

BOARD MINUTES FOR 04/01/03

APRIL 1, 2003

PURSUANT TO A RECESS FROM THE MARCH 27, 2003 MEETING, THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, IN AND FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, MET ON THE ABOVE DATE AT 8:00 A.M. AT THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ANNEX, BOARD MEETING ROOM, 1331 SOUTH BOULEVARD, CHIPLEY, FLORIDA WITH COMMISSIONERS BROCK, COPE, CORBIN, FINCH AND HALL PRESENT.

CHAIRMAN CORBIN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER WITH ATTORNEY HOLLEY OFFERING PRAYER. COMMISSIONER COPE LED IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG.

CHAIRMAN CORBIN ADVISED THE BOARD THERE WERE TWO POSITIONS OPEN ON THE CHIPOLA REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD AND WENDY CORBIN AND CINDY THOMPSON HAVE BEEN RECOMMENDED TO FILL THESE POSITIONS. COMMISSIONER BROCK OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER COPE AND CARRIED TO APPROVE OF THESE APPOINTMENTS.

COMMISSIONER HALL REPORTED ON HIS NEGOTIATIONS WITH SONNY LEAVINS ON PROPERTY FOR THE NEW HEALTH DEPARTMENT. LEAVINS WAS WILLING TO SELL 18.3 ACRES FOR \$295,000; HE HAS AGREED TO TAKE A DOWN PAYMENT WITH THE BOARD MAKING PAYMENTS ANNUALLY; HE WOULD LIKE TO HOLD OUT TWO ACRES AND THE HOUSE, IF THE COUNTY WERE TO PURCHASE THE PROPERTY TO PUT THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT ON AND ANOTHER ROAD WAS PUT IN, IT IS REQUESTED BY THE FAMILY THAT DID OWN IT THAT THE ROAD BE NAMED AFTER THE ORIGINAL OWNERS OF THE PROPERTY.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON READVERTISING THE DANIELS LAKE PROPERTY, DONATING THE PROPERTY ADJACENT TO THE MEDICAL OFFICE FACILITY FOR THE NEW HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONTINGENT ON IT BEING FUNDED, PURCHASING A SMALLER TRACT OF LAND FROM LEAVINS, AND FINANCING THE PURCHASE OF ENTIRE 18.3 ACRES FROM LEAVINS.

ATTORNEY HOLLEY ADVISED THE BOARD THEY WOULD HAVE TO PURCHASE THE LEAVINS PROPERTY WITH A BOND ISSUE; THEY DON'T HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT FINANCING FROM LEAVINS.

COMMISSIONER FINCH RECOMMENDED THE BOARD WAIT UNTIL THE SALE, LEASE OR MANAGEMENT OF THE HOSPITAL ISSUE IS RESOLVED TO SEE WHAT THE COUNTY IS GOING TO BE OBLIGATED FOR; HE IS NOT SURE IF THE COUNTY WILL BE ABLE TO BORROW ANY MORE MONEY.

COMMISSIONER BROCK ADDRESSED THE BOARD HAVING WORKED DILIGENTLY WITH THE WASHINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD ON ISSUES LIKE DONATIONS OF LAND. HE VOICED HIS DISAPPOINTMENT IN THEIR NOT DONATING THE FIVE ACRES REQUESTED FOR THE NEW HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

ATTORNEY HOLLEY ADVISED HE DIDN'T KNOW WHY THE BOARD COULDN'T, IF THEY WANTED TO, OFFER THE LAND AT THE HOSPITAL FOR THE NEW HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND THEN SUBSTITUTE OTHER LAND FOR IT IF OTHER PROPERTY BECOMES AVAILABLE.

COMMISSIONER FINCH OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HALL TO OFFER THE PROPERTY AT THE HOSPITAL FOR THE NEW HEALTH DEPARTMENT RESERVING THE RIGHT, IF OTHER LAND BECOMES AVAILABLE, TO SUBSTITUTE IT AT A LATER DATE.

COMMISSIONER BROCK REFERENCED A LANDOWNER IN THE CENTRAL PART OF THE COUNTY BEING WILLING TO SELL PROPERTY TO THE COUNTY FOR THE NEW HEALTH DEPARTMENT WHICH WOULD BE MORE CENTRALLY LOCATED FOR RURAL AREA SERVICES. BROCK ADVISED THE OWNER WAS REQUESTING \$1,000 TO \$1,500 PER ACRE; THERE IS A LOT OF DIFFERENCE IN \$30,000 PER ACRE VERSUS \$1,500. THE MOTION ON THE FLOOR CARRIED WITH COMMISSIONER BROCK OPPOSED. CHAIRMAN CORBIN APPOINTED COMMISSIONER BROCK TO WORK WITH PATSY JUSTICE OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT ON THE LAND HE WAS REFERRING TO, ANY OTHER COUNTY OWNED LAND, ANY PROPERTY THAT MAY BE SUITABLE FOR THE NEW HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND BRING A RECOMMENDATION BACK TO THE BOARD.

ATTORNEY HOLLEY ADVISED COMMISSIONER BROCK IF HE COULD GET ONE VOTE CHANGED, HE COULD GET THE FIVE ACRES REQUESTED FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD.

COMMISSIONER BROCK STATED HE THOUGHT HE COULD GET THE CITY OF VERNON TO DONATE THE PROPERTY FOR THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT REPORTED THAT EDDIE RILEY, SHOP FOREMAN AT PUBLIC WORKS, HAS REQUESTED SURPLUSSING OF A MILLER WELDER, OLD WELDING TRUCK AND A BOX BLADE AND SELLING IT AT THE PUBLIC AUCTION BEING HELD BY GERALD MASON. COMMISSIONER COPE OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HALL AND CARRIED TO APPROVE OF RILEY'S REQUEST.

