

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM**

MARCH 9, 2020

1:30 PM

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Noah Lockley – Chairman, Ricky Jones-Vice-Chairman, Joseph Parrish, William Massey, Bert B. Boldt, II

Others Present: Marcia M. Johnson-Clerk of Court, Erin Griffith-Assistant Finance Director, Michael Moron-County Coordinator, Michael Shuler – County Attorney, Lori P. Hines-Deputy Clerk to the Board.

Call to Order

Chairman Lockley called the meeting to Order.

Prayer and Pledge

There was a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Chairman Lockley stated individuals are allowed to speak for 3 minutes and anyone representing a group is allowed to speak for 5 minutes.

Mr. Moron reported the Board will hear from Mr. Roger Hall, Ascension/Sacred Heart, and his staff about some changes they have to their proposal. He said no decisions will be made today but it is a chance for the Board to get more information. Mr. Moron reported Mr. Doug Creamer, Weems Memorial Hospital Board Chairman, and Mr. David Walker, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at Weems Memorial Hospital, are present. He explained there is a place on the Agenda for them to ask questions also.

Ms. Mary Ann McGuire, a resident of St. George Island, said she spoke to the Board previously in favor of the Sacred Heart proposal. She stated her experience with the Sacred Heart physical therapy facility and the facility in Port St. Joe has been good. She asked if Sacred Heart will give priority to hiring the staff at Weems Memorial Hospital if their proposal is accepted and Weems is closed.

Mr. David Watts, a resident of Franklin County, reported he sent an email to the Board about this matter. He read the email in support of the Sacred Heart proposal.

Mr. Tom Morgan, a resident of Apalachicola, said he is not getting into the location of the facility but healthcare has changed and the county needs an emergency facility to receive people and then send them out to the best specialists. He reported the Critical Access Hospital certificate has been discussed and he has done a lot of research about this item. He said he asked Mr. Walker about what it represented last year and it was approximately \$225,000. He stated this amount only represents 2% of the revenues so it is not the big issue. He reported there were 2 financials changes in accounting which occurred at Weems and that was when the Board forgave debt in the amount of almost \$700,000 and the bad debt reserve percentage changed which represents about \$300,000. He explained if you look at the financials Weems Memorial Hospital has not turned the corner. Mr. Morgan reported the auditors will call these items extraordinary items as they are not part of the ordinary income of the facility. He stated if the Board chooses to build a hospital there will be more employees. He stated Alliant/TMH has a proposal with a \$30,000 fee plus the cost of the CEO for a total \$470,000 a year. He addressed the number of CEO's that have been at the hospital.

Ms. Susan Leach, a resident of Franklin County, said the Board is assuming just because they supported something years ago that they currently support it. She stated she cannot identify anything Tallahassee Memorial Hospital (TMH) has done for her but Sacred Heart provides 2 medical providers and physical and occupational therapy. She reported transportation is a problem for everyone in the community. Ms. Leach asked the Board to take these items into consideration when they make their decisions.

Mr. Alan Feifer, a resident of Alligator Point, discussed the items promised by Weems Memorial Hospital and what will still be lacking. He said Sacred Heart is a full service hospital and the freestanding emergency room will deliver more than Weems is currently providing. He stated Carrabelle was promised a 24/7 urgent care facility staffed by doctors and they still do not have that. Mr. Feifer reported Weems Memorial Hospital is financially fragile and Sacred Heart is owned by Ascension Health Care the largest and strongest not for profit health care service in the United States. He said Sacred Heart is a full service hospital coupled with a centrally located health facility and emergency room accessible to all citizens. He explained Weems Memorial Hospital needs every dollar to keep the status quo and a new hospital will cost more to operate and will likely bring in the same revenue as now. Mr. Feifer stated Sacred Heart does not have these problems and only wants \$500,000 a year of the \$2.3 million generated by the Health Care Trust Fund. He reported this leaves \$1.7 million available for other vital services needed around the county. Mr. Feifer stated the critical care access is a monetary plus of \$200,000 a year. He explained if Weems starts to build the critical access designation will be up for review and Sacred Heart may ask for the designation. He asked the Board to consider the citizens and make the right decision.

