

At a reconvened meeting of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors held on Tuesday, September 22, 1992, at 8:00 a.m. in the Board Room at Pulaski Community Hospital, Lee Highway, in the Town of Pulaski, the following members were present: Jerry D. White, Chairman; Joseph L. Sheffey, Vice-Chairman; Bruce L. Fariss; Ira S. "Pete" Crawford; and Mason A. Vaughan, Sr. County staff present were Joseph N. Morgan, County Administrator and Nancy M. Burchett, Management Services Director. Also present from Pulaski Community Hospital were Chris Dux, Hospital Administrator; Jack Nunley, Chief Financial Officer; and Shirley Cayton, Chief Nursing Officer.

The Board was welcomed by Mr. Dux, Pulaski Community Hospital Administrator. Mr. Dux gave a brief background report on Pulaski Community Hospital. He stated the hospital is presently owned by HealthTrust, Inc. which owns eighty-two health care facilities in twenty-two states. He assured the Board the hospital was solvent and the financial condition was much better than what had been reported in the newspaper.

The Board then viewed a film on HealthTrust, Inc. and reviewed the hospital's budget. Several items were pointed out to the Board including that the hospital has an annual payroll of \$10,000,000 with a total work force of 312 full-time employees. Also, in the current fiscal year, a profit is budgeted and in the third quarter of this year HealthTrust, Inc. posted a net income of \$27.7 million.

The Board was also presented information comparing HealthTrust, Inc. to Carillion Health Systems, the other major hospital health care provider in the New River Valley.

Dr. Fariss stated his preference for a single state of the art regional hospital in the New River Valley.

Mr. Dux stated the hospital had three major goals or initiatives: improving the image of the hospital; increasing the market share; and, increasing the profit of the hospital. He reported the hospital has 27 physicians and 14 specialists on staff at the present time. Mr. Dux also stated the hospital needed community support.

Supervisor White stated he had been very impressed with Pulaski Community Hospital and the care provided to his family. He added the board recognized the importance of the hospital to the community in its contributions to economic development and quality of life. He asked what the Board could do to support and change the public's perception of the hospital.

Mr. Dux stated it would not be good for the county to have two hospitals in the same county competing against each other. He further said the Board could request the cable TV company to provide free cable service to the hospital patients. He advised this would be a considerable advantage to the patients.

On the motion of Dr. Fariss, seconded by Mr. Sheffey and carried, the Board resolved to request that Adelphia Cable TV provide cable service at no cost to Pulaski Community Hospital.

Voting yes: Dr. Fariss, Mr. Crawford, Mr. White, Mr. Vaughan, Mr. Sheffey.
Voting no: none.

Mr. Dux also requested the Board's help in physician recruiting. Chairman White suggested Mr. Dux serve as a member of PEP (Pulaski Encouraging Progress.)

Mr. Dux mentioned that the increasing cost of solid waste disposal is a concern to the hospital. The Board advised this problem was affecting all residents and businesses. Assistance from the county staff was offered to insure the most economical level of acceptable garbage disposal.

The Board then was given a tour of Pulaski Community Hospital by Mr. Dux, Mr. Nunley, and Ms. Cayton.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Board adjourned until the regular meeting set for Monday, September 28, 1992 at 7:00 p.m. at the County Administration building.

Jerry D. White, Chairman

ATTEST:

Joseph N. Morgan, Clerk