STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF OKTIBBEHA

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF OKTIBBEHA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, held it’s Regular December Session on Monday, December 5, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. in the Boardroom of the Oktibbeha County, Mississippi Courthouse.

Supervisors present were: District No. 1, Supervisor John Montgomery; District No. 3, Supervisor Marvell Howard; District No. 4, Supervisor Bricklee Miller; and District No. 5, Supervisor, Joe Williams. Also present were Mrs Sharon Livingston, Clerk, Mrs. Emily P. Garrard, Administrator, Mrs. DeLois Triplett, Comptroller, Chief Deputy/Bailiff, Chadd Garnett, and Jackson Brown, Board Attorney. District No. 2, Supervisor Orlando Trainer absent.

1. There came before the Board the minutes generated during the November 2016 Board Sessions as well as the December 1, 2016, 7:00 a.m. meeting, and on motion by member Howard, seconded by member Miller, the Board unanimously approved the November and December 1, 2016 minutes. Member Trainer absent.

2. There came on for the Board’s consideration member Williams motion to have Engineer Pritchard’s notice letter to Eubanks Construction to pay to the County $75,000.00 be presented to the Board, seconded by member Howard, thereupon the Board unanimously approved such action. Member Trainer absent.

3. There came before the Board Deputy Tax Assessor Barbara Cubon requesting approval of an ad valorem charges on personal property, and on motion by member Miller, seconded by member Howard, the Board unanimously approved the rincrase to the personal Chick-Fil-A property, PPIN 4634 due to a Clerical Error, a reduction to Eplus Group Inc, PPIN4333, Chick-Fil-A, PPIN 4272, and Bayer Healthcare, PPIN4545 due to a clerical error and a request for Reduction on eleven (11) pieces of Real Property and for an increase in the Realty Assessment to the property of Robert A. Green, EtUx, PPIN 25078 and Tower Plaza LLC, PPIN 8501 all as shown by the attached real and personal property applications by the Assessor. Member Trainer absent.

4. There came before the Board Deputy Tax Assessor Barbara Cubon requesting approval of an ad valorem refund to the Bankruptcy Chapter 13 Trustee in the sum of $82.98, and on motion by member Williams, seconded by member Howard, the Board unanimously approved the refund as requested and as shown in the Trustee attachments. Member Trainer absent.
5. There came before the Board Jack Wallace’s presentment of the 2016-2017 Oktibbeha County Economic Development Authority’s Budget, and on motion by member Williams, seconded by member Howard, the Board unanimously approved the Budget. Member Trainer absent.

6. There came before the Board the County Road Manager’s report of work completed in November and to be performed in December 2016, and on motion by member Miller, seconded by member Howard, the Board unanimously acknowledged receipt of the report. Member Trainer absent.

7. There came before the Board the Road Manager’s request for paving on Collier Road in the City of Starkville estimated to cost $9,303.00, and on motion by Miller, seconded by member Williams, the Board unanimously authorized presentment of the estimate for Alderman action and then to be returned to the Board. Member Trainer absent.

8. There came before the Board the Road Manager’s request to approve a right-of-way agreement with Ms. Martha Nell Oakley, and on motion by Williams, seconded by member Howard, the Board unanimously approved the agreement as shown in the attached easement. Member Trainer absent.

9. There came before the Board the problem with Dr. Peggy Rogers claim of encroachment by the County, and on motion by member Montgomery, seconded by member Williams, the Board unanimously approved erection of the fence pursuant to the survey by Engineer Pritchard on the Longview Road. Member Trainer absent.

10. There came before the Board the matter of Mrs. Sharon Livingston’s report that no Certificate of Deposit was purchased for the month of November 2016 due to low interest rates, and on motion by member Williams, seconded by member Howard, the Board unanimously acknowledged receipt of the report. Member Trainer absent.

11. There came on for the Board’s consideration Payroll Changes, and on motion by member Miller, seconded by member Williams, the Board unanimously approved the changes and authorized the Board Vice President to execute change orders. Member Trainer absent.

12. There came on for consideration payment of the credit card purchases for November 2016, in the sum of $336.24, and on motion by member Howard, seconded by member William, the Board unanimously authorized payment of the credit card invoice. Member Trainer absent.

