

1 RECITATION FOR THE RECORD

2
3 Ms. Kirste announced for the record that the name of the taxing authority is the North
4 Lake County Hospital District, the rollback rate is .9639 mills, and the percentage of
5 increase over the rollback rate and the millage rate to be levied is 3.75 percent.
6

7 WAIVER OF THE READING OF THE ENTIRE PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

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9 On a motion by Mr. Talmadge, seconded by Mr. Booth and carried unanimously by a
10 vote of 4-0, the NLCHD board approved waiving the reading of the entire proposed
11 Resolutions 2016-01 and 2016-02.
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13 PUBLIC HEARING – RESOLUTION 2016-01 FOR SETTING THE MILLAGE

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15 Ms. Hanson opened the public hearing for the Resolution of the North Lake County
16 Hospital District providing for the adoption of the proposed millage rate for the 2016-
17 2017 fiscal year and called for public comment.
18

19 No one wished to speak regarding this resolution.
20

21 Ms. Sykes-Amos presented a budget worksheet showing proposed expenditures for the
22 one mill, as well as the rollback rate, the current budget, and actual expenditures. She
23 explained that there will be more expenses, but they have paid the Tax Collector and
24 Property Appraiser fees.
25

26 Mr. Booth pointed out that their expenditures are only 3.55 percent of their total actual
27 collected to date, and he liked the fact that the funds are being used for what they are
28 intended for. He indicated that he was in favor of the one mill, and he commented that
29 people are still hurting in their community, with many not having health insurance. He
30 summarized that about 96.5 percent of the District's funds actually go towards taking
31 care of people.
32

33 Ms. Hanson opined that that was impressive, and she closed the public hearing.
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35 On a motion by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Huey and carried unanimously by a roll-call
36 vote of 4-0, the NLCHD board approved Resolution No. 2016-01 setting the tentative
37 millage rate for the 2016-2017 budget year at one mill.
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39 PUBLIC HEARING – RESOLUTION 2016-02 FOR ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET

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41 Ms. Hanson opened the public hearing for the Resolution of the North Lake County
42 Hospital District providing for the adoption of the proposed budget for the 2016-2017
43 fiscal year and called for public comment.
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45 Ms. Sykes-Amos referred to the worksheet that she had previously displayed and noted
46 that they could not budget more than 95 percent of their tax revenue. She added that they
47 made \$10,000 in interest this year, but they earned much less interest than that the year

1 before. She related that the numbers were based on fully funding the clinics and
2 LifeStream and dividing the rest of the funding evenly between the two hospitals.

3
4 The Chairman opened the public hearing.

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6 There being no one who wished to comment on the proposed budget, the Chairman
7 closed the public hearing.

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9 On a motion by Mr. Talmadge, seconded by Mr. Booth and carried unanimously by a
10 roll-call vote of 4-0, the NLCHD board approved Resolution No. 2016-02 tentatively
11 adopting the proposed budget for the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

12
13 LETTERS OF AGREEMENT

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15 Mr. Phil Braun, Vice President and General Counsel for Leesburg Regional Medical
16 Center (LRMC), explained that the letters of agreement are contemplated by the
17 legislation to give the hospitals the ability to bring in further Medicaid dollars. He opined
18 that although he believes the state will ask for the letters of agreement, they do not know
19 how much money they will receive at this time and do not yet have the formal letters of
20 agreement. He requested that the Chairman be given the authority to sign the formal
21 letters of agreement up to and not to exceed the allocated amount if they are received at a
22 time between meeting dates. He further commented that there was less money available
23 than in the past.

24
25 On a motion by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Huey and carried unanimously by a roll-call
26 vote of 4-0, the NLCHD board approved the authorization for Ms. Kirste, as attorney for
27 the District, and the Chairman of the NLCHD board to coordinate with the hospitals
28 and/or clinics to sign the letters of agreement, not to exceed authorization for the amount
29 of allocation.

30
31 OTHER BUSINESS

32
33 Records Disposition

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35 Ms. Pat Sykes-Amos mentioned that she had handed out a records disposition document,
36 and she noted that state law was very clear about the records they have to keep and what
37 they can get rid of. She requested approval to be able to get rid of bank statements and
38 disbursement records from October of 2006 through September of 2011, since those
39 records have to be held for five years, and she requested approval to destroy the annual
40 financial reports that are submitted online to the state from October of 2001 through
41 September of 2005, since those have to be kept for ten years. Also, she related that she
42 would be destroying agendas from October 2009 through September 2014, which have to
43 be kept for two years; receipts from the Tax Collector's office for detail revenue from
44 October of 2006 through September 2011, which have to be kept for five years; and
45 vendor files, which are the bills for the Property Appraiser, Tax Collector, their office,
46 and the attorney from October 2008 through September of 2013, which have to be
47 retained for three years. She further explained that records destruction entails measuring

1 and weighing the boxes, and she would actually watch as a truck comes to her office to
2 shred the documents in October and verify the date it was actually done. She asked for
3 authorization to shred all of those documents, and she clarified that the minutes to the
4 meetings and the audits are permanent documents.

5
6 On a motion by Ms. Huey, seconded by Mr. Talmadge and carried unanimously by a vote
7 of 4-0, the NLCHD board authorized the destruction of the above-mentioned documents
8 by Ms. Sykes-Amos.

9
10 Future Meetings

11
12 Ms. Meredith reminded everyone that the next meeting will be September 29 at 5:30, and
13 she stated that it was her understanding that all of the board members will be present for
14 that meeting except for Ms. Huey. She asked anyone to let her know if they could not
15 attend so that she can make sure they have a quorum for that meeting for the final budget
16 approval.