COMMISSIONER BROCK ADDRESSED THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING TO USE MORE BATWINGS TO KEEP FROM HAVING TO MAKE AN EXTRA ROUND WHEN DOING THE FIRST ROUND OF MOWING DUE TO THERE BEING A WIDE STRIP LEFT WHEN DOING THE BACK SLOPE OF THE COUNTY RIGHT OF WAY.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN RECOMMENDED USING ONE 15' CUT, LET A 7' MOWER CATCH THE MOWING IN THE DITCH OR ON THE EDGE OF THE BACKSLOPE AND LEAVE THE BACK SLOPE UNTIL THE SECOND CUTTING. THE BOARD AGREED TO TRY THIS METHOD TO SEE HOW IT WORKED.

CHAIRMAN CORBIN REQUESTED EACH OF THE COMMISSIONERS GIVE THEIR OPINION ON THE PROPOSALS RECEIVED ON THE SALE, LEASE OR MANAGEMENT OF THE NORTHWEST FLORIDA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL.

DISTRICT 1-COMMISSIONER HALL: NEED MORE INFORMATION AND WANT KNOW A WHOLE LOT UNTIL ENTERING INTO NEGOTIATIONS. WHEN QUESTIONED BY CHAIRMAN CORBIN IF HE WOULD BE IN FAVOR OF SELECTING ONE TO THREE OF THE FOUR PROPOSALS SUBMITTED, COMMISSIONER HALL ADVISED HE WOULD BE IN FAVOR OF SELECTING THE TWO BEST PROPOSALS.

DISTRICT 2-COMMISSIONER COPE: HE COULD SELECT TWO OUT OF THE FOUR PROPOSALS RECEIVED; HOWEVER, HE WOULD NEED MORE INFORMATION AND WOULD LIKE TO INTERVIEW THEM; HE SELECTED SACRED HEART AND RESURGENCE HEALTH GROUP

DISTRICT 3-COMMISSIONER BROCK: HE WAS IN FAVOR OF SELECTING TWO OF THE FOUR PROPOSALS SUBMITTED AND DISMISSING TWO OF THEM.

DISTRICT 5-COMMISSIONER FINCH: HE HAD NO PROBLEM IN SELECTING TWO PROPOSALS OUT OF THE FOUR RECEIVED AS LONG AS THE THE BOARD IS REALISTIC IN CHOOSING TWO PROPOSALS THAT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS ADVERTISED AND KEEP THE COUNTY'S BEST INTEREST IN MIND. HE RECOMMENDED THE BOARD CONSIDER STRONGLY WHAT THEY ARE LOOKING AT: THE BOARD HAS OBLIGATED TO BORROW 3.2 MILLION DOLLARS SUPPOSEDLY FOR THE HOSPITAL AND THEY NEEDED TO LOOK AT THE PROPOSALS AND TAKE THEM AT FACE VALUE; IN RFP'S, BOARD ASKED FOR CERTAIN THINGS TO HAPPEN AND SOME OF THE PROPOSALS HAVE ANSWERED THESE QUESTIONS AND SOME HAVE NOT; BEFORE THE BOARD SELECTS TO GO FORWARD WITH TWO PROPOSALS, THEY NEED TO EVALUATE WHAT IS ON PAPER BEFORE THEM; IF THEY DO THIS, THERE WILL BE ONE THAT WILL FALL OUT. DISTRICT 4-

COMMISSIONER CORBIN: THE BOARD CAN NEVER SELECT THE RIGHT ONE AT THE BEST OF THEIR JUDGEMENT UNLESS THEY HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMPARE WITH OTHER PROPOSALS THEY RECEIVED. HE RECOMMENDED THE BOARD NARROW IT DOWN TO TWO PROPOSALS. AFTER DOING THAT, MABYBE THE THE BOARD CAN GET A MUCH BETTER DEAL THAN OFFERED IN THE PROPOSALS; HE REFERENCED ONE OF THE PROPOSALS OFFERING TO OPERATE THE HOSPITAL FOR A PERCENTAGE OF THE NET PROFIT; THIS APPEASED HIM.

CHAIRMAN CORBIN ADVISED HE WOULD ACCEPT A MOTION TO REQUEST ATTENDANCE WITH THE TWO PROPOSALS THE BOARD SELECTS.

LILLY BERRY WITH NORTHWEST FLORIDA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL ADVISED THE BOARD THAT KATHY MILTON FROM CHIPOLA REALTY CALLED AND REQUESTED HER PROPOSAL BE WITHDRAWN; SHE WAS ADVISED TO WRITE A LETTER STATING HER REQUEST TO WITHDRAW THE PROPOSAL.

CHAIRMAN CORBIN ADDRESSED HIM FEELING SURE THE BOARD HAS ALREADY WITHDRAWN HER PROPOSAL AT THE TIME OF SUBMITTAL; HE FELT THE BOARD DENIED IT BECAUSE IT WAS NOT REASONABLE.

COMMISSIONER FINCH OFFERED A MOTION TO SELECT RESURGENCE HEALTH GROUP AND DASSEE COMMUNITY HEALTH SYSTEM. CHAIRMAN CORBIN TURNED THE CHAIR OVER TO VICE-CHAIRMAN BROCK AND SECONDED THE MOTION. COMMISSIONER FINCH AND CORBIN FOR WITH COMMISSIONERS HALL, BROCK AND COPE OPPOSED.

COMMISSIONER COPE OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BROCK TO SELECT SACRED HEART AND RESURGENCE HEALTH GROUP.

COMMISSIONER FINCH QUESTIONED COPE ON WHAT WAS OBVIOUS ABOUT SACRED HEART'S PROPOSAL THAT WOULD MAKE HIM SELECT IT. COMMISSIONER COPE ADVISED IT WAS DUE TO RESEARCH HE HAD DONE.

COMMISSIONER FINCH ADDRESSED HIM HAVING DONE RESEARCH ON THE INTERNET ON RESURGENCE AND THEY WERE PRAISED ON WHAT THEY HAVE DONE AND WHAT THEY HAVE PROPOSED TO DO AT OTHER FACILITIES; HE HASN'T SEEN THAT IN WHAT SACRED HEART HAS PROPOSED. HE REFERENCED SACRED HEART'S PROPOSAL DID NOT OBLIGATE ONE PENNY TOWARD THE HOSPITAL BUT THEY HAVE ASKED THE COUNTY TO OBLIGATE MONIES; ASLO, THE OTHER THREE PROPOSALS OFFERED TO GIVE THE COUNTY MONEY FOR THE HOSPITAL.