Mr. Brian Robinson, a resident of St. George Island, said he has heard the Board discuss the interlocal agreements and jobs but he has never heard of a vision for healthcare delivery in Franklin County. He stated he has never heard the vision for improving physician access, clinical capacity or improving technology. He reported there is not enough money to sustain Weems. He asked the Board to move past indecision and move to a vision of improving access and clinical quality.

Ms. Brenda Karlin, a resident of St. George Island, stated she has sent emails and participated in the Board meetings. She reported they are hearing the same information about the state of Weems Memorial Hospital and what the community wants. She said they would like to have Sacred Heart/Ascension take over and bring their services here. Ms. Karlin questioned why the Board is still at this point after reviewing all the financial information and studies. She said she has heard they are trying to fulfill a promise. Ms. Karlin asked what is so important that they ignore the financials and the public will and possibly put the county in debt. She inquired why no other option is viable except for putting the county in debt, reviving Weems Memorial Hospital and making a new hospital through Weems.

Mrs. Donna Butterfield, a resident of St. George Island, said she lives and votes in Franklin County. She urged Chairman Lockley to accept Ascension/Sacred Heart for the betterment of Franklin County.

Roger Hall - Sacred Heart/Ascension – Presentation

Mr. Hall introduced Mrs. Patty Greenberg, a consultant and health care expert with Ascension, and Ms. Robin Goodwin, Vice President of Nursing Care and operating officer at the Port St. Joe hospital. He said Ascension/Sacred Heart is a faith based ministry and he read a portion of their mission statement. He presented a slide presentation and gave a history of Ascension/Sacred Heart. He said they understand the reconfiguration of health care and Ascension runs 12 critical access hospitals. He explained they have the resources to reconfigure health care and improve access. Mr. Hall stated the Port St. Joe Hospital is 1 of 7 five star hospitals in Florida. He explained the five star rating is recognized by Medicare for patient care and quality care. He reported they have the largest physician network in the region. He said Ms. Greenberg will explain how they will configure healthcare to improve access and quality care in Franklin County. Ms. Greenberg reported Ascension is not an outsider and already has Dr. Ryan Pharr who lives locally and has a practice in Franklin County. She stated Dr. Wells' lives locally and will be the additional primary care physician. She said Dr. Sokolosky, an orthopedic surgeon, is also relocating to Franklin County and will have a part-time practice in the community under their proposal. She explained Dr. Chapman, cardiologist, and Mr. Harbin, general surgeon, will also be practicing part-time in the community. Ms. Greenberg said they have a full time physical therapist as well as a part-time speech and occupational therapist here in town. She reported their plan is to double the size of the practice. She stated they provide in excess of \$3.7 million in charity care currently to Franklin County through their medical group and