13. There came on for consideration the November 2016 Claims Docket, and on motion
by member Howard, seconded by member Miller, the Board unanimously approved payment of claims numbered 560-1039 in the sum of $1,326,369.34. Member Trainer absent.

14. There came on for the Board’s consideration a motion by member Williams, seconded by member Howard, the Board unanimously authorized the County to notify the various Department Heads to not waste electricity by turning lights off. Member Trainer absent.

15. There came on for the Board’s consideration a request for authority to advertise for a phone system, and on motion by member Williams, seconded by member Howard, the Board unanimously authorized advertisement for competitive bids. Member Trainer absent.

16. There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion by member Howard, seconded by member Williams, the Board unanimously recessed until 3:00 p.m. the afternoon December 5, 2016 to open Industrial Park bids. Member Trainer absent.

16. The Board reopened the meeting at 3:00 p.m. Members present were Miller, Montgomery, and Williams. Also present were Mrs. Emily P. Garrard, Administrator/Comptroller, Mrs. Sharon Livingston, Clerk, Jackson Brown, Board Attorney, and Messrs. Norris, Smith and Keyes who opened three (3) bids regarding the $7 Million Industrial Park Bonds, to-wit:

1. Regions Bank whose bid was 3.71 interest;

2. Trustmark National Bank whose bid was 4.40 interest; and

3. Duncan Williams Underwriting whose bid was 4.559517 interest.

After reviewing the contents of the bids the apparent low bid by Regions did not comply with state law since individual annual rates increased at larger increments than the statute allows for taxable bonds. It was recommended that the Board reject all bids and allow Government Consultants, Inc. and bond attorney Samuel W. Keyes, Jr. an opportunity negotiate with the bidder to correct the mistake.

Thereafter, on motion by member Williams, seconded by member Miller, the Board voted 3-0 to authorize Government Consultants, Inc. and Samuel W. Keyes, Jr. to negotiate with Regions Bank to seek a correction of the mistake so as to comply with State law and further, to recess until December 6, at 5:30 p.m., for the hospital public hearing. Members Miller, Montgomery and Williams voting Yea. Members Howard and Trainer absent.

SO ORDERED the 5th day of December, 2016.
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
COUNTY OF OKTIBBEHA

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF OKTIBBEHA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, held its Regular December Session on Tuesday, December 6, 2016, at 5:30 p.m. in the Oktibbeha County Chancery Courtroom.

Supervisors present: District 1 John Montgomery; District 2 Orlando Trainer; District 3 Marvell Howard; District 4 Bricklee Miller; and District 5 Joe Williams. Also present were Mrs Sharon Livingston, Clerk, Mrs. Emily P. Garrard, Administrator/Comptroller, Deputies Todd Salmon and Shannon Williams, Bailiffs, and Jackson Brown, Board Attorney.

1. There came on for consideration a previously advertised notice of a public hearing regarding the possible sale, lease or retention of OCH Regional Medical Center. The Courtroom was overly full of interested citizens to hear the positions of Stroudwater and Associates, the OCH Regional Medical Center and public, followed by any rebuttal by Stroudwater.

Stroudwater’s Jeff Sommer gave a synopsis of his 50 page slide show on October 17, 2016, which may be found @ http://www.oktibbehacountyms.org/?q=node/694 followed by comments from Dr. Harry Holiday and OCH CEO Richard Hilton, disputing the Stroudwater findings, asserting the data as a misrepresentation of the true financial condition and reasoned that OCH administrators, like all hospitals throughout the country, would make the necessary adjustments to adapt to the ever-changing health care. Hilton further refuted Stroudwater’s assertion that the hospital had a $3-$4 Million gap between costs and income. Stroudwater’s Sommer countered with the statement that if the gap continued forever then OCH would be bankrupt. Hilton then refuted the Stroudwater data since it failed to use generally accepted accounting principals used by OCH’s auditor and understated income and overstated expenses.

