

THE SCREVEN COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

AUGUST 31, 2020

The Board of Commissioners of Screven County, Georgia, Mr. Will Boyd, Chairman, Mr. J.C. Warren, Vice-Chairman, Mr. John O. Triplett, Mr. Michael McBride, Mr. Edwin Lovett, Mr. Mike Dixon and Ms. Rosa Romeo met in called meeting at 9:00 A.M. on August 31, 2020 at the Screven County Courthouse for the purpose of discussing funding for local hospital.

PERSONS ATTENDING THE MEETING

Mrs. Lori Boulineau, Finance Officer, Mr. Hubert Reeves, County Attorney, Mr. Josh Kaiser, EMS Director, Ms. Mikki Saxon, Executive Director EMA, Mr. Paul Keller Newton, Ms. Wanda Scott-Bragg, E-911 Director, Ms. Hannah Derriso, Mr. Enoch Autry, Sylvania Telephone

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Boyd called the meeting to order. Chairman Warren gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Triplett made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Romeo seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Warren began the conversation by stating that himself, Commissioner Triplett, Commissioner Lovett and Personnel Director/Finance Officer Lori Boulineau met with East Georgia Healthcare Center on Tuesday, August 25, 2020 to talk about their newest facility in Screven County and how it will help the citizens of the county. The facility is not going to be an urgent care center but they do have the funding to help divert a majority of the indigent care from the local hospital. Commissioner Warren stated that he does not want the hospital to close but he does not think that it is the tax payers responsibility to fund a business that cannot fund themselves.

Commissioner Lovett stated that the Healthcare Center has the ability to provide a safety net to the uninsured, the Board needs to consider Consultant Doug Eaves report about the hospital, ten years ago the same hospital requested \$1,000,000.00 and they settled for \$600,000.00 and now they are back wanting more, the health center has the potential to decrease hospital visits by 30% and stated he is against the hospital using the county as a crutch. Chairman Boyd stated he does not think the health center will relieve the county of all indigent care. Commissioner Romeo stated she thinks the health center will be great for the community. Commissioner Triplett discussed the possibilities of grant opportunities for a county owned hospital. Commissioner Lovett asked questions about the existing agreement and if they county would have preferential option to purchase. Chairman Boyd stated he felt Optim would give the county option to buy but in his opinion it would be cheaper to subsidize rather than own the hospital. Chairman Boyd left the meeting at 9:34 A.M. Commissioner Lovett asked if anyone else was interested in purchasing the hospital. Commissioner McBride asked if any of the indigent care cost would come back to the county from the health center?

Commissioner Lovett answered no because they are federally funded. Commissioner Triplett talked about the reporting when payments were requested from the hospital for indigent care. Hannah Derriso, citizen, asked if the citizens could defer their taxes to fund a local hospital and if they county has looked into that option. Commissioner Triplett asked EMS Director Josh Kaiser how many people does EMS transport that could actually go to a clinic and his response was approximately 75%. Commissioner Triplett made a motion to contact the hospital and offer them \$50,000.00 a month through June 2021 to subsidize indigent care. Commissioner Romeo seconded the motion. Commissioner Triplett, Commissioner Romeo, Commissioner McBride and Commissioner Dixon voted in favor. Commissioner Lovett and Commissioner Warren were opposed. The motion carried by majority vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Warren adjourned the meeting at 10:15 A.M.

Chairman

County Manager