medical services. She stated they are already an active participant in the local health care community. She explained the biggest change to healthcare is hospitals without beds because most people are not staying overnight and are using outpatient services and going home. Ms. Greenberg said they reviewed the utilization of the Franklin County residents and their strategy to meet the long term needs is to improve access locally by expanding the range of health care services and having additional access points. She said they will also expand telemedicine. She reported they will also align with a major tertiary health care provider. Ms. Greenberg stated their vision is to have an economically sustainable health care organization and infrastructure to meet the immediate needs of the residents and chronic or acute services can be treated at hospitals outside the county. She reported their proposal is to establish a freestanding hospital emergency department because it has to be a department of a hospital. Ms. Greenberg explained by Florida requirements that emergency room must provide all the same services that the host hospital provides. She stated the location of this facility would be the Board's decision. She explained the only qualification because of Medicare is the facility must be 35 miles from the Gulf Hospital in Port St. Joe. Ms. Greenberg reported in their proposal they expanded the holding beds from 2 to 6 and the facility has been expanded to 12,000 sq. ft. She stated the diagnostic capabilities using the emergency room will include CAT scan, x-ray, ultrasound and lab and they will be on the Ascension platform for telemedicine. She said they have a helipad for rapid transport for trauma, cardiac or critical patients via their air flight service that will also be provided as part of the program. Ms. Greenberg reported in relation to staff they propose a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week emergency room physicians, 2 nurses and radiology technicians. She explained that is 24 full time equivalents (FTE's) not counting the telemedicine physicians or air flight personnel. Ms. Greenberg said they will also establish a second primary care office in addition to Dr. Pharr. She stated their original proposal included moving Dr. Wells when the office was constructed but she already works for Ascension and could move sooner after the agreement is signed if there is space at the clinic or somewhere else. Ms. Greenberg said the county already has Weems Medical Center West and they would envision the staff there would stay in place. She reported they also envision the staff at Weems Memorial Hospital being interviewed for positions. She said they will build a primary care practice office next to the emergency room facility and they would relocate the nurse practitioners and Dr. Wells into that location and they would share the diagnostic and lab services. Ms. Greenberg stated they are not anticipating a change to the Carrabelle office. She reported it currently operates at 5 ½ days a week and that is the proposal. She explained they will keep the current hours and staff. She stated if the demand warrants it they will consider staff recruitment and additional hours in the future. Ms. Greenberg reported there is a possibility they could also have specialists rotate through the Carrabelle facility. She said between the 2 primary care offices they will have 1 physician and 4.2 nurse practitioners which are already currently employed and 9 support staff. Ms. Greenberg said they will establish a specialty care practice adjacent to the emergency room. She reported the cardiologist, orthopedic surgeon and general surgeon will each be here 1 day a week. She said they have also added a specialty area for mammography and they anticipate it coming over because they do this service in Port St. Joe so the staff person would be here part-time. Ms. Greenberg

explained after they come to an agreement if there is space available they can move the specialty physicians here sooner rather than waiting for the building to be constructed since they are already employed by Ascension. Ms. Greenberg discussed the expansion of their rehabilitation services with a larger facility and more equipment. She reported Ascension has started discussions with St. James Rehabilitation and Nursing Center about swing beds. She stated St. James Bay is a 5 star facility and only have about 83% occupancy. Ms. Greenberg presented a drawing similar to the building they would like to construct. She said they have the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) report from 2018 on Weems Memorial Hospital and they are extracting information from this report. She provided current services provided and the services planned under the Ascension proposal. She said they will not have licensed inpatient beds but they would have 6 observation beds. She reported they will not have swing beds in the facility but they are talking with St. James about enhancing those capabilities so if there was a swing bed need or short term skilled nursing bed need they would work with St. James on that need. She reviewed the clinic services and the specialty services that would be provided. Ms. Greenberg explained the staff positions could be new people or people currently employed at Weems. She reported there is a misconception about the FTE's at Weems Memorial Hospital because the 93 FTE's includes 26 employees of Emergency Medical Services (EMS). She stated there are 9 FTE's at the clinics and 58 FTE's at the Hospital and this information was confirmed with Mr. Walker. She reported there are less FTE's overall with 69. She said they assume EMS will not change since that will be a county function. Ms. Greenberg stated the clinics and Emergency Room will expand so what appears to be eliminated is dietary, plant operations, accounting and medical records which they will have at another location. She explained there will be a shift of about 23 people. She said that is what is proposed in year one but as volume increases they would anticipate an increase in these numbers. Ms. Greenberg stated they also have a facility in the next county so there are opportunities to move into another Ascension location. She said the estimated project would be 20,900 sq. ft. and the emergency room and specialty area have increased in size. Ms. Greenberg stated the capital costs related to construction are a little over \$8 million and the equipment cost is \$3.6 million because they added state of the art digital mammography. She reported operations have 43 FTE's and 5 departments and she explained same. She explained the first year of operations Ascension anticipates a \$1.4 million loss and they will cover that loss. She reported the second year the loss is about \$1 million. Ms. Greenberg stated that is part of their operating commitment. She reviewed the proposal and said Ascension will provide the capital for the equipment related cost in the amount of \$3.6 million and will develop, operate and license the new facility. Ms. Greenberg reported once the site is identified and the process starts it can be completed in about 10 months. She said they can start the primary care practice as soon as possible because they do not have to recruit anyone since Dr. Wells lives in the community. She reported the specialists can also start when space is available. She stated they will staff and operate the Carrabelle Clinic. Ms. Greenburg said they will double the size of their existing rehabilitation space and work with St. James Nursing Home to enhance rehabilitative services locally. Ms. Greenburg stated they will make recommendations to the Commissioners for needed community services they identify through their practices. Chairman Lockley asked if

