

MINUTES OF MEETING OF NORTH LAKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT OF OCTOBER 3, 2024

A meeting of the North Lake County Hospital District (NLCHD) was held on October 3, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at the Venetian Center in Leesburg, Florida.

Mrs. Barbara Price, Chairperson, called the meeting to order. Pastor Tim Travis gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Kirste called the roll to ascertain the Trustees present for the meeting, with the following members in attendance: Mr. Ricky Harper, Mr. Thurman Hurley, Mr. Mark Jordan, Mrs. Barbara Price and Mr. Ralph Smith.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the minutes, Mrs. Price stated she would not be voting on the minutes as she was not present. All other Trustees present voted to accept the minutes as presented.

AMENDED FUNDING ALLOCATION

A sign in sheet was presented for public comment. Mrs. Donna Catterson, with Crippen and Co., stated there were two clinics, Advent Health Clinic and Community Health that submitted indigent care over their budgeted amount and funds were available.

Public Comment

Maria Manarouz stated that her tax bill showed she was being charged \$43.00 a year and questioned the increase.

Mrs. Catterson explained we were discussing the amended budget proposal and then public comment will be heard.

Marianne Mobillian, Fruitland Park, Villages of Pine Hills, asked if the allocations were coming from the excess funds from 2024 and questioned the budget worksheet and funds remaining as of July 31, 2024. Mrs. Catterson explained this was not for a full year of expenses.

Jodi Peters questioned copies of audits being available and Ms. Kirste apologized for the difficulty in obtaining the audits and offered to provide copies to him.

There being no further public comment at the moment and no comments from the rest of the Board, a Motion was made by Mr. Harper to accept the overage to be allocated as indicated on the Amended Funding Allocation, motion was seconded by Mr. Hurley. Roll call vote was taken. Mr. Harper, Mr. Hurley, Mr. Jordan and Ms. Price voted yes and Mr. Smith voted no.

BUDGET AMENDMENT 2022-2023

Public Comment

Marianne Mobillian questioned her \$45.00 on her tax bill increasing to \$300.00. Ms. Price explained the process of submitting the proposed millage to the Tax Collector and her dissatisfaction of how it was submitted.

Mr. Harper expressed his opinion on the historic submission of the millage rate. Ms. Price opined the history for the time period she has sat on the Board and the spending of the hospital in building facilities.

Mr. Hurley stated his opinion that some of the Board members are conscientious in making decisions for this Board to reimburse the hospitals and clinics for money they have already spent on indigent care. He further described the purpose of the district and addressed the concerns from the 11 letters written to the Board, citing the numbers quoted were not correct. Further, he explained there is a consistent process in

calculating the millage rate including to gather information from a licensed, reputable audited report.

Next, the hospitals and clinics request funds to be reimbursed for the monies they have spent in taking care of the indigent. Mr. Hurley stated the accusations of stating the millage rate is determined by the political whim of board members is simply not true. This Board is not accountable to the City governments as the Cities are responsible for the monies they receive and manage not for the monies raised by the State of Florida and its taxing districts. As to requesting greater scrutiny, we have hired the best firm available to audit these entities. Mr. Hurley explained the process of allocating the funds to the entities and the Board is not hoarding money.

Mr. Hurley discussed the percentage of increase in the millage and compared it to every day expenses. He opinioned about the state of our economy in our area and the increase need to provide the funds for the indigent as the number continue to increase.

Mr. Smith expressed his dissatisfaction with the comments on the percentage of the taxes not actually increasing 666 percent. Further, he discussed the political aspects of taking money from taxpayers and giving to wealthy entities. He also mentioned Larry Metz and Rick Scott's involvement with the bill and the history of its creation. Mr. Smith informed the audience about the funding of the hospitals and clinics and his acceptance of funding clinics.

Mr. Jordan stated he wanted to make some clarifications on the submission of one mill for the TRIM notice. The maximum millage was one mill and then the Board would obtain the information from the hospitals and clinics and vote on the millage rate. The proposal after hearing from the hospitals and clinics was 0.41.

Mr. Smith further stated he wanted to make one slight factual correction on the numbers concerning the previous board vote of 0.895. Mr. Smith also stated he was not supporting any amount other than zero.

Mrs. Price expressed her dissatisfaction and described it as corporate greed. She informed the audience of acts of giving around the State and her personal experience of having a family member in the Hospital.

Christine Folker, resident of Leesburg, discussed the Trim Notice and the whim of the Board becoming a stomping ground on both sides. She is a registered nurse and been in medicine for 25 years. Ms. Folker explained in her opinion that standalone ERs actually save us a ton of money and appreciate their existence. She stated the Lake Hospital District is the only taxing authority raising her taxes because the property taxes increased so substantially there isn't a need to raise them. Ms. Folker stated the importance of the community clinics as hospitals are the most expensive level of care. She requested the Board pass the lowest millage that can be passed to fund the clinics and some funding to the hospitals. Ms. Folker stated the only way that is fair, in her opinion, is that everybody that walks out of here tonight does not get something that they want.

