

BOARD MINUTES FOR 02/19/03

FEBRUARY 19, 2003

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 CORBIN, COPE, FINCH, HALL AND BROCK PRESENT. ATTORNEY HOLLEY, ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT AND DEPUTY CLERK CARTER WERE ALSO IN ATTENDANCE.

PURSUANT TO A RECESS FROM THE FEBRUARY 11, 2003 MEETING AND PURSUANT TO THE NORTHWEST FLORIDA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL BOARD MEETING, REVIEWING THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE SALE, LEASE OR MANAGEMENT OF THE FACILITY REDRAFTED BY ATTORNEY HOLLEY AND COMMISSIONER BROCK, TAKING ACTION TO ACCEPT AND ADVERTISE THE RFP, CHAIRMAN CORBIN CALLED THE RECESSED MEETING TO ORDER.

CHAIRMAN CORBIN OPENED THE MEETING FOR DISCUSSION ON THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE SALE, LEASE OR MANAGEMENT OF THE NORTHWEST FLORIDA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL. COMMISSIONER BROCK OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FINCH AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADVERTISE THE RFP.

CAROL GRIFFIN, SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS, ADDRESSED THE BOARD ON CONCERNS THERE MAY BE DISCUSSION ON REDISTRICTING. SHE REQUESTED THE BOARD, IF THEY ARE CONSIDERING REDISTRICTING, TO DO SO FOR A LEGITIMATE REASON AND ADVISED THEM THE DISTRICTS HAD TO MAINTAIN A BALANCED POPULATION

COMMISSIONERS CORBIN, BROCK AND FINCH ADDRESSED COMPLAINTS FROM VOTERS ON THE DISTANCE THEY HAVE TO GO TO THEIR POLLING PLACE SINCE THE LAST REDISTRICTING WAS DONE. THEY EXPRESSED THEIR OPINION VOTERS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO VOTE AT ANY POLLING PLACE THEY WANTED TO SINCE GOING TO COUNTY WIDE VOTING.

CAROL GRIFFIN, SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS, POINTED OUT SEVERAL ISSUES:

1. THERE IS NO WAY TO PROPERLY PLAN TO ALLOW PEOPLE TO VOTE IN ANY PRECINCT THEY WANT TO DUE TO NOT KNOWING HOW MANY BALLOTS WOULD NEED TO BE SENT TO EACH PRECINCT.
2. THE LAW REQUIRES PERSONS TO VOTE IN THE PRECINCT THEY RESIDE IN.
3. HER OFFICE HAS THE BREAKDOWN ON REGISTERED VOTERS PER PRECINCT AND THIS IS HOW SHE DETERMINES THE NUMBER OF POLL WORKERS NEEDED, HOW MANY BALLOTS TO SEND TO EACH PRECINCT, ETC.
4. SHE REPORTED ON THE COST TO ADD ADDITIONAL POLLING PLACES SHOULD THE BOARD DECIDE TO DO SO.

COMMISSIONER FINCH QUESTIONED WHY THE RECYCLING CENTER WAS SELECTED AS A POLLING PLACE AND IF THERE WASN'T ANOTHER FACILITY ON THE WEST SIDE OF WAUSAU THAT COULD HAVE BEEN USED. GRIFFIN ADDRESSED THERE NOT BEING ANOTHER FACILITY THAT COULD FACILITATE THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS TO VOTE IN THAT PRECINCT. COMMISSIONER FINCH REFERENCED THE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH IN WAUSAU COULD POSSIBLY HAVE BEEN USED WITH GRIFFIN REITERATING IT WOULD NOT FACILITATE THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS.

5. THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND THE SCHOOL BOARD DEVELOPED THE DISTRICT LINES AND SHE HAD TO DRAW THE PRECINCT LINES WITHIN THE DISTRICT LINES THEY HAD APPROVED.

6. VOTERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

ATTORNEY HOLLEY ADVISED THE BOARD THE ONLY WAY THE DISTRICT LINES CAN BE CHANGED IS TO BALANCE THE POPULATION; IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE INCONVENIENCE OF THE VOTERS.

COMMISSIONER BROCK ADDRESSED PERSONS BEING UPSET BECAUSE ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE COUNTY SOME OF THE VOTERS WERE NOW HAVING TO DRIVE FIFTEEN MILES TO THEIR VOTING PRECINCT.

GRIFFIN ADVISED THE BOARD TO DO WHATEVER THEY FELT THEY NEEDED TO DO AND SHE WOULD WORK WITH THEM; HOWEVER, SHE CAN'T SEE THE BENEFIT OF REDRAWING THE PRECINCTS DUE TO THE EXPENSE INVOLVED AND THE PRECINCTS BEING DRAWN WITHIN THE DISTRICTS APPROVED BY THE WASHINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD AND THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

COMMISSIONER HALL VOICED HIS OPINION IT WAS NOT FAIR FOR THE DISTRICT LINES TO BE DRAWN THE WAY THEY ARE DUE TO THE MAJORITY OF THE DISTRICTS BEING CONNECTED TO THE CITY OF CHIPLEY.

GRIFFIN EXPLAINED SHE WANTED TO MAKE THE BOARD AWARE OF WHAT THE LAW REQUIREMENTS ARE, THE EXPENSE INVOLVED, ETC. PRIOR TO THE BOARD TAKING ACTION ON REDISTRICTING.

MR. JOHN MCDONALD, PRIOR HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR, ADDRESSED THE BOARD TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO KEEP ON TRYING TO KEEP THE HOSPITAL OPEN AS THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE COUNTY NEED A HOSPITAL. HE RECOMMENDED THE HOSPITAL HAVE A BOARD TO OPERATE THE FACILITY RATHER THAN THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. HE ADDRESSED THE COMMUNITY NOT BEING ABLE TO THRIVE WITHOUT THE HOSPITAL AND OFFERED HIS ASSISTANCE TO KEEP THE HOSPITAL OPEN.

COMMISSIONER FINCH OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BROCK AND CARRIED TO ADJOURN. ATTEST:_____

DEPUTY CLERK

CHAIRMAN

END OF MINUTES FOR 02/19/03