they are going to pay the \$12 million. Ms. Greenberg explained the county would pay \$8 million for the building and they would lease the building from the county for a nominal rate. She reported services at Weems Memorial would be replaced by this new facility. Ms. Greenberg stated the county will continue to collect the \$.01 surtax and out of that Ascension would receive a \$500,000 annual payment to compensate for the charity care they provide. She reported the leftover surtax money would be used for other services in the county the Commissioners deem appropriate. Ms. Greenberg stated today the county provides the funds for the operational loss and under the Ascension proposal Ascension would provide funds for the operational loss. She reported the county funding is \$2.3 million for the hospital but with the Ascension proposal they would be limited to a \$500,000 payment for charity care. She said a surplus for other health initiatives does not happen today but with their proposal in the future the county would have the remainder of the \$.01 surtax which represents about \$1.8 million for other health initiatives. Ms. Greenberg stated in 2018 the county had \$683,000 in charity care at Weems Memorial Hospital and with their proposal that will be limited to \$500,000. She reported the county covers any payroll gaps today but will not in the future under their proposal. Ms. Greenberg stated the county pays for equipment purchases and replacement but will not in the future as Ascension will pay for all equipment upgrades and replacements. She reported the county has operational risks now but will not in the future as Ascension will have that risk. Ms. Greenberg stated the county's investment in the new facility would be \$8 million and Ascension's investment will be \$3.6 which includes the equipment. Ms. Greenberg said this shows their proposal is an advantage to the county and meets the future needs of the community on a health care basis. She stated when transfers are needed they have EMS or air flight service. Mr. Hall reported their intent is comprehensive and they want to make a difference to Franklin County.

Weems CEO & Chairman - Questions & Comments

Mr. Walker stated the numbers presented were from the 2018 cost report so some of the numbers may have changed. Ms. Greenberg agreed they could have changed and she asked the state for the numbers on Friday and they still did not have them. He reported they mentioned the Hospital does not have a physician in the emergency room 24 hours a day, 7 days a week but they do and they have air flight. Mr. Walker stated the hospital currently provides EMS but under their proposal that service would go back to the county. Mr. Hall agreed that is correct. Mr. Walker asked if they think the critical access has value for small rural hospitals. Mr. Hall answered yes as it provides 101% of costs for Medicare and Medicaid allowable costs. He stated the more volume you have the more value you have. He reported in looking at the Weems Cost Report this represents 40% of their costs. He stated it would have some value to Ascension/Sacred Heart. Mr. Hall explained when Weems decertifies their beds and Ascension/Sacred Heart is able to get the designation then it will have value to them. Mr. Walker questioned if Ascension/Sacred Heart will go after the critical access designation. Mr. Hall answered yes. Mr. Hall explained they will give every employee priority but they have qualifications they will have to go through. He reported they do not want to displace

