

JANUARY 25, 1991

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES OF SPECIAL EMERGENCY MEETING  
JANUARY 25, 1991

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

DONNELL WHITFIELD  
PACK BOWDEN  
ELLIS MELVIN  
WILLIE T. GRANT  
MONROE COX

PRESENT AND ACTING:

WILLIE D. WISE, CLERK OF COURT  
GAIL O'BRYAN, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
JOE TAYLOR, DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING  
WILLIAM G. SMITH, SHERIFF

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD AND FOLLOWED WITH PRAYER BY COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG.

COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD STATED THE MEETING WAS CALLED AT THE REQUEST OF CALHOUN GENERAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND THEN TURNED THE MEETING OVER TO DR. ELGA WHITE AS SPOKESMAN FOR CALHOUN GENERAL HOSPITAL.

DR. WHITE READ LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM BOARD OF TRUSTEES CALHOUN GENERAL HOSPITAL.

DR. WHITE STATED: DILIGENT, EXHAUSTIVE EFFORT HAD BEEN MADE TO KEEP THE HOSPITAL OPEN. THE HOSPITAL TRUSTEE MEMBERS FEEL IT WOULD BE A TRAGEDY, ILLEGAL AND IMMORAL TO OPERATE WITH A DEFICIT BUDGET. THE TRUSTEES COULD NOT ASK EMPLOYEES TO WORK WITHOUT BEING PAID. THE HOSPITAL BOARD MADE EVERY EFFORT TO OBTAIN FUNDING FROM STATE, FEDERAL AND PRIVATE SOURCES. HE THANKED THE COMMISSION FOR THE EFFORT PUT FORTH BY THEM AND THANKED THEM FOR BEING ALLOWED TO SERVE.

LADDIE WILLIAMS STATED IT WAS WITH REGRET THAT THE BOARD STEPPED DOWN. HE STATED INTEREST IN THE HOSPITAL HAD BEEN EXPRESSED BY TWO GROUPS IN THE AUDIENCE. HE SAID HIS BOARD WOULD ASSIST THE COUNTY IN ANY WAY AND RECOMMEND THAT THE COUNTY COMMISSION ACCEPT PROPOSALS FROM THOSE TWO GROUPS AND ANY OTHERS.

COMMISSIONER MELVIN QUESTIONED IF HOSPITAL BOARD HAD SUBMITTED THEIR RESIGNATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR. MR. WILLIAMS STATED IT WAS IN PRINT, BUT WAS WAITING FOR SIGNATURE OF OTHER MEMBER. COMMISSIONER MELVIN QUESTIONED THE BCC BEING ABLE TO ACCEPT RESIGNATIONS SINCE THE BOARD WAS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

CLERK WISE REPORTED THIS HAD HAPPENED BEFORE AND IT WAS AUTOMATIC THAT THE GOVERNOR ACCEPT IT.

COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND SAID HE WAS AWARE OF CONTACTS AND PROPOSALS WITH OTHER AGENCIES: TALLAHASSEE MEMORIAL-NEGATIVE RESPONSE, JACKSON COUNTY HOSPITAL-NEGATIVE RESPONSE, BAY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL-MEETING MONDAY,

MARGARET BROCK-WISHES TO MAKE PROPOSAL AT THIS TIME, AND MARQUEE MANAGEMENT COMPANY-WISHES TO MAKE PROPOSAL AT THIS TIME.

COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD REPORTED EMERGENCY ROOM IS TO BE SHUT DOWN TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1991 AT 6:00 P.M., AND THE HOSPITAL TO CLOSE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1991.

COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD QUESTIONED THE AMBULANCE OPERATION. COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD RECEIVED LETTER FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES RELINQUISHING IMMEDIATE CONTROL OF THE AMBULANCE SERVICE.

AFTER DISCUSSION, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AGREED TO RUN THE AMBULANCE SERVICE UNTIL FEBRUARY 1, 1991.

COMMISSIONERS COX AND BOWDEN QUESTIONED IF THE HOSPITAL WAS CLOSED OR WAS IN THE PROCESS OF CLOSING. QUESTIONS WERE ALSO ASKED ABOUT WHEN THE DECISION WAS MADE TO CLOSE. LADDIE WILLIAMS, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, STATED THAT IT WAS THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO CLOSE THE HOSPITAL.

LADDIE WILLIAMS REPORTED THERE WAS 9 MONTHS BEFORE BEDS WOULD BE PULLED. HE SAID LICENSE WOULD BE PULLED, BUT THAT COULD BE APPEALED AND THAT WOULD GIVE THEM TIME TO TAKE CARE OF THE LIABILITIES OF THE HOSPITAL.