17
18 Ms. Hanson announced that the Republican Executive Committee has invited her and the
19 representatives from the two hospitals to speak at a forum on September 27 at the
20 Tavares Civic Center, and she mentioned that they also spoke at the Democratic Club,
21 which she believed had went well.

22
23 Mr. Vance Jochim, a resident of Tavares and writer of a blog regarding governmental
24 issues, gave some background regarding the Republican Executive Committee meeting
25 mentioned by Ms. Hanson, noting that Representative Larry Metz will be bringing forth a
26 resolution for the Republican Party to vote against the renewal of this tax, and Senator
27 Alan Hays, a proponent of the tax, wanted some balanced information to be presented
28 before that vote was to take place.

29
30 District Website

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32 Mr. Jochim also opined that a lot of the documents on the District's website are not
33 categorized and are inconsistent in the way they are named, with the most recent ones
34 being grouped into a meeting file folder, although they were available and could be found
35 by searching through the folders. He expressed concern that the last three years of
36 documents are not sorted by a field in order to view them, which he opined was a
37 restriction in the transparency for a new visitor to the website, and that there is no
38 consistent coding system for the documents found in the database.

39
40 Ms. Kirste commented that she would be glad to receive any guidance from Mr. Jochim
41 regarding improvement of the website.

42
43 Mr. Jochim commented that providing contact information on the website for a person
44 who could explain that information would help.

45
46 Mr. Booth stated that he looked at the information on the website to get familiar with it
47 before he served on the board, and he was able to find the information he wanted. He

1 added, however, that he realizes that most of the titles were not consistent when he went
2 back in time to see what past boards have done, although he is used to looking for
3 information on a website, and he could not say whether it would be easy or difficult for
4 the general public. He asked how far back the documents should be coded.

5
6 Mr. Jochim responded that he believed it should be for three years.

7
8 Ms. Hanson asked whether it would be possible to track how many people visit the
9 website.

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11 Mr. Jochim commented that it would probably be very few, but the website might be
12 more of an issue the closer they get to voting on the taxing district against the onslaught
13 of information that will be coming out. He opined that this tax is subsidizing nonprofit
14 privately-owned institutions, and very few counties are still doing it.

15
16 Not-For-Profit Status of Hospitals

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18 Mr. Farlen Halikman from Moore Stephens Lovelace related that he was a CPA (certified
19 public accountant) for six Florida hospital districts, several of which operate exactly like
20 Lake's district. He emphasized that a not-for-profit organization such as all of their
21 medical providers are not privately owned, adding that the providers are not-for-profit,
22 community-based, and mission driven entities. He also explained that the reason why the
23 not-for-profit hospitals are given an exemption from property taxes was because they
24 provide services to the residents of the District that the District would have to provide in
25 the absence of that organization. He elaborated that there is an exchange between the
26 government and the not-for-profit community to serve the sick, poor, and elderly. He
27 also added that many hospital districts actually own the hospitals and the providers or sell
28 them to a large entity, using the proceeds of the sale to subsidize health care and the
29 mission of a healthy community. He opined that it was overreaching to state that our
30 system is unusual or not like other communities. He commented that the audited
31 statements that the District submits to the Auditor General of the State of Florida, which
32 are verified after going through a rigorous review by the CPA who does the audit of the
33 District, are all on the website. He also pointed out that every agreed upon procedures
34 report they have issued is also on the website and states the purpose of the procedures on
35 the first page.

36
37 Mr. Jochim responded that he agrees that the reports Mr. Halikman prepares are good
38 standalone reports, but his concern is how easily they could be found.

39
40 Mr. Braun reiterated that LRMC is not a private entity, and every asset they fund such as
41 the buildings and equipment belong to the community and could not be sold. He noted
42 that all the money made by the hospital goes back into its infrastructure and operations
43 rather than to shareholders. He also pointed out that they are getting reimbursed for
44 verified claims of care they have provided to those who could not afford it, and they
45 provide care to other indigent residents for which they do not get reimbursed. He opined
46 that a lot of the private hospitals in non-funded districts are inadequately run with older
47 equipment, long wait times, and less than excellent health care. He mentioned that

1 governmental entities in many areas, such as Orlando, directly provide millions of tax
2 dollars to the hospitals to help fund indigent care, and he opined that the amount provided
3 to each hospital in the NLCHD is a bargain and a good community partnership for the
4 District. He specified that Lake County has the state's fifth largest open heart surgery
5 program because of the existence of the District to enable them to build that program and
6 infrastructure, as well as the neurosurgery program, pediatric program, and the obstetrics
7 wing. He commented that this community has a very low payer mix with 80 percent
8 being government-paid at less than what it costs to provide that care. He thanked the
9 Board for supporting the health care of their community.

10
11 Mr. Jochim stated that he believed it was important to share that information with the
12 public.

13
14 Ms. Hanson agreed that the public needs to know those things to counter the negative
15 things they are hearing.

16
17 Mr. Booth related that he has researched the adjacent counties and noted that there is a
18 large amount of tax dollars going into the hospital system in Orange and Seminole
19 County, although how they do that is different than what Lake County does. He
20 mentioned that some medical services provided by the hospitals in Marion County were
21 eliminated after their taxing district was abolished and the hospitals became privatized.
22 He opined that although he believes there is no perfect system out there, he likes the
23 system used by Lake County. He also commented that there is not one system that will
24 work for all 67 counties, since every county has a different makeup. He concluded that
25 the present system seems to be working for them, and he opined that he is still in favor of
26 the District and proud of the work that they do and how much they put back into care.

27
28 Ms. Hanson commented that LifeStream is always short of money and would be even
29 worse off without the hospital tax dollars to help those who are mentally ill.

30
31 ADJOURNMENT

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33 The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

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37 Catherine C. Hanson, Chairman