CHAIRMAN CORBIN AGREED WITH COMMISSIONER FINCH AND REFERENCED WHEN THE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH SACRED HEART BEGAN IN 1999, THE HOSPITAL HAD MONIES; TODAY THERE IS NO MONIES, THERE IS OUTSTANDING OBLIGATIONS TO VENDORS AND QUESTIONED IF SACRED HEART WAS SO GREAT, WHY HAVEN'T THEY DONE SOMETHING OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS. HE ADVISED THE BOARD THE CITIZENS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY WOULD NOT STAND FOR THE BOARD TO GIVE SACRED HEART 3.2 MILLION DOLLARS AND IN TURN SELL THE HOSPITAL FOR \$1. THERE HAS GOT TO BE SOMEONE OUT THERE THAT WOULD GIVE THE SAME QUALITY CARE AS SACRED HEART GIVES. IF IT COMES DOWN TO SACRED HEART'S PROPOSAL, HE HAD RATHER GO BACK TO A MANAGEMENT TEAM, SACRED HEART OR SOMEBODY, TAKE IT AWAY FROM THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND PUT IT UNDER A CITIZENS BOARD COMMITTEE TO SEE IF THEY CAN RUN IT BETTER THAN THE COMMISSIONERS. HE ASKED COMMISSIONER COPE, BROCK AND HALL TO EXPLAIN TO HIM WHAT WAS SO GOOD ABOUT SACRED HEART.

COMMISSIONER BROCK ADVISED THERE WAS A LOT BETTER MEDICAL CARE AT THE HOSPITAL SINCE SACRED HEART STARTED MANAGING THE FACILITY AND ASKED DR. CLEMMONS TO VERIFY THIS.

DR. CLEMMONS, HOSPITAL BOARD MEMBER, ADDRESSED THE BOARD AGREEING SACRED HEART HAS BROUGHT IMPROVEMENTS TO THE HOSPITAL AT A SIGNIFICANT PRICE; HE IS A TAXPAYER OF THE COUNTY AND THE BOARD NEEDS TO LOOK TO SEE IF THERE IS PEOPLE WHO CAN GIVE EQUAL OR BETTER CARE IN TERMS OF MANAGING THE FACILITY AND NOT COST THE COUNTY WHAT SACRED HEART IS ASKING. CLEMMONS ALSO ADDRESSED THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE LIABILITIES AT THE HOSPITAL RUNNING \$1,000,000 A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO; SACRED HEART'S PROPOSAL IS WANTING THE COUNTY TO UNDERTAKE THESE LIABILITIES, GIVE THEM 3.2 MILLION DOLLARS, THE COUNTY RUN THE AMBULANCE SERVICE AND THE NEW MEDICAL OFFICE COMPLEX AND IN RETURN THEY WILL GIVE THE COUNTY \$1 FOR THE HOSPITAL.

CLEMMONS REFERENCED OTHER PROPOSALS OFFERING TO GIVE THE COUNTY MONIES AND WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE POSITIVE OFFER VERSUS THE NEGATIVE SACRED HEART IS PROPOSING; THERE IS APPROXIMATELY \$8,000,000 DIFFERENCE; TO TAXPAYERS, THIS IS A LOT OF MONEY TO LOOK AT.

COMMISSIONER BROCK QUESTIONED DR. CLEMMONS ON WHAT THE TAXPAYERS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE MEDICAL FACILITY SO FAR AND ADVISED THEY HAD NOT CONTRIBUTED ANYTHING.

CLEMMONS ADDRESSED THE GOVERNOR CUTTING BUDGETS AND WITH THESE BUDGET CUTS, HE DOESN'T SEE HOW THE TAXPAYERS CAN UNDERTAKE THE DEBT SACRED HEART IS ASKING THEM TO.

COMMISSIONER BROCK EXPLAINED THE CONCEPT OF THE 3.2 MILLION DOLLAR LOAN THE COUNTY IS GETTING FROM CAPITAL PROJECTS FINANCE AUTHORITY; THE NEW MEDICAL OFFICE FACILITY IS LEASED AT \$250,000.

JUDY SCHIRAH, HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR, ADVISED IT WAS GENERATING \$250,000 BUT THE CASH FLOW AFTER THE DEBT SERVICE ON THE FACILITY WAS \$120,000.

CHAIRMAN CORBIN ADDRESSED HIM NOT UNDERSTANDING WHY SACRED HEART DIDN'T WANT THE MEDICAL FACILITY IF IT WAS GOING TO BE MAKING MONEY; SCHIRAH ADVISED SHE COULDN'T SPEAK ON THE REASON WHY THEY DIDN'T WANT IT BUT THE CASH FLOW WOULD BE HELPING THE COUNTY MAINTAIN THE FUNDS THEY WERE GOING TO RECEIVE IN ORDER TO REPAIR THE HOSPITAL.

CLEMMONS STATED HE DID NOT KNOW EXACTLY HOW THE MEDICAL OFFICE FACILITY WAS MANAGED OR WHAT REVENUES IT BRINGS IN; HIS STATEMENT IN REGARD TO TAXES, IS WHAT SACRED HEART HAS BEEN PROPOSING ALL ALONG IS THAT TAXES BE RAISED TO PAY BACK WHAT THEY NEEDED WHICH IS 3.2 MILLION.

COMMISSIONER COPE REITERATED HIS MOTION WAS TO SELECT RESURGENCE AND SACRED HEART PROPOSALS; RESURGENCE HAS NOT EVEN BEEN DISCUSSED.

