

PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



117 Putnam Drive, Suite A ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

Work Session

Minutes

Friday, April 1, 2022 ♦ 11:00 AM

Putnam County Administration Building – Room 203

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met for a Work Session on Friday, April 1, 2022 at approximately 11:00 AM in the Putnam County Administration Building, 117 Putnam Drive, Room 204, Eatonton, Georgia.

PRESENT

Chairman Billy Webster
Commissioner Gary McElhenney
Commissioner Daniel Brown
Commissioner Bill Sharp
Commissioner Jeff Wooten

PRESENT FROM PGH

Chairman Jerry Gregory, Jr.
Member Glenda Ridley
Member Jeff Hodge
Member Tom Thompson
Member Tony Franklin
Member Robert Betzel
CEO/Administrator Alan Horton
Chief Nursing Officer Pam Douglas
Controller/Compliance Officer Anita Morris

STAFF PRESENT

County Manager Paul Van Haute
County Clerk Lynn Butterworth

Opening

1. Call to Order

Chairman Webster called the Work Session to order at approximately 11:02 a.m. (Copy of agenda made a part of the minutes on minute book page _____.)

Work Session

2. Putnam General Hospital Discussion

Hospital Authority Chairman Jerry Gregory introduced the other board members: Tom Thompson, Jeff Hodge, Glenda Ridley, Tony Franklin, and Bob Betzel. He advised there is currently one vacancy on the Authority.

Mr. Thompson provided the following information:

- hospital has struggled over the years
- most patients don't even pay cost of service and there are those who can't afford to pay anything which creates an operating loss that has to be made up
- got into severe arrears with close to \$6M in debt five-six years ago
- Navicent and local banks gave lines of credit

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- luckily the Georgia Heart program came along and has helped tremendously
- have zero debt today
- looking to make Putnam General Hospital a premier rural hospital
- average over \$1.5M in write offs each year
- requesting funding (a portion of a mill) similar to what other rural hospitals receive – specifically requesting ½ mill which equals approximately \$800,000; would like to be able to count on that for planning purposes

PGH Controller/Compliance Officer Anita Morris presented some financial information. (Copy of reports made a part of the minutes on minute book pages _____ to _____.)

The group discussed the recent failed referendum asking citizens to approve a dedicated mill to help pay down the hospital's debt. Mr. Thompson commented that there was a lot of misinformation among the public.

County Manager Van Haute inquired about future plans for Georgia Heart funds. Mr. Thompson advised that they plan to make employee compensation comparable to other rural hospitals and enhance services.

No action was taken.

Closing

3. Adjournment

Chairman Webster adjourned the Work Session at approximately 11:58 a.m.

ATTEST:

Lynn Butterworth
County Clerk

Billy Webster
Chairman

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