employees and will do as little as possible. Mr. Hall stated they want to create a sustainable model because then they will be able to grow to hire more people long term. He said they believe in 5 years they will have more employees than they have now. Mr. Hall reported they will work in consultation with the county on the \$1.5 million remaining of the health care surtax and how best to use it. Mr. Walker asked about another area where they closed a hospital and how successful they were in that area. Mr. Hall said when they close a hospital it is not deemed a success but they added more primary care and telemedicine and are making a difference providing access to the poor and vulnerable. He stated they feel like they have done a good job in Washington. Mr. Creamer questioned if they will be able to write off the depreciation on the cost report if they build an \$8 million facility. Mr. Hall answered no that would be a total expense back to the county. Mr. Creamer responded because the cost report would go away. Mr. Hall stated that is correct. Mr. Creamer questioned if the nominal rent is set for law or negotiated. Mr. Hall replied it would be negotiated. Mr. Creamer said he thought they had to pay fair market value when renting public property. Mr. Hall stated their intention is to pay a nominal rate because they know the operation will be losing money for a number of years until they get the volume. Mr. Creamer asked if all the equipment will be new or moved in from other areas. Mr. Hall stated it will be brand new digital equipment and they will get reimbursement from Medicare for having digital equipment. Mr. Creamer said the reimbursement will go to Sacred Heart not the county. Mr. Hall responded that is correct. Mr. Creamer inquired if they will build a new helipad or they are referring to the one they have now. Mr. Hall stated it would depend on the location and they would man it and make sure it met the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) standards. Mr. Creamer inquired if they will use the helipads at Weems and behind the Carrabelle Clinic. Mr. Hall explained they will look at the location that provides the best service. Mr. Walker asked if there is any consideration to taking EMS and managing it for the county. Mr. Hall said they can look at it. He said their whole plan is to make access better so transportation is part of that. Mr. Walker stated if Sacred Heart leaves the county then the county would have a building with no equipment. Mr. Hall said that is correct but they are not going to walk away. Mr. Creamer asked if the freestanding emergency room could cost more than the hospital to build since they cannot write off the depreciation with the freestanding emergency room. Mr. Hall answered no because they would still have the operating costs. He said the county will still be depreciating the building but it may not be reimbursable depreciation. Mr. Creamer questioned if Mr. Hall is retiring. Mr. Hall responded yes. Mr. Creamer asked who will be working in Mr. Hall's position. Mr. Hall replied they are going through the process. He said Gulf/Franklin are important to him and if they say yes to Sacred Heart then he will come to work for them as a free consultant. Chairman Lockley questioned how long Sacred Heart will stay if they are losing money. Mr. Hall stated they are not going to walk away but will be smart in configuring things here. He said they are not going to leave Franklin County and are here now. Chairman Lockley reported he is concerned about them leaving the building. He said the county will be in a 30-40 year commitment for paying the money back and questioned if Sacred Heart will sign a 30-40 year commitment for being here. Mr. Hall answered yes. Mr. Creamer said they are bringing in 2 physicians but they are not considering sending 1 to the Carrabelle Clinic. Mr. Hall stated they

would look into rotating the physicians. Mr. Creamer reported he is concerned that they have second level care in Carrabelle and he would like to have a doctor in Carrabelle. Mr. Hall stated he cannot commit to a doctor there but they do oversee the care. He said they will rotate and have a presence in Carrabelle.

Commissioners - Questions and Comments

Chairman Lockley asked if Sacred Heart hires Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN's). Mr. Hall replied a few but not many. Chairman Lockley said Sacred Heart is bringing doctors with them so the other doctors here will be out of a job. He asked if they are bringing people in that do paperwork. Mr. Hall said these jobs are centralized. He stated there are some clerical functions in the clinics but billing and collection is done from a central location. Chairman Lockley stated they will be hiring a bookkeeper and cleaning staff. Mr. Hall said they will give preference to people that are already working in the clinic. Ms. Greenberg explained right now they have 9 clinic employees and their plan calls for 15. She said they do have some LPN positions but the majority of their nurses are Registered Nurses (RN's) or nurse's aides. She pointed out the professional staff in the clinic and emergency room will be getting larger. She said the staff for radiology and respiratory are similar. Ms. Greenberg reported the overhead departments are where the turnover will be but the salary base for employees will be higher. She discussed the current positions that will stay with their plan. Chairman Lockley asked if Sacred Heart will build a hospital here. Mr. Hall answered no, because it will continue to lose money. He reported they will build an emergency room and bring doctors. Chairman Lockley stated he is doing the will of the people because 70% of the people want a hospital. Commissioner Parrish said he heard Mr. Hall commit to being here as it will take the county 30 years to pay for the building. He requested the Board receive a copy of the PowerPoint presentation so they can review it. Mr. Hall said they are always open to their questions. Mr. Creamer stated there are 1,200 Capital Health Plan (CHP) members in the county and asked how Sacred Heart will address that issue. Mr. Hall reported they take Capital Health Plan in all of their clinics. Mr. Creamer questioned if the hospital in Port St. Joe can take Capital Health Plan. Mr. Hall said they can accept CHP but CHP will not approve individuals going there. Mr. Creamer reported it is out of network and he asked if that is a bigger expense to the patient. Mr. Hall said it will not be because they do not go there and they will continue to send the patients where CHP wants them to go. Mr. Creamer asked if they will have a relationship with TMH. Mr. Hall responded yes. Mrs. Griffith questioned if the air lift will transport to any facility. Mr. Hall answered yes they fly the patient where they want to go. Mrs. Griffith pointed out as part of the CHP benefit they cover this service. Mr. Hall stated they understand that. Chairman Lockley questioned what happens if patients are transferred to Sacred Heart and are out of network. Mr. Hall explained CHP approves the care and makes sure it meets the medical necessity and they give the authorization for where the patient goes and they will honor that. Chairman Lockley reported he was concerned about a patient that could not respond and was transferred to Sacred Heart but had CHP insurance. Mr. Creamer inquired what happens if there are no beds available at CHP facilities. Mr. Hall stated the HMO will allow the patients to go out of network