COMMISSIONER FINCH REITERATED SACRED HEART NOT WANTING TO ASSUME ANY LIABILITY FOR THE 3.2 MILLION DOLLAR LOAN AND OTHER LOANS THE HOSPITAL HAS RECEIVED THE BOARD IS OBLIGATED FOR; THERE ARE TWO PROPOSALS THAT WOULD GIVE THE BOARD MONEY AND THE COUNTY WOULD BE ABLE TO GET RID OF ALL THEIR DEBT. HE STATED HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE BOARD WOULD CONSIDER SACRED HEART'S PROPOSAL.

COMMISSIONER FINCH QUESTIONED WHY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WAS BORROWING 3.2 MILLION DOLLARS AND THEN WHEN SACRED HEART'S PROPOSAL WAS OPENED, THEY WERE ASKING FOR EXACTLY 3.2 MILLION DOLLARS.

CHAIRMAN CORBIN REFERENCED THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS NOT ONLY BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR THE 3.2 MILLION DOLLAR LOAN, THEY HAVE TO PICK UP THE HOSPITAL VENDORS LIABILITIES, THE SPRINKLER SYSTEM LOAN, THE ENTERPRISE LOAN IF THEY ACCEPT SACRED HEART'S PROPOSAL. HE REITERATED SACRED HEART WANTING THE BOARD TO PAY THEM 3.2 MILLION DOLLARS AND IF THEY HAD SAID THEY WOULD AGREE TO USE THESE MONIES TO TAKE CARE OF ALL THE LOANS, PUT A ROOF ON THE HOSPITAL, ETC. IT WOULD HAVE SOUNDED MUCH BETTER.

COMMISSIONER FINCH ASKED, BEFORE ANY ACTION IS TAKEN ON THE MOTION, FOR COMMISSIONER COPE, BROCK AND HALL TO TELL HIM WHAT POINT IN SACRED HEART'S PROPOSAL WOULD WANT THEM TO EVEN CONSIDER GIVING THEM THE 3.2 MILLION DOLLARS; HE DIDN'T FIND ONE POINT IN SACRED HEART'S PROPOSAL THAT WOULD MAKE HIM SAY THEY WERE THE PEOPLE HE WANTED TO DEAL WITH IN THE FUTURE. HE REFERENCED OTHER PROPOSALS RECEIVED OFFERING TO GIVE THE COUNTY MONEY AND PAY THEIR BILLS.

COMMISSIONER COPE ADDRESSED SACRED HEART'S PROPOSAL STATING THE COUNTY WOULD SELL THE HOSPITAL TO THEM FOR \$1 BUT IT ALSO STATED THE COUNTY COULD BUY IT BACK FOR \$1.

CHAIRMAN CORBIN ADDRESSED SACRED HEART'S PROPOSAL GIVING SACRED HEART THE OPTION TO GET OUT AFTER SEVEN YEARS, FOURTEEN YEARS AND THE COUNTY HAS THE OPTION TO BUY IT BACK FOR \$1.00 AT THE END OF TWENTY ONE YEARS.

COMMISSIONER FINCH REFERENCED DASSEY'S PROPOSAL OFFERING TO GIVE THE COUNTY FIRST OPTION ON PURCHASING THE HOSPITAL IF THEY EVER DECIDED TO SELL IT.

COMMISSIONER BROCK ASKED COMMISSIONER FINCH IF HE HAD DONE A GOOD JOB AND TALKED TO ELECTED OFFICIALS IN QUINCY AND APPALACHICOLA TO SEE WHAT KIND OF MESS THEY ARE IN ON NOT PAYING THEIR BILLS, ETC. HE ADDRESSED HIM NOT WANTING THE COUNTY TO GET BACK INTO A TURMOIL AGAIN AND NOT BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

CHAIRMAN CORBIN REFERENCED SACRED HEART NOT PAYING THEIR BILLS AND QUESTIONED IF THEIR RECORD WAS GOING TO FOLLOW THEM.

COMMISSIONER BROCK STATED SACRED HEART DID NOT OWN THE HOSPITAL NOR HAVE A LEASE ON IT; THE HOSPITAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES RUNS IT, PAYS THE BILLS AND MAKES THE DECISIONS.

COMMISSIONER FINCH ADDRESSED THE HOSPITAL BOARD HIRING A COMPANY, SACRED HEART, TO PAY THE BILLS FOR THEM AND GIVE THEM THE RIGHT DECISIONS SO THEY WOULDN'T HAVE TO BE AT A POINT THEY ARE AT NOW.

COMMISSIONER BROCK ADDRESSED THE ISSUE OF INDIGENT CARE BEING A PROBLEM; COMMISSIONER FINCH REFERENCED EVERY PROPOSAL SAID THEY WOULD DO THE SAME AS BEING DONE NOW IN THE COUNTY IN REGARDS TO INDIGENCY. FINCH ALSO POINTED OUT SACRED HEART'S PROPOSAL DIDN'T QUALIFY TO ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS THEY HAD; THE INFORMATION IS NOT THERE.

JANET KENNY ADDRESSED THE BOARD QUESTIONING IF ANYONE HAD CALLED ANY OF THE HOSPITALS DASSEE OR RESURGENCE OWNED OR MANAGED OR TALKED TO ANY OF THEIR EMPLOYEES.

CHAIRMAN CORBIN ADVISED HE HAD NOT CALLED BUT DOESN'T MIND DOING THAT; THE BOARD IS ASKING TO BRING THE PROPOSALS THEY SELECT TO CHIPLEY, INTERVIEW THEM, AND ASK THEM QUESTIONS. HOWEVER, THERE WOULD STILL BE TIME TO CALL THE FACILITIES AND ASK THE EMPLOYEES HOW THEY FEEL ABOUT THE WAY THEY ARE TREATED.

