

**MINUTES  
LOWER FLORIDA KEYS HOSPITAL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MARCH 4, 2025**

**PRESENT:** Mrs. Ovide, Dr. Thompson, Mrs. Sterling, Mr. Muir, Mrs. Spottswood, Dr. Chambers, Mr. Hammond

**ABSENT:** Mr. Toppino

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mr. Fishman, and residents from the community (sign-in sheet attached to official minutes).

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Ovide called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Chairman Ovide led the attendees to the pledge of allegiance.

The District Board allowed each firm to give a 15–20-minute presentation. Each group went over the services and the processes their firm would offer. The fee structures all varied as most firms that handle transactions of this magnitude have retainer fees and then a transactional fee at closing. The presentations are posted to the district website, and the video is available for the community to review. Below are the (3) consultants who presented:

- **Juniper Advisory**
  
- **Rural Health Redesign Center**
  
- **Stroudwater Associates**

**BOARD APPOINTED FACT-FINDING COMMITTEE: MR. BATTY**

Peter Batty Sr. presented a document based off the 4-3 vote at the last meeting to explain the reasons the fact-finding committee wants to engage counsel. Mr. Batty listed several law firms and their retainer /hourly rates for the district board to review. Mr. Batty requested a budget of \$60,000 for the hiring of an attorney.

**CITIZEN INPUT:**

Chairman Ovide went over the citizen input guidelines as stated below:

Presentations to the Board are limited to three (3) minutes for each individual speaker and five (5) minutes for the representative of a designated group. Transfer of time between individuals and/or groups is not permitted. Letters submitted to each Board Member and/or the district Administrator prior to a Board Meeting will not additionally be read into the record at the meeting. All statements must be directed towards the Board; no person may address or question Board Members individually, and Board Members will not engage in a dialogue with people making public comment. Furthermore, all speakers agree to abide by the Code of Conduct for Citizen Input and will begin their presentation by stating the full name and their city or town of residence for the record.

Mr. Kaufman spoke on behalf of his taskforce and supports the decision of the fact-finding committee to retain legal counsel. Jana Deen spoke on behalf of OHKW and just wanted to say she supports the decision of the fact-finding committee to retain legal counsel

#### **HOSPITAL OPERATOR PRESENTATIONS:**

There were (4) hospital operators at the district board meeting that gave presentations on the services their hospitals offer and answered questions from the board. Below are the (4) hospitals that presented to the district board and video is available of these presentations:

- **BAPTIST HEALTH**
- **MT. SINAI**
- **COMMUNITY HEALTH SYSTEMS**
- **TAMPA GENERAL**

Mrs. Sterling stated that she feels after hearing all the presentations that the next step would be to hire an attorney and a consultant to move forward in this process but not at this meeting. The board directed Mr. Fishman to work with the fact-finding committee to prepare a list of healthcare attorneys and bring that back to the board.

Mrs. Ovide thanked the fact-finding committee for all their hard work and dedication they have put into this process.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

**There being no further business to come before the District Board, the meeting was adjourned by Mrs. Spottswood and seconded by Mr. Toppino at 6:00 pm.**

  
Approved, Secretary

  
Date