOVATE THE PRESENT FACILITY. JUSTICE ADVISED THE DECISION THE BOARD WOULD NEED TO MAKE IS IF THEY WANTED TO SPEND THE MONIES ON PLANNING A NEW HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND MAKE A DECISION ON WHERE IT WOULD BE LOCATED OR RENOVATE THE PRESENT HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

WHEN QUESTIONED ON RELOCATING THE OLD DRIVERS LICENSE OFFICE AND EXPANDING THEIR PRESENT LOCATION, CLEVELAND SAID THERE WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH SPACE TO BUILD ACCORDING TO THE PLANS FOR THE NEW HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

WHEN QUESTIONED ON OBTAINING A HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT TO BUILD THE FACILITY; JUSTICE ADVISED SHE DIDN'T THINK THESE FUNDS COULD BE USED FOR A PHYSICAL FACILITY.

WHEN QUESTIONING THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT ON WHAT THEY WANTED, CLEVELAND AND JUSTICE BOTH AGREED THEY WANTED TO BE WHERE THE BOARD WANTED THEM; IF THE BOARD FEELS LIKE THE PEOPLE IN THE COUNTY WOULD BE BETTER SERVED AT ANOTHER LOCATION, THAT IS WHERE THEY WANT TO BE. DR. SABBAGH REITERATED WHAT JUSTICE HAD SAID EARLIER ABOUT THE NEED FOR THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO BE LOCATED CLOSE TO THE HOSPITAL.

COMMISSIONER BROCK OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FINCH FOR DISCUSSION, FOR THE COUNTY TO PUT IN AN APPLICATION FOR THE NEW HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO BE LOCATED IN VERNON.

COMMISSIONER FINCH ADDRESSED IF THE COUNTY IS GOING TO SERVE THE PEOPLE IN THE FUTURE, THE VERNON LOCATION MAKES SENSE; HOWEVER, IF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT WANTS TO STAY WHERE THEY ARE AND MAKE RENOVATIONS TO THE PRESENT FACILITY, THE BOARD NEEDS TO KNOW. HE SAID WHEN MAKING A DECISION, EVERYONE NEEDS TO THINK ABOUT WHAT WILL BEST SERVE THE PEOPLE IN THE FUTURE.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN ADDRESSED HIM NOT KNOWING HOW MUCH PULL THE BOARD HAD WITH LOBBYING THE LEGISLATORS; HE STATED HE DIDN'T HAVE ANY PULL BUT THOUGHT TOMMY MCDONALD, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHIPLEY, COULD ASSIST WITH LOBBYING FOR FUNDING FOR A NEW HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

CLEVELAND ADDRESSED THE LOGISTICS OF SERVING THE PEOPLE IN THE COUNTY OVER THE NEXT FIFTEEN YEARS WOULD BE TO STAY LOCATED IN CHIPLEY DUE TO THEM USING COUNTY OFFICES RELIGIOUSLY.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN ADDRESSED SUNNY HILLS WAS NOW BOOMING. HULAN CARTER, PRIOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER AND EMPLOYEE AT DELTONA CORPORATION, FELT COMFORTABLE DELTONA WOULD DONATE PROPERTY FOR A NEW HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUT IT WOULD NOT HAVE WATER AND SEWER SERVICES ALREADY ACCESSIBLE.

DISCUSSION CONTINUED WITH CLEVELAND AND JUSTICE REITERATING THE NEED TO BE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE HOSPITAL, BUILDING DEPARTMENT, COURTHOUSE ETC.; HOWEVER THEY WOULD DO WHATEVER THE BOARD TELLS THEM TO DO BECAUSE THEY WORK FOR THEM.

WHEN QUESTIONED BY FINCH ON HOW REALISTIC IT WAS TO THINK THE LEGISLATURE WOULD FUND A NEW HEALTH FACILITY, JUSTICE ADVISED THAT GULF AND WALTON COUNTY HAD RECEIVED FUNDING FOR NEW FACILITIES. IF THE BOARD CHOSE TO LOCATE OTHER THAN THE CHIPLEY AREA, JUSTICE ADVISED WASHINGTON COUNTY WOULD BE THE ONLY COUNTY WHERE THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT WOULD NOT BE LOCATED IN THE COUNTY SEAT.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN SUGGESTED AN ARCHITECT LOOK AT THE PRESENT HEALTH DEPARTMENT ON THE POSSIBILITY OF RENOVATING IT. DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON THE LIMITED REAL ESTATE AVAILABLE.

COMMISSIONER FINCH ASKED IF THERE WOULD BE ENOUGH TIME TO MAKE A FINAL DECISION AT THE JULY 22ND BOARD MEETING; THIS WOULD GIVE THEM TIME TO CONTACT THE LEGISLATORS, PEADEN AND BROWN, TO SEE WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT THEY MAY HAVE ON GETTING FUNDING TO BUILD A NEW HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

JUSTICE ADVISED THE BOARD COULD WAIT UNTIL THEIR JULY 22ND MEETING; HOWEVER, THEY NEEDED TO ACT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IS POSITIONED TO BEGIN SURVEYING THE SELECTED LOCATION.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON WHETHER AN X-RAY DEPARTMENT WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE NEW FACILITY. JUSTICE ADVISED IT WAS NOT IN THE PLANS; THEY CAN'T AFFORD A PERSON OR THE EQUIPMENT FOR AN X-RAY DEPARTMENT.

COMMISSIONER BROCK AND FINCH AGREED TO TABLE THE MOTION ON THE FLOOR UNTIL THE JULY 22ND MEETING.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON THE FENCE THAT HAD BEEN PUT UP AT THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT. JUSTICE SAID SHE HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO THE FENCE BEING TAKEN DOWN; IN FACT, SHE WAS WANTING IT TAKEN DOWN AND SOME LANDSCAPING DONE.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN UPDATED THE BOARD ON HIS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE BARRONS ON THEIR BID FOR THE DANIELS LAKE PROPERTY; THEY ARE WILLING TO RAISE THEIR

PRICE TO \$90,000. HE ALSO ADDRESSED THE LOW BIDDER ON THE PROPERTY HAVING SHOWN AN INTEREST IN RAISING HIS BID PRICE.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN SAID BARRON REQUESTED IF THE BOARD DECIDED TO RE-ADVERTISE FOR BIDS ON THE DANIELS LAKE PROPERTY, THEY PUT A MINIMUM BID ON IT.

COMMISSIONER FINCH OFFERED A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE \$90,000 FROM THE BARRONS FOR THE DANIELS LAKE PROPERTY. AFTER COMMISSIONER CORBIN STATED HE FELT LIKE THE BARRONS WOULD PAY MORE FOR THE PROPERTY, COMMISSIONER FINCH WITHDREW HIS MOTION AND MADE A MOTION TO REJECT THE OTHER BIDS AND RE-ADVERTISE FOR A MINIMUM BID PRICE OF \$100,000. COMMISSIONER BROCK SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

COMMISSIONER FINCH OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CORBIN TO ADJOURN.

COMMISSIONER HALL REQUESTED THE BOARD APPOINT RONNIE DANIELS TO THE RECREATION COMMITTEE. COMMISSIONER FINCH OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CORBIN AND CARRIED TO APPROVE OF HALL'S REQUEST.

THE MOTION TO ADJOURN CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

DEPUTY CLERK

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CHAIRMAN

\*END OF MINUTES\* FOR 07/09/04