WHEN QUESTIONED BY CORBIN IF SHE WAS REFERRING TO HOW DASSEE AND RESURGENCE TREATS THEIR EMPLOYEES, SHE ADVISED SHE WAS REFERRING TO MAINTENANCE AT ANOTHER FACILITY, RECEIVERS NEEDED REPLACING, WHICH NEEDED TO BE DONE OVER A YEAR AGO, WHICH HAS NOT BEEN DONE; REDUCTION IN STAFF TO THE POINT THE STAFF DOESN'T FEEL THEY CAN HANDLE IT; A HOSPITAL THAT HAS BEEN OWNED FOR TWO YEARS THAT CAN'T PAY THEIR BILLS ACCORDING TO SOME OF THEIR STAFF. KENNY QUESTIONED IF THEY CAN'T CHANGE THESE ISSUES IN SOME OF THEIR FACILITIES, WHAT MAKES THE BOARD THINK THEY ARE GOING TO DO IT IN WASHINGTON COUNTY JUST BECAUSE THEY MAKE PROMISES ON PAPER. SHE ALSO QUESTIONED IF THE BOARD WAS LOOKING AT WHERE THE COMPANIES HAD COME FROM; IF THEY WERE COMPANIES PREVIOUS TO THIS AND PURGED WITH OTHER PERSONS FROM THE COMPANIES TO MAKE THIS COMPANY, AND HOW SOUND ARE THEY FINANCIALLY. CHAIRMAN CORBIN AGREED THESE WERE GOOD QUESTIONS AND FELT THE BOARD SHOULD CHECK THEM OUT.

DON WALTERS ADDRESSED THE BOARD STATING HE HAS BEEN IN BUSINESS BEFORE AND IF THEY CONSIDER GOING ALONG WITH THE PROPOSAL OFFERED BY SACRED HEART, THAT WOULD BE THE POOREST DECISION HE HAS EVER HEARD OF. HE ADDRESSED THERE BEING OTHER PEOPLE WHO ARE QUALIFIED TO DO THE WORK, HAVE OFFERED THE BOARD MONEY AND ACCEPTED THE DEBT OF THE HOSPITAL; IF THE BOARD CONSIDERED GIVING IT TO SACRED HEART FOR ONE DOLLAR, HE FEELS THIS WOULD BE LIKE SLAPPING THE TAXPAYERS IN THE FACE. WALTERS STATED IF THE BOARD MADE THIS TYPE OF DECISION IN THEIR PRIVATE LIFE, THEY WOULDN'T BE IN BUSINESS.

ALICE CARTER ADDRESSED THE BOARD STATING SHE WAS NOT HERE BECAUSE SHE WORKS FOR A DOCTOR. SHE STATED SHE HAD LOOKED AT THE PROPOSALS LOGICALLY AND REFERENCED THE WORDS INTENT AND PREFERENCE IN SACRED HEART'S PROPOSAL; THE PROPOSAL STATED THEY WERE GOING TO GIVE HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES PREFERENCE WITH JOBS; THEIR INTENT IS TO NOT SELL THE HOSPITAL FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND ADVISED IF THE BOARD ACCEPTS THIS PROPOSAL, THEY WILL BE AGREEING TO THOSE TERMS AS WRITTEN.

CARTER ADDRESSED HER GOING TO THE HOSPITAL BOARD MEETINGS FOR TWO AND A HALF YEARS AND HAVE SEEN EMPLOYEES LOSE THEIR JOBS FOR WHATEVER REASON AND SEEN EMPLOYEES WORRY ABOUT THEIR JOBS. SHE REFERENCED A FAMILY MEMBER LOSING THEIR JOB AND HAVE DETAILS OF WHY SHE WAS LET GO.

CARTER CONTINUED SAYING LOGICALLY, NO ONE HANDS SOMEONE 3.2 MILLION DOLLARS AND SELLS THEM A FACILITY FOR A DOLLAR; THE BOARD WOULD BE BETTER OFF GOING BROKE ON THEIR OWN; THE EMPLOYEES AT THE FACILITY NEED A JOB AND NEED TO DEPEND ON WORDS OTHER THAN PREFERENCE AND INTENT. SHE STATED IF IT IS NOT ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE, SACRED HEART WILL CLOSE THE FACILITY; SHE HASN'T FOUND ANYWHERE IN THE PROPOSAL WHERE IT SAYS THEY CAN'T SELL THE HOSPITAL ON THEIR OWN PRIOR TO THE SEVEN YEARS. CHAIRMAN CORBIN ADDRESSED IT STATING SOMEWHERE IN ONE OF THE PROPOSALS RECEIVED, THEY WOULD GIVE THE COUNTY THE RIGHT TO FIRST REFUSAL BUT HE

DIDN'T BELIEVE IT WAS SACRED HEART. ATTORNEY HOLLEY ADVISED THIS COULD BE NEGOTIATED.

CARTER AGREED THIS SHOULD BE A NEGOTIATING POINT; SHE ALSO QUESTIONED WHY SACRED HEART COULDN'T OFFER MORE MONEY AS THEY HAVE MONEY ALL OVER THE UNITED STATES.

DR. SAM WARD ADDRESSED HIM HAVING LOOKED OVER THE PROPOSALS FOR THE HOSPITAL AND WAS SURPRISED AT WHAT SACRED HEART DID NOT OFFER. HE ADVISED HE HAD SOME EXPERIENCE IN THE PAST WITH DASSEE AND TOLD THE BOARD HE WOULD NOT WANT TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE HOSPITAL IF DASSEE WERE INVOLVED, IF THEY DO BUSINESS LIKE THEY HAVE DONE WITH OTHER HOSPITALS.