if there are no other available beds. Mr. Creamer said the patient is then treated as if they were in network. Mr. Hall answered yes. Commissioner Massey stated they increased the days in Carrabelle because originally they told him 2-3 days a week. He explained he is glad for this because it caused a problem for him. Mr. Hall stated that is correct he did say that and they have corrected the number of days. Commissioner Massey said the Carrabelle Clinic has got to run. Mr. Hall said he has been corrected and they will operate 5 ½ days. Commissioner Jones reported Gulf County and Franklin County have a Disadvantaged Transportation service that can be used when people need to go places and not just medical services. He stated they do need to schedule the service ahead of time. He said this service is available for all residents and is provided through money that the county contributes for this service. He stated there is a very small fee for the service. Commissioner Jones said he noted the changes in the proposal and it is different and there is more provided. Commissioner Jones asked if Ascension has closed the maternity ward in Bay County. Mr. Hall said yes, it is temporarily closed. Ms. Greenberg stated the OB service is not currently at the hospital because the hospital has not fully reopened but because it is a trauma center they do have OB services on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to meet the trauma designation. Commissioner Jones said they talked about it but he wants to clarify that they do have 24 hours a day, 7 day a week emergency room service at Weems. He stated he has always felt like a new facility for health care in the county is the first step to having better health care. He reported he likes that there was the possibility of additional facilities. He explained if the county takes the right steps they will have money in the health care trust fund to supply the additional facilities and open the clinics for additional hours if the demand is there. Commissioner Jones asked if they will be in the CHP network if they took over health care in Franklin County. Mr. Hall answered yes in the county but not out of the county. He reported CHP is an HMO and their service area is defined to cover Franklin County not Gulf County. Commissioner Boldt thanked Mr. Hall and his staff for the presentation. He thanked the people of Franklin County for providing input into this issue. He stated there are millions of dollars in the health care market here that go to a higher levels of care somewhere else. He said based on that they need to enter into a very specific detailed contract with the provider of services. He reported they need a community health needs assessment and read the definition of this assessment. Commissioner Boldt stated they have a contract with Carrabelle that they will provide a 24 hour a day, 7 day a week facility there and that is important for them to recognize. He said they do not want to leave the ambulance service out and they need to integrate the EMS service as part of the deal. He reported portals of access are needed in the community especially the eastern side. Mr. Hall stated a needs assessment was made in their proposal. He explained Ms. Greenberg pulled the data and their proposal is based on the needs assessment for the county. He reported the county Health Department does an annual needs assessment. He said they work closely with the county Health Department. Mr. Hall stated one of the biggest needs is behavioral health and they do not have an answer for this issue. He said they recognize the ambulance service is a critical part and they all need the service but it is not part of their proposal right now. He reported they do not run the ambulance service in Gulf County but their Chief Medical Officer at the Hospital is also the Chief Medical Officer of that. Mr. Hall stated they will work closely with EMS.

