

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA  
SPECIAL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 6, 2016**

*NOTE: If any person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record for the proceedings and may need to insure that a verbatim record is made.*

PRESIDING: Karen Cossey, Chairwoman

RECORDING: Savannah Chastain, Finance Officer

ATTENDING: Commissioner Willie Croft; Commissioner Woody Kitler; Commissioner Jimmy Tallman; Dianne Hannon, Board Secretary; Kellie Connell, Clerk of Courts; Russ Wade, County Attorney

PRESS: None Present

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 PM by Chairwoman Cossey.

**2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Commissioner Tallman delivered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. INSURANCE DISCUSSION- Moved from September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30 am**

Ms. Debbie Thomas delivered newly received rates from AvMed. She described that the Trend increased by 4%. AvMed absorbed 2%; therefore, the County received a 2% increase. Mrs. Thomas explained the July 1, 2015 renewal did increase. She stated that when July 1, 2016 renewal was received, AvMed had increased again. Mrs. Thomas addressed the issue with AvMed and requested for them to lower rates.

Commissioner Kitler stated that the budget has already been prepared and questioned this increase being included in proposed budget. Clerk Connell stated that an increase was not presented in time to be considered for the proposed budget. Mrs. Thomas stated there is an increase of \$10.79 per employee, with an overall increase of \$10,229. Commissioner Kitler stated that in the minutes from May 16, 2016, it was agreed to have rates in May or June for an October effective date, in order to prepare the budget. He questioned why rates were currently being received in September after the budget has been prepared, not including said increase. Mrs. Thomas explained that AvMed did not increase their rates, this increase is coming from the Trend.

Chairwoman Cossey stated that this exact discussion has already occurred and all requests were clarified. Mrs. Thomas stated that there is apparent confusion of what was asked by the Board and she will refer back to the minutes. Clerk Connell stated that payroll for October 1, 2016 health insurance has already been processed. Mrs. Thomas questioned why

anyone has not addressed this issue before now. In response, Clerk Connell stated that she understood the rates approved in May were good through the year beginning October 1, 2016.

Commissioner Tallman stated that he is confused and does not understand why there is so much confusion. Chairwoman Cossey questioned the Board for action. Chairwoman Cossey suggested allowing each department pay the increase for each covered employee. The Board agreed that this increase should not be an additional burden to the employees; however, having each department pay the increase is not optional due to the budget already being prepared. Clerk Connell suggested referring back to AvMed and agreeing to not accept an increase until the last three months of the 2017 year. Commissioner Kitler insisted on clarity in the future. He instructed everyone to fully understand the recurring issues of insurance in order to avoid this confusion in the future. Commissioner Kitler also requested for the Board to move forward, and stated he does not want this conversation to repeat itself.

Clerk Connell proposed to continue with the current rates until June 30, 2017 and in March 2017, a request for an early renewal offer to be made, and rates will be received and reviewed for July 1 through September 30, 2017. This will be a 12 month contract. In May 2017, rates will be received and reviewed for October 1, 2017 as an off-anniversary. **Commissioner Andrews moved to continue with the current rates until June 30, 2017, and in March 2017 a request for an early renewal offer will be made and rates will be received and reviewed for July 1 through September 30, 2017. In May 2017, rates will be received and reviewed for October 1, 2017 which will allow insurance renewal to coincide with the Fiscal Year, as well as allow rates to be received in time for consideration in the budget. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

4. **ADJORNMENT**

Chairwoman Cossey adjourned the meeting at 5:12 PM.

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Cossey, Chairwoman

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kellie H. Connell, Clerk of Courts