Mrs. Allison Gueller, married to a local physician and liked to spend money, predicted that if OCH was sold or leased, new physicians would be brought in during the week and then fly away to home spending their earnings where they lived and not locally;

Ms. Dorothy Isaac believed there were problems at OCH;

Bob Rogers stated that the logic of selling OCH would be the same as selling schools, jails and the Board of Supervisors;

Dr. Shirley Hanshann has GA physician son and daughter-in-law who lived through a hospital sale and the results were not good;
Ms. Helen Sue Parrish gave thanks to all at OCH for the care she received;

Ms. Marjorie Henderson who also gave thanks to OCH;

Dr. Steven Brandon opined it would be detrimental to the community to sell/lease OCH;

Eddie Miles, director of OCH’s Wellness Center stated it would be detrimental to lose OCH and its dedicated employees;

Retired pharmacist Billy Green spoke in favor of OCH’s retention;

MSU finance professor Michael Highfield had previously seen Supervisor Montgomery at Lowes and following the encounter the professor reviewed OCH financials and opined that the General Obligation Bonds would not be paid off if OCH were sold - only the Revenue Bonds;

John (last name unintelligible) a retired MSU Archeologist believed the Stroudwater assessment was very incomplete;

Ms. Melissa Davis, public school teacher dealing with special needs children said OCH treats them for free;

Coroner Michael Hunt predicted that if OCH was sold/leased his job of pronouncing deaths would greatly increase;

Retired physician Steve Parvin stated that 60% of patients go to other hospitals because our population will not support those special services needs;

Emergency Room physician Michael Shaw spoke to emergencies attended to;

Businessman Steve Langston advised that OCH employed over 500 people and predicted that many of those individuals would lose their jobs if the hospital was sold/leased;

Lifelong resident Mrs. Sharon Edwards Coker spoke of her husband’s heard attack and $25 grand helicopter trip to Jackson. She promoted keeping OCH locally owned;

Retired MSU economics professor George Verrall asked the Board if a sale/lease would create any legal problems for the County from adjoining counties. Supervisor Montgomery advised him that it was a local issue;

Local home health care agent Wade Stuart related his involvement with hospitals in addition to OCH but supports OCH;

Retired MSU’s Michael Lightsey reported that an economic impact study by a private group reached a different conclusion than that of Stroudwater;

OCH’s head Information Technologist Chamath for 26 years was not questioned by Stroudwarder. Chamath reported to the Board and public that OCH’s I.T. was rated #1 or #2 in
the State and the OCH staff could immediately read medical reports from other hospitals.

Further, OCH IT department is rated in the top 29% in the USA;

    OCH Chief of Surgery Will Carter requested that nothing be done to upset the great relationship of employees at OCH and patients;
Ms. Francis Graham requested that OCH not be sold or leased which would turn the hospital into a band aid station;

David Visor, married to a Nurse Practitioner not employed by OCH, predicted that a sale or lease would have unintended consequences and wanted to know what additional data would be collected before a decision was made.

Supervisor Marvell Howard stated he was not happy with the findings in the Stroudwater report especially considering the $60 grand paid for the analysis. Moreover, the report did not have enough information to allow the Board to make an informed decision; nothing had been presented to cause the Board to hit the panic button. Supervisor Howard believed the analysis by Stroudwater would have been very similar to any State hospital’s evaluation. Sroudwater was commissioned to analyze the hospital and deliver the Board sufficient information to make an informed decision which has not happened.

Supervisor John Montgomery spoke of the medical difficulties of his recently deceased mother and the various hospitals he visited assisting her cancer ordeal. He viewed those other hospitals’ equipment and believed all of them inferior to that of OCH. Moreover, the patient satisfaction of OCH speaks volumes about the care provided by our hospital and staff.

Supervisor Joe Williams said the attending public was an unfair representation of the County residents as a whole and mainly consisted of physicians and nurses, which was openly denied by many of the public in attendance. Supervisor Williams further added that there were horror stories in the community regarding OCH’s care; adding that if the same expenses incurred at OCH continue that the income will be unable to satisfy the required outgo.

Supervisor Bricklee Miller pressed Stroudwater as to how its analysis so greatly conflicted with OCH’s audited financials which were the ones used by Stroudwater.

The public commented further:

Ms. Libba Andrews, an MSU employee, said the elephant in the room going unaddressed was the financial report that did not take an objective view of OCH. She thanked Supervisors Howard and Montgomery for their stance not to sell or lease the hospital, adding that Supervisor Trainer had not requested any information from OCH;

Resident Larry Mullins, a Financial Planner, colloquially used the phrase that there are “lies, damn lies and statistics” to cast doubt on Stroudwater’s statistical reports noting that the
report did not contain all the facts and was only a narrative to predicate a sale or lease and failed to provide how much money the County would receive on a sale or lease;

Dr. Williams wanted to know why investments were not included and wanted to know why Stroudwater did not inspect the OCH inventory, adding that the hospital bond issues were voted on by County residents;

OCH Pharmacist Ms. Stacy Weaver advised that she was able to speak with the OCH administration at all times for input;

Dr. Jack Walters advised he was recruited by the OCH administration for special services and if the hospital is sold new physicians would be brought in taking their earnings out of the County;

Longtime resident Frank Davis spoke of his children being born here and of his deceased wife Carol’s illness and death. A few years ago when the potential sale/lease of OCH was under consideration he circulated a petition requesting the issue be voted on by electors to decide if they were for or against the sale/lease but it was not needed since the Supervisors did not opt to sale or lease. Mr. Davis further advised he has a new petition in circulation requesting an election on the issue which contains close to the needed signatures;

Ms. Sue Snow taught in public schools and was called to the Principal’s office one day to view the leg of a special needs child that had a cut through the pants leg. She then drove the child to OCH who cared for the child at no cost and added that the free medical service to special need children would likely not be the case if the hospital was leased or sold;

Starkville Alderman Ben Carver advised that he was very much against the sale/lease of OCH and the supervisors should wait 2-3 years after the new President takes Office before considering such. Selling the hospital would be political suicide since 98% of the people he had spoken with were against a sale/lease. Carver said if any supervisor voted to sale or lease he would find people to run against them at the next election.

Stroudwater then gave its Rebuttal as most of the attendees were leaving but the first part could not be heard due to the din.

Afterwards, on motion by member Williams, seconded by member Montgomery, the Board unanimously recessed until December 19, 2016, at 5:30 p.m. taking no action on any possible sale, lease or retention of the OCH Regional Medical Center.

SO ORDERED the 6th day of December 2016.
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF OKTIBBEHA

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF OKTIBBEHA
COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, held a Recess Session in the Boardroom in the Oktibbeha County
Courthouse on Monday, December 19, 2016, at 5:30 p.m.

Supervisors present: District 1 John Montgomery; District 2 Orlando Trainer;
District 3 Marvell Howard; District 4 Bricklee Miller; District 5 Joe Williams. Also present were
Mrs. Sharon Livingston, Chancery Clerk, Mrs. Emily Garrard, Administrator; Mrs. Delois
Triplett, Comptroller; Sheriff Steve Gladney, Bailiff and Jackson Brown, Board Attorney.

The Board heard from citizens. Chris Taylor related that all Board members had been
threatened by other elected officials and should set an election for the public to vote on the issue
of selling or leasing the hospital. Aaron Gregory of Gregory Construction wants to clean county
property. Ms. Nina Peel told the Board she could not hear from the rear of the Board room and
microphones should be used. She left the Starkville Daily News article on the history of the
hospital.

Public Defenders Stephanie Mallette and Mark Williamson wanted more money for
representation of indigents. The Board took no action.

The Board also conducted public interviews with three (3) applicants for a new Veterans
Service Officers: William H. Cunningham, Ms. Patricia Hobson, and Willie Thomas, Sr. The
interviewees were not allowed to hear the responses of the other applicants prior to their
interviews. All were asked the same basic questions: computer literacy, consistency of times to
meet with veterans, the ability to put in the necessary time, and why the Board should trust each
to tend to our veteran’s needs.

1. There came on for the Boards further consideration Lynn Norris of Government
Consultants, Inc., who reported that following the Board’s rejection of the three (3) bids for the
sale of a Seven Million Dollar ($7,000,000.00) General Obligation Bond, including the low bid
by Regions Bank, due to its failure to comply with the Mississippi taxable bond statute as well as
the Board’s December 5, 2016, directive to negotiate with the low bidder Regions Bank to
correct the interest mistake and after hearing and considering the same, on motion by member
Williams, seconded by member Miller, the Board unanimously approved the sale of the modified
General Bond Obligation Bond accepting the bid by Regions Bank as shown in the attached
Resolution as the lowest and best bid.