Commissioner Boldt requested that they broaden the scope of their emergency department and look at equipment at all facilities. He asked if they will do a walk thru at facilities to determine the equipment needed at all medical facilities. Mr. Hall explained once they get the doctors then they will get requests for items they need. He reported they will look at the sustainability of the clinics to make a decision to bring in equipment. Commissioner Boldt asked if they will provide a cost and timeline for the equipment so they know when replacements will happen. Ms. Greenberg said the capital costs and equipment item provides a list of what equipment is included. She explained this equipment would be implemented prior to licensure. She said the mammography equipment is under New Construction. She stated they can provide a list of what is included under the other programs. She reported the only thing that is not new is the rehabilitation services because they have good equipment but they are doubling the space and buying some new equipment. Ms. Greenberg explained they have a list and know every piece of equipment that is budgeted within the line items for the buildings. She said it will all be in place when the facility opens. Commissioner Boldt said he would like a timeline for arrival of the equipment. Mr. Hall stated the timeline is when the facility is built. Ms. Greenburg said they can provide a date when the construction starts. Mr. Hall reported they are willing to work through the transition but they have not discussed the time between the decision and construction. Commissioner Boldt reported as of February 7, 2020 Sacred Heart has not contracted with CHP. Mr. Hall stated CHP is reimbursing Dr. Pharr daily and he is a recognized provider for CHP and so is their physical therapy facility. Commissioner Boldt stated there are 1289 CHP members in Franklin County and that represents 10% of the known population and a bigger percentage of the known insured population. He said he would like more specifics about a signed contract Sacred Heart has with CHP. Mr. Hall stated he will forward the contract for the services they have in Franklin County. Commissioner Massey left the meeting. Commissioner Boldt inquired about the medical rehabilitation and said he appreciates that they have looked at St. James Bay but he wants security on behalf of the people of the county that they have medical rehabilitation beds without fail. He said he would like to see alternatives if St. James Bay is at capacity. Mr. Hall reported if they fill up those beds then they would work for the rehabilitative services because there is a seal in on getting rehabilitative beds in the state. Commissioner Boldt said he is looking for specifics because he wants beds for people to rehabilitate in this county. Commissioner Massey returned to the meeting. Mr. Hall said there are beds and in their proposal they are using the capital in this community and not displacing them. He stated Ms. Greenburg and Ms. Goodwin have done a good job of finding adequate beds to take care of the population of Franklin County. Chairman Lockley stated 2-3 community needs assessments have been done and should be in the public records. Commissioner Jones asked if the community needs assessment is done once a year by the Health Department. Mr. Walker replied the community needs assessment is done every 3 years and it is monitored on a quarterly basis. Mr. Moron and Mr. Hall discussed what options Franklin County will have if Sacred Heart leaves after 5 years. Mr. Moron reported in the beginning of this process he said it is less about who is providing the service and more about the model going forward with health care and that is what he asked the Board to consider. He said he is asking the Board to determine if this is the model they want to move forward with.

Mr. Hall explained the county asked for needs on how health care can be better and he asked who has said they will come in and provide dollars and go at risk. He stated who has said this is part of their mission. Mr. Creamer stated Gadsden County ran into that issue because the company they contracted with for emergency care went bankrupt and it left them with nothing. Mr. Hall said since they are working with one of the largest health care systems in the country he does not think they will be going bankrupt. Commissioner Boldt recommended they have a detailed staffing plan beginning with 2-3 full time physicians to cover all facilities and 1-2 days of specialty clinics. Ms. Greenberg said that is included in the presentation. She reported Texas A & M have also requested a copy of the presentation but she wanted to make sure that is okay with the Board. Mr. Moron stated he will make sure they get a copy of the presentation. Chairman Lockley reported he will look into the details and pick the best option for the county. Mr. Moron thanked Ascension/Sacred Heart for their proposal because it is a lot of work and it provides good information for them to think about going forward. Mr. Moron asked if USDA is still one of the best financing options for constructing a building. Mr. Hall suggested they get the USDA loan as soon as possible because they will not get better financing. Mr. Moron explained they have a deadline so they want to make sure this financing will work before they try to maintain it.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Noah Lockley - Chairman

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts