

1 MINUTES OF MEETING OF NORTH LAKE COUNTY
2 HOSPITAL DISTRICT OF September 10, 2020
3

4 A meeting of the North Lake County Hospital District (NLCHD) was held on September
5 10, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the Lake County Commission Chambers, Administration Building,
6 315 W. Main Street, Tavares, Florida, and was also made available via teleconference due
7 to COVID-19, a novel strain of the coronavirus.
8

9 Ms. Joyce Richey Huey, Chairman, called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of
10 Allegiance.
11

12 ROLL CALL

13 Ms. Meredith Kirste, attorney for the North Lake County Hospital District, called the roll
14 to ascertain the trustees present for the meeting, with the following members in attendance:
15 Ms. Catherine Hanson, Ms. Joyce Richey Huey, Ms. Barbara Price, and Mr. Davis
16 Talmadge.
17

18 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

19 On a motion by Mr. Talmadge, seconded by Ms. Hanson, and carried unanimously by a
20 vote of 4-0, the NLCHD Board approved the Minutes of August 13, 2020.
21

22 ADDITIONAL REQUESTS FOR FUNDING

23 There were no additional requests for funding at this time.
24

25 RECITATION FOR THE RECORD

26 Ms. Kirste announced for the record that the name of the taxing authority was the North
27 Lake County Hospital District, the rollback rate was 0.895 mills, and the levy of 1.0 mill
28 represented an increase in the property tax levy of 11.73 percent over the rollback rate of
29 0.895 mills.
30

31 WAIVER OF THE READING OF THE ENTIRE PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

32 On a motion by Mr. Talmadge, seconded by Ms. Price and carried unanimously by a vote
33 of 4-0, the NLCHD Board approved waiving the reading of the entire proposed Resolutions
34 2020-01 and 2020-02.
35

36 PUBLIC COMMENT – RESOLUTION 2020-01 FOR SETTING THE MILLAGE

37 Ms. Kirste read the title of Resolution 2020-01, providing for the adoption of the proposed
38 millage rate for the 2021 Fiscal Year.
39

40 Ms. Patricia Sykes-Amos, accountant for the North Lake County Hospital District, recalled
41 that she had informed the Board that 1 mill was what was always advertised since the Board
42 did not have workshops through the summer to discuss. She relayed that she had provided
43 the Board with a worksheet which reflected the actual current year budget, noting that the
44 \$2,300,000 listed at the bottom was an approximate amount of checks which would be
45 written September 24, 2020 since they still had the June 2020 quarter to pay to the hospitals
46 and the clinics. She stated that the worksheet also showed possible FY 2020-2021 budgets
47 based on what millage the Board chose to adopt. She relayed that the first column was

1 based on a 1 mill rate, the second column was based on 0.95 mills which was the current
2 year millage, and the third column was the rollback rate of 0.895 mills. She explained that
3 if the Board did the rollback rate, there would not be a tax increase; additionally, there
4 would be sufficient funds to pay all of the submitted requests as well as have \$438,134 as
5 a pool in case there were more submissions than expected. She reiterated that if the Board
6 approved the 0.895 mills as the tentative millage rate, it would pay all administrative costs,
7 the funding requests, and have a little left in case there were more submissions at the end
8 of the year, without having to do a budget amendment.

9
10 Ms. Barbara Price mentioned it was her second year doing the budget, and that she had
11 noticed over the years that the Board generally kept about \$50,000 in their account;
12 therefore, she suggested rolling back the millage rate to 0.87 mills in order to not have the
13 extra money.

14
15 Ms. Sykes-Amos explained that the reason they kept the \$50,000 was because the district
16 would not receive any more funding until January 2021, but would have bills to pay during
17 that timeframe. She opined that they should not spend it down to zero.

18
19 Ms. Price understood that the account could not go down to zero; however, she felt that if
20 they kept the \$50,000 in the account, it was sufficient over the years. She stated she wanted
21 to see the Board follow what they had done in the past and keep the \$50,000 in the account
22 and lower the millage more.

23
24 Ms. Sykes-Amos asked the Board to consider that if the funding requests went up later,
25 was the Board prepared to do a larger tax increase. She suggested they discuss the options,
26 and if the Board desired the millage rate to be even lower than the rollback rate, then she
27 would advertise that and redo the budget.

28
29 Ms. Price inquired what Ms. Sykes-Amos meant when she said an increase, and if what
30 had been requested for the next year was already set.

31
32 Ms. Sykes-Amos replied that was correct for the moment.

33
34 Ms. Price asked if they had ever increased over what the budget was set at.

35
36 Ms. Sykes-Amos responded that they did every year except they had not this year, noting
37 that they had moved the amounts around so that if a certain clinic did not meet their budget,
38 then they reallocated funding to another entity. She reminded the Board that this was a
39 budget, and explained that if everyone paid their taxes in November, then they would
40 receive less revenue. She said that some people pay their taxes November through
41 February; therefore, the district did not know until the end of September what the outcome
42 was. She specified that they did not have to do a budget amendment for this year because
43 no one had submissions over their budget; however, she thought they had done budget
44 amendments every year since 1991 in order to reallocate and fund more than originally
45 budgeted, since there were submissions and the taxes came in. She expressed uncertainty
46 for this year, and explained that if people did not pay their property taxes, then they would
47 receive a larger check in May 2021 when the tax sale happened.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47

Mr. Talmadge commented that he had been on the NLCHD Board for a while, noting that last year was not typical and the numbers were not as high as normal. He understood that many were struggling, and expressed support for the rollback rate since it would fund everyone's requests. He shared concerns if they returned to the normal submissions as seen in the past, but felt this was what should be done based on everything happening.