HE REFERENCED WHEN YOU GET SMALL ORGANIZATIONS, IF THE BOARD WAS HAPPY WITH THE HOSPITAL BEING EXACTLY LIKE IT IS NOW, THEY ARE THE TYPE PEOPLE TO GET; THERE WOULD BE A PLACE FOR PERSONS TO GO TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM; IF YOU GET PNEUMONIA, SOMETHING BROKE, HAVE HEART PROBLEMS, YOU WOULD HAVE TO GO ELSEWHERE. HE DOESN'T FEEL LIKE SACRED HEART'S OFFER IS ADEQUATE; BUT, IF THE BOARD LOOKED AT THE LONG TERM, ALL THE MONEY THE BOARD IS HAVING TO GIVE THEM, IF SACRED HEART WILL DO WHAT THEY ARE PROPOSING TO DO, THE PROPOSAL WOULD BE A BARGAIN. IF SACRED HEART IS NOT GOING TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LONG TERM DEBTS, ACCOUNTS PAYABLE, LOANS, ETC., THEY WOULD HAVE TO SHOW HIM HOW THEY ARE GOING TO OFFER A LOT OF SERVICES AND INCREASE THE HOSPITAL OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS TO SHOW IT WOULD BE WORTH IT.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN ASKED WHY HASN'T SACRED HEART ALREADY DONE SOMETHING. DR. WARD ADDRESSED SACRED HEART HAD MANAGED THE HOSPITAL; HOWEVER, IT WAS NOT THEIR FAULT IF PEOPLE HAVE NOT BEEN USING THE FACILITY AND THEY HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO MAKE MONEY. COMMISSIONER CORBIN ADDRESSED IF HE CONTINUED WITH THE MANAGER THAT WAS CONTINUALLY LOSING MONEY, IT WOULD BE HIS FAULT AS THIS IS NOT GOOD BUSINESS. HE THEN REFERENCED THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATOR LEAVING \$4 MILLION DOLLARS PLUS MONIES IN AN OPERATING ACCOUNT WHEN HE LEFT IN 1999.

DR. WARD ADVISED SINCE 1999, THE REIMBURSEMENT RATE HAS DROPPED BY 60 TO 75%.

COMMISSIONER HALL ADVISED THAT HOME HEALTH HAD MADE THE MONEY THAT WAS THERE IN 1999; THE ADMINISTRATOR DIDN'T MAKE IT. THAT ADMINISTRATOR WAS MADE TO GO INTO HOME HEALTH.

DR. WARD STATED IT DIDN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE TO HIM WHO OPERATES THE HOSPITAL AS LONG AS THEY HAVE THE ABILITY AND GIVE THE COUNTY PROMISES THEY WILL PROGRESS IT SO THEY CAN OFFER IMPROVED SERVICES.

DR. WARD AGREED SACRED HEART'S PROPOSAL BEING A POOR OFFER; HOWEVER, IF THEY WOULD PROMISE TO HAVE CARDIOLOGY, OB, SURGEONS,; IT WOULD BE WORTH ACCEPTING.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN REQUESTED DR. WARD HAVE HIS OFFICE CALL HIM AND SET UP AN APPOINTMENT TO TALK WITH HIM ABOUT HIS DAUGHTER.

COMMISSIONER FINCH ADDRESSED ONE OF HIS MAIN CONCERNS WHEN LOOKING OVER THE PROPOSALS WAS TO MAKE SURE THE EMPLOYEES WERE COVERED AND WOULD NOT EVEN CONSIDER ANY PROPOSAL THAT DIDN'T SAY IT WOULD MAINTAIN THE CURRENT STAFF.

CINDY MATHIS ADDRESSED THE BOARD TO COMMENT ON ONE OF THE REASONS THE BOARD MAY CONSIDER SACRED HEART'S PROPOSAL AND NOT SOME OF THE OTHERS; THEIR REPUTATION. SHE HAS HAD SOME DEALINGS WITH AT LEAST ONE OTHER OF THE COMPANIES THAT SUBMITTED A PROPOSAL AND WOULD BE CONCERNED WITH THEIR BUSINESS PRACTICES.

SHE ADDRESSED HER HAVING WORKED AT THE NWFCH SINCE 1978, LEFT AND COME BACK IN 2002 AND HAS NOT SEEN ANYTHING SIGNIFICANT THAT WOULD MAKE HER QUESTION SOMEONES BUSINESS PRACTICES IN MANAGING THE HOSPITAL NOW.

SHE ADDRESSED SACRED HEART HAS ONLY BEEN MANAGING THE HOSPITAL; THE BOARD HAS HAD THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SPENDING THE PORTION OF THE \$4 MILLION DOLLARS THAT IS GONE. WHEN COMMISSIONER CORBIN QUESTIONED ON WANTING TO KNOW MORE HOW THE HOSPITAL MANAGED TO SPEND ABOUT \$5.5 MILLION DOLLARS IN 4.5 YEARS, MS. MATHIS ADDRESSED THE HOSPITAL BOARD SPENDING ALOT WHEN THEY APPROVED EXPENDITURES AND HAS THE ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY AND THE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY.

SACRED HEART IS ONLY A MANAGING COMPANY AND CAN ONLY OFFER ADVICE; IF THE HOSPITAL BOARD DOESN'T TAKE THE ADVICE, THAT IS NOT THEIR FAULT.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN QUESTIONED IF SACRED HEART HAD GIVEN ADVICE AS HE HAS ONLY BEEN ON THE BOARD A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME SINCE SACRED HEART TOOK OVER. HE ADDRESSED THE BOARD PROBABLY BEING OUT OF BUSINESS PRETTY SOON WITH MS. MATHIS STATING THERE WAS A GOOD POSSIBILITY IF THE BOARD DEALS WITH SOME OF THE OTHER COMPANIES OFFERING PROPOSALS, THEY WOULD BE OUT OF BUSINESS ANYWAY AND IT MAY BE THE BEST THING. SHE REFERENCED THE COUNTY COULD BE IN SIGNIFICANT TROUBLE WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IF SOME OF THE PRACTICES SHE KNOWS ABOUT FROM ONE OF THE OTHER COMPANIES THAT OFFERED A PROPOSAL CONTINUED.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN ADDRESSED THE BOARD COULD BE IN A LOT OF TROUBLE IF THEY SELL THE HOSPITAL AND STILL HAVE OBLIGATIONS TO PAY ABOUT \$4 MILLION DOLLARS, ACCOUNTS PAYABLE LIABILITY, THE NOTES STILL ON THE MEDICAL FACILITY, THE SPRINKLER SYSTEM, ENTERPRISE FLORIDA LOAN, ETC.