Marianne Mobillian, resident of Fruitland Park, Villages of Pine Hills, questioned the process of determining the millage rate and the budget scenario worksheet. Further asked how the hospitals are justifying the increase.

Phil Braun, General Counsel for UF Health Central Florida, discussed the history of the counties being responsible for the indigent care in their respective counties. Therefore, if a Lake County resident leaves the county and gets care outside of the county, then that county bills Lake County. This becomes a public private partnership. County is responsible for the indigent care and the Hospital as a not-for-profit help by spending over 20 million in unfunded care in total; all the Hospital gets reimbursed from this Board is for residents of the North Lake County

Hospital District, not even the rest of the county, just the district. The Hospitals actually provide the care and request for reimbursement.

As to Ralph's comment that the Hospital will not go out of business and they will take care of people no matter what, federal law requires the Hospital to do a medical screening and determine if it is a healthcare emergency. Once determined, the Hospital's only obligation is to stabilize the patient, even though that is not what the Hospital does but the only Federal obligation. Mr. Braun discussed a Hospital near Manatee County that was defunded by its tax district and it will no longer do any more than the law requires them to do. Therefore, those patients go out of county and then that County would bill back to Manatee County.

Mr. Smith questioned Mr. Braun about the minimum care provided and reimbursements. Mr. Braun proceeded to explain to Mr. Smith about the various counties in the State and the payer mix even in our own county. A discussion continued between the parties about the need and the District reimbursing for the same.

Mr. Harper interjected that Mr. Braun was stating the points that the need is there and the service has been provided so the Hospitals and Clinics are requesting reimbursements.

Thomas Hansing, resident of Fruitland Park, discussed researching the Hospital's form 990 and it appears they are an extremely well-run company.

Bill McKinnon, resident of Fruitland Park, thanked the Mobillians for all their charitable work. He further stated the Board needs to figure out a way to get more efficient and consider your final analysis on the millage.

Craig Peters, resident of Fruitland Park and The Villages, expressed his dissatisfaction of an organization that existed that he didn't know about that wants his tax dollars without asking him for it. He questioned whether the indigent receiving care are illegal aliens?

Ms. Catterson replied the paperwork must be completed and prove their residency of North Lake County only.

Mr. Hurley stated if they are outside of the district, the provider does not get reimbursed for that particular patient. There was further public comment about people being brought in to work and then ending up in the Hospital, who is responsible for their bills. The Hospital attempts to collect from patient.

After much discussion, Mrs. Price proposed for the millage of 0.15. Next, Mr. Smith made the Motion and Mrs. Price seconded it. Mr. Harper stated if the Board had made an adjustment at the meeting, a Notice would have to be sent to all homeowners and it would be expensive. After discussion among the Board, a vote was taken for 0.15. Mr. Harper, Mr. Hurley and Mr. Jordan voted no. Mrs. Price and Mr. Smith voted yes; vote failed.

Mrs. Price stated you passed a millage last, whatever two weeks ago. Okay and it never should have happened, we were deadlocked. Further, in her opinion, the millage that should have been 0.15 reflect last year's millage and it was not done correctly.

Mr. Hurley requested he make a Motion to approve (indiscernible)? Mrs. Price replied, We lost because they're going to all vote for it. So----
Mr. Hurley asked if Mrs. Price was voting and she stated no I'm done. It's on your conscience not mine.

Public comment: "You can't be running because—" Mrs. Price, I'm not running . There are three against us. No, this is on them this is not on me.

Ms. Kirste ask if Mrs. Price could stay until the vote was finished and Mrs. Price replied Why? Mrs. Price stated there is no reason for me to stay because they have already told you that they are voting the wrong way. If they are voting, my vote is no.

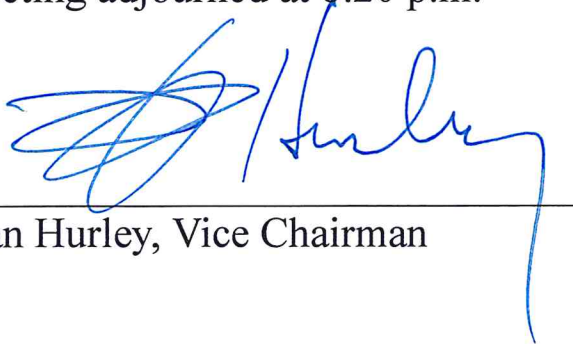
After indiscernible chatter reflected in the transcript, Ms. Kirste stated She just voted no so we do have a quorum. Mr. Hurley took over as chair after Mrs. Price was leaving the room. There was discussion if there was a quorum and if the vote was properly recorded requesting the Court Reporter to read back the transcript. After further discussion among the Board and Public Comment, about challenging the vote after Mr. Smith and Mrs. Price walked out, the roll call was taken of the remaining Board members still at the table, Mr. Harper, Mr. Hurley and Mr. Jordan voted yes.

At this point, Ms. Kirste stated the Board could not vote on anything else and Mr. Harper thanked everybody for coming. Have a good evening and drive safely. The transcript reflects (Thereupon, the meeting was concluded at 8:20 p.m.)

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Hurley', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large, loopy initial 'H'.

Trueman Hurley, Vice Chairman