Ms. Catherine Hanson agreed with this as there were unusual circumstances this year.

Ms. Huey agreed as well, and felt that what might happen next year was unknown. She thought it was fortunate that they could do the rollback and not increase taxes.

The Chairman opened the floor for public comment but no one wished to address the Board regarding this matter.

Ms. Shelley Coates, Lake County Information Technology (IT) Department, explained that anyone watching though Zoom Webinar who wished to participate in the meeting could follow the directions currently being broadcast; furthermore, she relayed that anyone who had joined the webinar via their phone could press *9 to virtually raise their hand, and anyone participating online could click the raise hand button to let the NLCHD Board know that they wished to speak. She indicated that no one had raised their hand to speak.

On a motion by Mr. Talmadge, seconded by Ms. Hanson and carried unanimously by a roll-call vote of 4-0, the NLCHD Board approved Resolution 2020-01 setting the tentative millage rate for the FY 2020-2021 budget year at 0.895 mills.

PUBLIC COMMENT – RESOLUTION 2020-02 FOR ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET

Ms. Kirste read the title of Resolution 2020-02, providing for the adoption of the proposed budget for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year.

Ms. Sykes-Amos remarked that the expenses for the 0.895 millage rate were listed on the worksheet. She explained that they adopt their budget at the fund level, which meant that they were adopting a budget of \$11,872,812. She elaborated that the reason they did it this way was because the Board would not have to do a budget amendment if something went merely a dollar over. She said they only had to do a budget amendment if they were going to spend more than the \$11,872,812; furthermore, the budget had to balance which was the reason the \$438,134 contingency was included. She indicated that this contingency amount came from the \$13 billion taxable value times the millage rate, times 96%, which then provided the 4% if people took the discounts or did not pay. She relayed that the interest amount was a best guestimate since she did not know what the Federal Reserve might do with interest rates. She remarked that the Lake County Tax Collector fees were always two percent of the collections, and the Lake County Property Appraiser sent a budget, noting that the rest of the expenditures listed simply fell out based on prior years. She reiterated that the NLCHD Board would be approving a budget of \$11,872,812.

Ms. Price asked if the extra money would be interest bearing.

1 Ms. Sykes-Amos replied that it was. She stated that she attempts to keep about \$10,000 in
2 the checking account with everything else in the money market account making whatever
3 it could. She said that she emails the bank to let them know how many checks would be
4 clearing. She then explained a little about how the banks worked with government
5 accounts, noting that First National Bank had been good to the district by not charging fees.
6 She indicated that she worked with the bank at the end of a call report quarter. She relayed
7 that government funds in a commercial bank have to be under Florida Security Deposit
8 Acts guaranteed; therefore, if she moved \$5 million into First National Bank on September
9 29, 2020, then they have to send \$2,500,000 of investments overnight up to the City of
10 Tallahassee in order to secure it. She remarked that because of this, she worked very
11 carefully with the bank to make the process work for them.
12

13 The Chairman opened the floor for public comment but no one wished to address the Board
14 regarding this matter. Ms. Coates reiterated how to participate virtually, and relayed that
15 no one had raised their hand to speak.
16

17 On a motion by Mr. Talmadge, seconded by Ms. Hanson and carried unanimously by a
18 roll-call vote of 4-0, the NLCHD Board approved Resolution 2020-02 tentatively adopting
19 the proposed budget for FY 2020-2021 at \$11,872,812.
20

21 LOW INCOME POOL LETTERS OF AGREEMENT

22 Ms. Sykes-Amos said that the low income pool letters of agreement had all been submitted
23 by the three providers, LifeStream Behavioral Center, AdventHealth Waterman, and
24 Leesburg Regional Medical Center (LRMC), who had asked for the NLCHD Board to
25 approve them. She pointed out that the agreements for the two hospitals accidentally stated
26 North Lake County so she would make the change to North Lake County Hospital District
27 prior to sending them in. She explained that she would eventually receive an invoice from
28 the State, and that part of the request already approved for the hospitals would go to the
29 State, noting this was not in addition to their funding request. She indicated that she needed
30 a motion which would give the Chairman the authority to approve these agreements.
31


32 On a motion by Mr. Talmadge, seconded by Ms. Price and carried unanimously by a vote
33 of 4-0, the NLCHD Board approved giving the Chairman the authority to approve and sign
34 the low income pool letters of agreement.
35

36 OTHER MATTERS

37 Ms. Kirste reminded the Board that the next meeting would be on September 24, 2020, in
38 order to vote on the final millage rate and final budget.
39

40 ADJOURNMENT

41 The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.
42
43
44

45 
46 Joyce Richey Huey, Chairman