COMMISSIONER FINCH THOUGHT THE \$3.2 MILLION DOLLARS THE BOARD WAS BORROWING WAS TO BE USED TO TAKE CARE OF SOME OF THE LOANS THAT HAD BEEN ENCOUNTERED FOR THE HOSPITAL. HE QUESTIONED HOW THE BOARD WOULD PAY THOSE OUTSTANDING LOANS IF THEY GIVE SACRED HEART THE \$3.2 MILLION DOLLARS. HE ADDRESSED THE STATE HAVING ALREADY SENT WORD IF THE COUNTY SELLS THE HOSPITAL, THEY WANT THE \$560,000 THEY GAVE THE HOSPITAL TO BE PAID BACK IMMEDIATELY.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN REFERENCED COMMISSIONER HALL HAVING TAKEN ABOUT \$70,000 OF HIS DISTRICT MONIES TO BE USED TO PAVE THE PARKING LOT FOR THE FACILITY WHICH WAS SUPPOSE TO BE REIMBURSED WHEN THE 3.2 MILLION WAS RECEIVED.

COMMISSIONER FINCH ADVISED HE STILL HAD NOT HEARD ANYONE TELL HIM WHY THE BOARD SHOULD MOVE FORWARD WITH SACRED HEART OTHER THAN THEY HAVE A GOOD REPUTATION; WHEN YOU HAVE A GOOD MANAGEMENT TEAM, YOU TRY TO WIN GAMES. THE HOSPITAL HAS ONLY LOST GAMES SINCE HE HAS BEEN ON THE BOARD SO YOU GET RID OF THE COACH, THE MANAGEMENT.

COMMISSIONER BROCK ADDRESSED SACRED HEART HAVING KEPT THE HOSPITAL FACILITY OPEN AND HAVE PROVIDED GOOD MEDICAL SERVICE FOR THE PEOPLE IN THE COUNTY. HE REFERENCED NO ONE HAVING SAID ANYTHING BAD ABOUT SACRED HEART AS FAR AS MEDICAL SERVICES BECAUSE THEY ARE PROBABLY ONE OF THE BEST IN THE STATE; THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS AND EVALUATIONS WHICH SHOW THIS PART OF THE AREA IS READY FOR A REGIONAL HOSPITAL AND IF THIS BOARD DON'T LOOK AT SACRED HEART'S PROPOSAL HARD, WASHINGTON COUNTY MAY LOSE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR IT TO BE LOCATED HERE. IF THE BOARD WANTS TO PUT SOME OF THE BEST MEDICAL SERVICE IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CITIZENS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY.

COMMISSIONER FINCH QUESTIONED HOW THE BOARD WOULD PAY FOR IT IF THEY GO WITH SACRED HEART'S PROPOSAL. COMMISSIONER BROCK ADVISED IT WOULD PAY FOR ITSELF WITH COMMISSIONER FINCH STATING IT HAS NOT BEEN PAYING FOR ITSELF.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN REFERENCED COMMISSIONER BROCK'S REMARKS ABOUT SACRED HEART HAVING GOOD SERVICE; HE STATED THERE HAVE BEEN PEOPLE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE THE HOSPITAL BOARD QUESTIONING THEIR SERVICE AND HE CAN STACK THE BOARD ROOM FULL OF PEOPLE WHO FEELS THEY HAVE NOT HAD APPROPRIATE SERVICE.

ED PELLETIER ADDRESSED THE BOARD STATING NO ONE IS GOING TO PLEASE ALL THE PEOPLE ALL THE TIME. THE BOARD IS FORGETTING THE PEOPLE OF WASHINGTON COUNTY AS PATIENTS; THEY ARE ONLY LOOKING AT DOLLARS. HE STATED THE PATIENTS NEED TO BE CONSIDERED.

HOSEA BROWN, HOSPITAL BOARD MEMBER, ADDRESSED THE BOARD ON ALL OF THE FOCUS BEING ON MONEY; IS THE FOCUS SUPPOSE TO BE ON MONEY OR ON HEALTH FOR THE PEOPLE OF WASHINGTON COUNTY. HE ADVISED THE HOSPITAL IS NOT A MONEY MAKING ORGANIZATION; IT IS THERE TO GIVE HEALTH CARE TO THE PEOPLE WHO NEED HEALTH CARE. SACRED HEART HAS MADE A GREAT IMPROVEMENT AT THE NWFCH; IF ANYONE SAYS THEY HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING FOR THE HOSPITAL, THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON. HE REQUESTED THE BOARD RECONSIDER AND PUT ON THE TOP OF THEIR LIST THE HEALTH CARE FOR THE PEOPLE OF WASHINGTON COUNTY; FORGET ABOUT DOLLARS.

DON WALTERS RE-ADDRESSED THE BOARD STATING THERE WILL NEVER BE A REGIONAL HOSPITAL HERE IN A SMALL TOWN LIKE CHIPLEY; THIS COUNTY DOES NOT HAVE ENOUGH PEOPLE TO SUPPORT A HOSPITAL OF ANY MAGNITUDE AND THAT IS WHY THERE IS DOTHAN AND PANAMA CITY MEDICAL FACILITIES.

HE ALSO ADDRESSED NOT BEING ABLE TO HAVE A MEDICAL FACILITY WITHOUT HAVING FINANCING. HE AGREED THE HOSPITAL IS NOT SUPPOSE TO BE A MONEY MAKING ORGANIZATION; HOWEVER, IT DID MAKE MONEY AND UNTIL SACRED HEART CAME IT MADE MONEY AND HAD MONEY IN THE BANK. HE QUESTIONED THE BOARD ON WHY THEY WOULD WANT TO CONSIDER A MANAGEMENT FIRM THAT SPENT THE \$4.5 MILLION, ANOTHER \$1.5 MILLION IN DEBT IN ABOUT FOUR YEARS AND WHY THEY WANTED TO SELL THE HOSPITAL TO SACRED HEART FOR \$1 AND PAY THEM \$3.2 MILLION TO BUY IT FOR THE DOLLAR. HE STATED GOOD MEDICAL CARE COULD BE HAD WITHOUT PAYING SOMEBODY AN EXORBITANT PRICE TO COME IN AND PROVIDE IT; THERE WERE A LOT OF OTHER GOOD COMPANIES THAT COULD DO THE SAME THING AND BUILD THE HOSPITAL WITHOUT PAYING THEM TO DO IT.

