

MINUTES OF MEETING
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (GAC)
Ouachita Events Bldg., Ponce de Leon Center, 1101 De Soto Blvd.
Friday, October 6, 2017, 8:00 AM

Highlights of the meeting are summarized below:

- Mr. Tony Houston, CEO of CHI St. Vincent, Hot Springs, spoke on the relationship between the hospital system and Hot Springs Village.
- Lu Otto and Richard Johnson gave an update with data on medical services available within Hot Springs Village.

Reminders and Calendar

- Next POA Board Meeting: 9:00 a.m., Wed., October 18, Ouachita Events Bldg., Ponce de Leon Ctr.
- Next GAC Meeting: 8:00 a.m., Friday, Nov. 3, Ouachita Events Bldg., Ponce de Leon Ctr.

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members Present

Pamela Avila, Michael Dollar, Jim Harlow, Richard Johnson, Greg Jones, Lu Otto, Curt Malone, David Whitlow and Jerry Yeric.

Committee Members Absent

Bob Hebert and Keith Keck

Ex-Officio Members Present

Bob Shoemaker

Ex-Officio Members Absent

Paul Day

POA Liaisons

John Weidert, Board Chair
Lesley Nalley, CEO

Other POABOD

Mike Medica

Justices of the Peace

Larry Griffin - Garland
Jim Zahnd - Garland

School District Liaisons

Dr. Ralph Carter, Jessieville

Press

Lewis Delavan, *Village Voice*

Others Present

Tom Arwood, Keith Brown, and Maxine Klein

Call to Order: Vice Chair Michael Dollar called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Introduction of New Members and Guests: Michael Dollar introduced new member Pamela Avila and Greg Jones who was formerly an Ex-Officio member.

Agenda: The agenda was approved as submitted.

Minutes: The minutes of the September 1, 2017 meeting were approved.

Michael Dollar introduced Tony Houston, Administrator, CHI St. Vincent-Hot Springs, who gave a presentation about the mission and services available to the residents of HSV at CHI St. Vincent-Hot Springs. Catholic care started in Hot Springs in 1888. Along with providing patient care, CHI strives to be a great place to work. As an extension of the church, CHI follows its core values: 1) safe care, 2) quality care, 3) integrity, and 4) reverence. It is the largest based catholic health organization in the United States with over 100 hospitals. CHI St. Vincent-Hot Springs has the largest Level 2 trauma center in southwest Arkansas. The only Level 1 is at UAMS in Little Rock. All doctors in the emergency department are board certified. Upgrades to urgent care in the Village can be expected. Houston emphasized that if there is a real emergency one should call 911 rather than take a patient to an urgent care clinic. No emergency department is planned for Hot Springs Village.

REPORTS

POA Governance Report - John Weidert

- An Ad Hoc Master Plan Steering Committee has been appointed.
- An Ad Hoc History Committee has been appointed with Bobbie Bateman as chair.
- Revisions were made to the Recreation Committee charter.
- Pickle ball project has been revised.
- The 2018 budget has been revised.

POA Operational Report – Lesley Nalley

- Master plan Steering Committee met. Dates for future meetings were set.
- Garland County Judge Davis held meeting on 911 services.
- Lesley Nalley accepted an appointment to The Fifty for the Future organization in Hot Springs.

Chair Announcements and Reports – Michael Dollar

MetroPlan – Keith Keck

- Work continues on the approval process for the I-30 Crossing Project. ARDOT has provided the necessary financial certification required before MetroPlan can approve the amendment to the TIP. Next step is for the three local governments (Little Rock, North Little Rock and Pulaski County) to document their individual approvals of this TIP amendment.
- Healthy Active Arkansas briefed their initiatives throughout the State of Arkansas. No interface as of yet with any Hot Springs Village entities was identified in their briefing.
- The call for 2019-2020 Transportation Alternatives was briefed, exact timeline is still be determined, potential for Hot Springs Village to identify alternatives still does exist.

- ARDOT Deputy Director briefed the overall highway funding shortfall expected over the next five years. ARDOT is looking for citizen input on how this shortfall should be addressed via their survey at <https://form.jotform.us/ahtd/citizens> survey.

Highways (Tri Lakes MPO) – David Whitlow

- The policy board of Tri-Lakes Metropolitan Planning Organization did not meet in September. The next scheduled meeting is on October 17th, 10:00 am, at the offices of the West Central Arkansas Planning and Development District in Hot Springs.
- The following was reported in *The Sentinel-Record*:
 - ARDOT informed Garland County in September that the environmental reassessment for the estimated \$60 million King Expressway extension is approximately 45% complete. James Montgomery, president of B&F Engineering stated that the study is expected to be completed next summer. Once the study is complete, Montgomery added, right-of-way acquisition could begin shortly thereafter. ARDOT has indicated that the project could begin construction in early 2019.
 - The City of Hot Springs had hoped to fund a portion of the Exchange Street Parking Plaza project with a share of the city's bond proceeds. However Garland County Judge Rick Davis reported that this use is not consistent with ballot language voters approved in the special election.
 - Construction continues on the Highway 70 project and is ahead of schedule. Frequent delays and lane closures are ongoing.

