

**Lee County Board Of County Commissioners
Agenda Item Summary**

Blue Sheet No. 20031272

1. REQUESTED MOTION:

ACTION REQUESTED: Discuss resolution requesting U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs consider Southwest Florida Regional Medical Center Facility – when vacated – for a VA hospital.

WHY ACTION IS NECESSARY: Board approves resolutions.

WHAT ACTION ACCOMPLISHES: Makes federal government aware of this area's desire and need for enhanced veterans health care services.

**2. DEPARTMENTAL CATEGORY:
COMMISSION DISTRICT #**

A1A

3. MEETING DATE:

11-04-2003

4. AGENDA:

- CONSENT
- ADMINISTRATIVE
- APPEALS
- PUBLIC
- WALK ON
- TIME REQUIRED:

**5. REQUIREMENT/PURPOSE:
(Specify)**

- STATUTE
- ORDINANCE
- ADMIN.
- CODE
- OTHER

6. REQUESTOR OF INFORMATION:

- A. COMMISSIONER
- B. DEPARTMENT County Administration
- C. DIVISION

BY: Holly A. Schwartz
Asst. County Manager

7. BACKGROUND:

Southwest Regional Medical Center has announced its intent, pending approvals, to consolidate operations with Gulf Coast Hospital in a new facility. If and when the current SRMC facility is vacated, the county's Veterans Services Office has expressed interest that the federal government consider using the facility as a VA hospital.

8. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

9. RECOMMENDED APPROVAL:

| A Department Director | B Purchasing or Contracts | C Human Resources | D Other | E County Attorney | F Budget Services | | | | G County Manager |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-----|------|-----|---------------------|
| | | | | | OA | OM | Risk | GC | |
| PW | M/A | W/A | | R. Gray | W/A | W/A | W/A | W/A | H/A 10/23/03 |

10. COMMISSION ACTION:

- APPROVED
- DENIED
- DEFERRED
- OTHER

LEE COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA URGING THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO CONSIDER A VACANT HOSPITAL IN FORT MYERS, FLORIDA FOR A NEW VA HOSPITAL.

WHEREAS, The Board of Lee County Commissioners wishes to apprise the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and Congress of an opportunity to locate Florida's next Veteran Affairs Hospital in Fort Myers; and

WHEREAS, The closest VA Medical Center to Fort Myers is in St. Petersburg, more than two hours away. Lee County has a VA Clinic that was expanded four years ago but already has outgrown its capacity; and

WHEREAS, Lee County (Fort Myers-Cape Coral MSA) with 500,000 population is one of the fastest growing areas in the country. Southwest Florida (the five-county area) has a population of one million and a projected veterans population of more than 100,000; and

WHEREAS, Recently, a health care provider announced the merging of two of its local hospitals, leaving Southwest Regional Medical Center – a 400-bed, full-service facility – vacant within the next three to five years; and

WHEREAS, With Southwest Florida's growing retiree and veterans population this is a wonderful opportunity to serve the future VA needs of this area;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE LEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, do hereby request the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs incorporate this opportunity into its future planning of the cost/benefit/demand for a VA hospital in Southwest Florida.

Commissioner _____ offered the foregoing Resolution and moved its adoption, which was seconded by Commissioner _____ and, upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Bob Janes _____
Douglas R. St. Cerny _____
Ray Judah _____
Andrew Coy _____
John E. Albion _____

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, this _____ day of _____, 2003.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: _____
Chairman

ATTEST:
CHARLIE GREEN, CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

BY: _____
Deputy Clerk

BY: _____
Office of the County Attorney

_____:_____.M.
(Time)