MS. KENNY READDRESSED THE BOARD STATING SHE HAD NEVER BEEN EMBARRASSED TO SAY SHE WORKED AT THE NORTHWEST FLORIDA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL; SHE IS PROUD TO WORK THERE AND HAS PUT IN A LOT OF HOURS NO ONE KNOWS ABOUT AS WELL AS A LOT OF OTHER EMPLOYEES HAVE DONE. SHE WAS REFERENCING A REMARK CHAIRMAN CORBIN MADE WHEN THE EMPLOYEES APPLAUDED AFTER MR. PELLETIER STATED THE BOARD WAS FORGETTING THE PEOPLE OF WASHINGTON COUNTY AS PATIENTS, HE HAD ONLY HEARD DOLLAR SIGNS. CHAIRMAN CORBIN SAID HE DID NOT MEAN TO INDICATE THEY WERE ASHAMED OF THEIR JOB; HE ONLY THOUGHT THEY WERE DEFENDING THEIR JOBS.

MS. KENNY ADVISED SHE DEFENDED HER JOB WHEN SHE USED TO WORK FOR CHAIRMAN CORBIN AND DEFENDS HER JOB TO DO THE BEST JOB SHE CAN DO NO MATTER WHO HER EMPLOYER IS.

CHAIRMAN CORBIN REFERENCED HIM HAVING SAT ON THE HOSPITAL BOARD WHEN MR. HOSEA BROWN FIRST SET ON IT; HE HAS SET ON THE BOARD THROUGH ADMINISTRATOR AFTER ADMINISTRATOR AND THE COUNTY HAS NEVER PUT ANY MONEY INTO THE FACILITY BEFORE NOW EXCEPT FOR A LITTLE UPFRONT MONEY WHEN THEY BUILT THE FACILITY AND \$100,000 TOWARD THE ROOF.

COMMISSIONER BROCK ADDRESSED REMARKS DON WALTERS HAD MADE ABOUT WASHINGTON COUNTY NOT HAVING ENOUGH POPULATION TO SUPPORT A REGIONAL HOSPITAL. HE REFERENCED A SURVEY THAT WAS DONE WITH HOLMES COUNTY, JACKSON COUNTY, GRACEVILLE AND SURROUNDING AREAS; THE POPULATION IS HERE FOR A ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY, CARDIAC SURGERY, ETC.

CHAIRMAN CORBIN ASKED WHO DID THE SURVEY AND INDICATED IT WAS DONE BY SACRED HEART.

COMMISSIONER FINCH QUESTIONED WHY DIDN'T SACRED HEART OFFER THE BOARD THE SAME PROPOSAL THEY DID FOR DESTIN. COMMISSIONER BROCK ADVISED THE TAYPAYERS IN DESTIN WENT OUT AND DONATED MONEY TO HELP SACRED HEART FUND THEIR FACILITY. COMMISSIONER FINCH OFFERED TO GIVE THE COUNTY \$2 FOR THE NWFCH IF THEY WOULD GIVE HIM \$3.2 MILLION DOLLARS.

COMMISSIONER BROCK REFERENCED THE \$4 MILLION DOLLARS THAT HAS BEEN BROUGHT UP OVER AND OVER; THE HOSPITAL HAD NOT HAD ANY MONIES SPENT ON IT IN TWENTY FIVE YEARS; THERE HAS BEEN A LOT THAT HAS BEEN DONE TO THE FACILITY; \$1 WAS NOT SPENT BY SACRED HEART WITHOUT HAVING THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE IT ON A MOTION AND A VOTE.

COMMISSIONER FINCH ADDRESSED THE BOARD HIRING A MANAGEMENT TEAM TO GIVE THEM A DECISION AND THE BOARD APPROVES IT; THE HOSPITAL HAS NOT BEEN IN THE BLACK IN THE TWO YEARS HE HAS BEEN THERE; THE MANAGEMENT TEAM MANAGES MONEY, MANAGES BUSINESS AND MAKES DECISIONS FOR THE HOSPITAL BOARD.

COMMISSIONER BROCK REFERENCED SOME OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED WITH THE HOSPITAL GOING IN THE RED WAS CUTS IN HOME HEALTH AND THE PATIENT LOADS WERE REDUCED BY A LARGE AMOUNT.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN ADVISED THE BOARD IF THEY HAVE THEIR MINDS MADE UP TODAY TO GO WITH SACRED HEART, WHY DO WE WANT TO INTERVIEW ANYBODY.

COMMISSIONER COPE ADVISED THIS WAS NOT HIS MOTION.



CHAIRMAN CORBIN CALLED FOR THE MOTION ON THE FLOOR AND ASKED FOR IT TO BE READ. COMMISSIONER COPE HAD MADE THE MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BROCK TO NEGOTIATE WITH SACRED HEART AND RESURGENCE HEALTH GROUP. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH COMMISSIONER CORBIN AND FINCH OPPOSED.

CHAIRMAN CORBIN ADDRESSED THE NEED TO SET A DATE TO HOLD A MEETING FOR NEGOTIATIONS. ATTORNEY HOLLEY PROVIDED DATES HE WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO MEET. CHAIRMAN CORBIN RECESSED THE MEETING UNTIL MONDAY, APRIL 7TH AT 8:00 A.M. TO NEGOTIATE WITH RESURGENCE AND SACRED HEART WITH ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT TO CONTACT THEM AND ADVISE THEM OF THE MEETING. ATTEST:\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
DEPUTY CLERK  
\*END OF MINUTES\* FOR 04/01/03

CHAIRMAN