2. There came on for the Board’s consideration Golden Triangle Development Link’s Joey Deason who presented a Resolution in connection with the Southern Cross Transmission Line Project and thereafter, on motion by member Montgomery, seconded by member Williams, the Board unanimously adopted the attached Resolution as previously adopted by partners, Lowndes and Clay counties.

3. There came on for the Board’s consideration a request to approve the Annexation Petition for District 5 Volunteer Fire department presented by Austin Check, and on motion by member Williams, seconded by member Howard, the Board unanimously acknowledged receipt of the attached Petition and authorized setting it for hearing and publication.

4. There came on for the Board’s consideration Road Manager Vic Collins’ report on the drainage issue at the old Felix Long Hospital together with County Engineer Clyde Pritchard and Carter Miller Associates’ engineer Gregg Miller on behalf of the Oktibbeha County Family Medical Clinic, and on motion by member Williams, seconded by member Montgomery, the Board unanimously authorized the Road Department to remove an Oak and Magnolia tree and begin grading to assist in correcting the problem.

5. There came on for the Board’s consideration a request by Kevin Gibson, the Starkville Oktibbeha County Consolidated School District’s Transportation Director requesting a school bus turnaround and maintenance at Charlie Brewer residence located at 493 Crawford Road, Crawford, MS 39743, and on motion by member Montgomery, seconded by member Miller, the Board unanimously approved the turnaround as shown in the attached request.

6. There came on for the Board’s consideration Mrs. Livingston’s report that Pitney Bowes submitted an invoice of items ordered without a purchase order, and on motion by member Howard, seconded by member Miller, the Board unanimously approved the payment of the $314.96 invoice.

7. There came on for the Board’s consideration Payroll Changes, and on motion by member Miller, seconded by member Montgomery, the Board unanimously approved the changes but amended employee 0965 from a prior request for approval and authorized the Board President to execute those changes.

8. There came on for the Board’s consideration pay request #3 for the County Lake levee by Cadamy Contracting, LLC, in the sum of $283,348.75, and on motion by member Howard,
seconded by member Montgomery, the Board unanimously approved payment.

9. There came on for the Board’s consideration a request to substitute State Holidays rather than using previously adopted County Holidays pursuant to Mississippi Code §3-3-7, and on motion by member Miller, seconded by member Montgomery, the Board unanimously approved the substitute holidays and amended the county holiday schedule as shown in the attachment hereto.

10. There came on for the Board’s consideration a request by the Election Commission for permission to destroy election records occupying much space, as well as old death notices and registration application, and on motion by Williams, seconded by member Montgomery, the Board unanimously authorized the destruction of those records as shown in the attached request by the Commission.

11. There came on for the Board’s consideration a request by Franklin Telephone Company, Inc.’s application for authority to bury a telecommunication line along and across Oktoc, Chapel Hill, Sullivan, Fultz, Windy Ridge and Vaughn Roads, and on motion by Miller, seconded by member Williams, the Board unanimously approved the attached right-of-way request.

12. There came on for the Board’s consideration a quotation by a sole source provider for Tasers, a conducted electrical weapon (CEW) or an electroshock weapon (stun gun) for the Sheriff’s Office, and on motion by member Williams, seconded by member Howard, the Board unanimously approved purchase of the weapons as shown in the attachment.

13. There came on for the Board’s consideration the prior interviews with three (3) applicants for the vacant Veterans Administration Officer position with the County and after discussion, and on motion by member Howard, seconded by member Montgomery, the Board by a 4-1 vote approved the appointment of Ms. Patricia Hobson to the position as authorized by §35-3-21 of The Mississippi Code of 1972. Members Howard, Miller, Montgomery and Williams voting yea. Member Trainer voting nay.

14. There came on for the Board’s consideration member Williams motion to address the hospital issue at the next Board meeting, seconded by member Miller, the Board by a 3-2 vote, approved the motion. Member Miller, Trainer and Williams voting yea and members Howard and Montgomery voting nay.

15. No further business coming from the Board, on motion by member Montgomery,
seconded by member Howard, the Board unanimously adjourned until the Tuesday, January 3, 2017, at 9:00 a.m., Monday being a holiday.

SO ORDERED the 19th day of December, 2016.