Benton Chamber of Commerce – Paul Day

- Met with Lanny Fite, Saline County State Representative for the Village, who has recently been selected as Asst. Pro Tem to the Speaker of the House This new assignment assists the Speaker in conducting the affairs of the State House of Representatives. In addition, Lanny serves on the Legislative Council which conducts the business of the State when the Legislature is not in session.
- Lanny said that two important issues (highway funding and internet sales tax) were suggested to be handled in a Special Session, but the Governor decided not to call the Special Session. He said there are some legal issues to be resolved regarding the internet sales tax and that highway funding would likely become a ballot issue in the next regular legislative session.
- In the September 19 Benton Chamber of Commerce Gov't Affairs meeting, Lt. Curtis Wood said that there were no homicides in Benton so far in 2017, unlike Little Rock. Most crime statistics in Benton are going down with the exception of burglary and auto theft. Saline County Villagers should note that on Saturday October 14 between 8 and 11 am is Hazardous Waste Day in Benton. They can take their electronics, appliances, tires, paint, etc. to the Saline County Recycle Center at the Saline Fairgrounds by the River Center.

Hot Springs—Jerry Yeric

- An ordinance to change the state time for business meetings convened on the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 7 p.m. to 6 p.m. failed to receive a majority support from the seven member board of directors.
- CHI St. Vincent Hot Springs announced a \$1.6 million strategic partnership with National Park College and Henderson State University to train additional nurses and bolster the nursing programs at both institutions.

- Hot Springs Board of Directors authorized \$35,000 in funding for the Garland County Health Unit; an item that city and county officials say bodes well for budget negotiations between the two governments. The city initially proposed \$15,000 for the reimbursement it provides the county for health unit operations and maintenance expenses, or one-third of the \$45,000 provided in previous budget cycles, and ending the contribution in 2019.
- Construction has begun on the \$4.5 million Creativity and Innovation Complex, the first new academic building built by the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Science, and the Arts since it was opened in 1993. The building is expected to open in 2019 and the former St. Joseph's Hospital complex is planned to be removed within 30 months after the CIC is completed.
- A resolution levying 2.6 mills for the city's communication upgrade is on the agenda. City Manager David Frasher said all three proposals fell between \$6 million and 6.5 million.

Garland County—Jerry Yeric

- Arkansas 'congressional delegation announced that Hot Springs Memorial Field will receive a \$790,000 grant to pay for an expansion of its apron area.
- National Park College's board of trustees approved a \$15 million plan to complete phase one of the campus expansion with the intent to finalize its details within the coming months. The first phase will include a new student common building on the west end of campus, a new roadway from Mountain Pine Road, relocation of parking from the central grounds to the western edge of the campus, improvement in the college and high school technical programs and interior renovations to Gerald Fisher Campus Center.

Demographics – Lu Otto

Otto presented a table comparing population distributions by sex and age of the United States, Arkansas, Benton, Hot Springs, and Hot Springs Village. He pointed that the median age of HSV was 68.8. Those 65 or older comprised 62.2% of the total village population of 13,477. Otto concluded that Hot Springs Village draws stable financial residents to the area due to higher education and income levels.

Healthcare and Medical Services – Richard Johnson

- Johnson and Lu Otto are completing the Medical Services Directory for Hot Springs Village. It will be presented at a future meeting. Johnson and Otto's initial findings show that CHI St. Vincent has the largest presence in Hot Springs Village. They have tried to visit with all providers in HSV but are finding it difficult. A number of providers have not responded to their inquiries.
- They have found that seniors age 65+ used 40% more services than those under age 65. In Hot Springs Village are 7 primary care physicians, 1.5 cardiologists (3 are needed), 1 pulmonologist (where 3 could be supported), and .5 oncologists (with 3 needed.)

Broadband – Greg Jones

Jones reported that he had met with officials of Suddenlink HSV about coverage and communication with the Village. He stated that he was optimistic about future actions from Suddenlink.

JP Report Garland – Larry Griffin

Griffin discussed the 911 meeting between the City of Hot Springs and Garland County. He was optimistic about a resolution of current issues.

Jessieville School District – Dr. Ralph Carter

Dr. Carter reported that there is movement on development of their career path program.

Proposed Amendment to GAC Charter

A proposed change in the GAC charter was presented by Jerry Yeric. Recommended was the removal of Article VII, Section D, requiring a quarterly meeting the POA Board of Directors. Motion to accept Yeric's recommendation was made by Gregg Jones and seconded by Lu Otto. Motion passed unanimously.