PAUL FITZGERALD REPRESENTING MARQUEE MANAGEMENT COMPANY MADE A PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IN RESPECT TO THEM MANAGING THE HOSPITAL. MR. FITZGERALD STATED THAT MARQUEE WOULD MANAGE THE HOSPITAL FOR NO MANAGEMENT FEES. HE THEN DISCUSSED THE ADVANTAGES OF MARQUEE MANAGING THE HOSPITAL. THE COUNTY WOULD BE REQUIRED TO GIVE MARQUEE A \$1.00 BUY OUT OPTION AND MARQUEE WOULD ASSUME ALL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES OF CALHOUN GENERAL HOSPITAL AT THE END OF 12 MONTHS.

COMMISSIONER MELVIN STATED HE WAS NOT IN FAVOR OF SELLING THE HOSPITAL OR NOTHING.

MRS. MARGARET BROCK MADE A PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD. SHE STATED SHE HAD MET WITH HER ATTORNEY TODAY, AND WAS VERY INTERESTED IN PURCHASING THE HOSPITAL AND WOULD PAY THE AMOUNT DETERMINED BY A MAI APPRAISAL.

MRS. BROCK STATED THE HOSPITAL IS VITAL TO HER NURSING HOME AND THAT SHE WOULD RUN THE HOSPITAL AS A FULL SERVICE HOSPITAL AND WOULD OPERATE THE AMBULANCE SERVICE.

COMMISSIONER WISE REPORTED THE BOARD IS UNAUTHORIZED TO LEASE TO A FOR PROFIT CORPORATION. MRS. BROCK RESPONDED THAT SHE IS LOOKING INTO SETTING UP A NON PROFIT CORPORATION. SHE ALSO SAID SHE WOULD PUT UP WORKING CAPITAL TO OPERATE THE HOSPITAL AND THAT ALL RECEIVABLES AND LIABILITIES WOULD BE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND THAT SHE WOULD TAKE OVER A CLEAN OPERATION.

COMMISSIONER WISE ASKED IF THE BOARD LEASES THE HOSPITAL HOW DO THEY INTEND TO PAY THE \$600,000 TO 700,000 OWED BY THE HOSPITAL. COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD RESPONDED THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES RECOMMENDED PAYING THE BILLS FROM THE RECEIVABLES.

COMMISSIONER WISE SAID HE FELT THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP THE HOSPITAL OPEN WAS FOR THE BOARD TO PUT A SERVICE FEE ON FOR OPERATION. HE SAID HE FELT A CLEAN OPERATION WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION DUE TO THE BCC STILL BEING



RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL LIABILITIES NOW OWED.

COMMISSIONER BOWDEN STATED CLOSING THE HOSPITAL WILL COST MORE THAN KEEPING IT OPEN.

JUDY ISERAL STATED, FROM THE AMBULANCE STANDPOINT, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT AT LEAST THE EMERGENCY ROOM STAY OPEN.

AFTER MORE DISCUSSION, LADDIE WILLIAMS, RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD ACCEPT MRS. BROCK'S OFFER TO PURCHASE CALHOUN GENERAL FOR THE PRICE AS DETERMINED BY AN MAI APPRAISAL.

COMMISSIONER BOWDEN RECOMMENDED BCC KEEPING THE HOSPITAL A FLOAT UNTIL MRS. BROCK COULD PURCHASE.

COMMISSIONER MELVIN STATED THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES HAD ALREADY HAD 2 OR MORE MEETINGS THIS WEEK REGARDING THE HOSPITAL'S CLOSING AND HE QUESTIONED WHEN THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES HAD RESIGNED THEIR POST. HE STATED HE FELT THE WHOLE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SHOULD BE AWARE BEFORE CLOSING THE HOSPITAL.

AFTER A LENGTHY DISCUSSION ON BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESIGNATIONS, AND WHO CLOSED THE HOSPITAL, COMMISSIONER MELVIN RECOMMENDED MEETING WITH THE CITY COUNCILS OF ALTHA AND BLOUNTSTOWN REGARDING AN INTER LOCAL AGREEMENT.

THE BOARD AN AUDIENCE DISCUSSED INDIGENT CARE AND AFTER DISCUSSION INSTRUCTED CLERK TO INVITE LIBERTY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, LIBERTY COUNTY CITY COUNCIL, BLOUNTSTOWN CITY COUNCIL, ALTHA CITY COUNCIL AND ALL PHYSICIANS TO NEXT COMMISSION MEETING..

THE BOARD SCHEDULED A SPECIAL MEETING FOR CONTINUATION OF THIS MEETING FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 1991 FOR MEETING WITH CITY COUNCILS AND PHYSICIANS AND ALSO AGREED TO OPERATE THE HOSPITAL AT FULL SERVICE UNTIL TUESDAY, JANUARY 29TH AT 6:00 A.M.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE BOARD DID RECESS UNTIL MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 1991 AT 6:00 P.M.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



WILLIE D. WISE

S. DONNELL WHITFIELD