



FINANCIAL FOCUS

Special needs trust could ease families' stress



By Cory Taylor

help maintain the financial security and lifestyle of an individual with special needs.

Furthermore, a special needs trust can allow the trust's beneficiary to receive financial support for supplemental needs without losing public benefits, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid.

Here's how it works: You, as the trust's grantor, establish the trust and name a trustee who is responsible for managing the trust. You can fund the trust with gifts throughout your lifetime or from other sources, such as inheritances or court settlements.

But another popular funding mechanism is life insurance, which the trust can purchase on the life of

one or both parents of a special-needs child. And as long as the trust is also named the beneficiary of the policy, government benefits will be protected.

In a special needs trust, the role of trustee is important. A trustee must manage the funds within the trust and ensure those funds are used only to supplement SSI and Medicaid, the government programs that typically pay for food, housing and medicine.

Instead, a special needs trust can be used for most other expenses, including transportation and travel, education, entertainment, professional services and personal items.

You could serve as trustee yourself or choose a relative or a trusted friend. Ideally, you want someone

who's familiar with your wishes and the needs of your family member with disabilities and who is also competent at managing finances and staying current on SSI and Medicaid regulations.

As an alternative, you could hire a professional trust company to manage your special needs trust. This type of company has expertise in asset management and government regulations and can provide you with strict recordkeeping of all the financial transactions associated with your trust. If you go this route, you'll want to compare different trust companies' costs and services.

For such a personal matter as administering a trust for your special-needs family member, you'll want to be sure

you're comfortable with whatever company you select.

Also, you'll want to be familiar with some of the possible areas of concern regarding special needs trusts. For one thing, because the trustee totally controls when and how funds are distributed, beneficiaries can get frustrated if their requests for money are denied.

Additionally, while third-party special needs trusts are funded by someone other than the beneficiary, first-party special needs trusts are funded by the beneficiary's own assets — and for these first-party special needs trusts, the trust must typically pay back Medicaid for money it has spent on the beneficiary's behalf after the death of

the beneficiary.

This repayment could deplete the trust, depriving secondary beneficiaries of any assets they might otherwise receive. Third-party special needs trusts do not require Medicaid repayment.

Consult with a legal professional before establishing a special needs trust to ensure this arrangement is appropriate for your family's situation. But if it is, and if it's managed properly, it can relieve you of some of the stress you may feel over the future of your loved one with special needs.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by local Edward Jones Financial Advisor Cory Taylor, who can be reached by calling (850) 223-0999.

'I can't put a \$200,000 burden on our businesses'

STAFFNEY
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not receive a credit on their bill.

"This has been going on for several years," stated Public Works Supervisor Danielle Ondash.

Brynes asked Hardee if he saw and agreed with Waste Pro's summary of the two bids.

"I agree and disagree. The city asked for list of businesses, and it was hard for us to come along and bid because we literally rode around and got them. No one could go off of the list they sent. There were no names or anything," Hardee added.

"We went into it blind and can't give a fair price without an analysis of the true businesses. If we had that information we could come in and adjust our price so it is best of both worlds, instead of shooting in the dark," Hardee added.

Lancaster admitted the customer list was not detailed enough and should not have been sent in that format.

"We don't disagree the service has not been what it should. We think we should take it out of Tallahassee's hands and put it in Fanning Springs hands, because we are local folks just 60 miles down the road. We can get this straight. We just renewed contracts with Trenton, Chiefland and Cedar Key in the last year with a 14-0 vote between

the three of them.

"We do agree there was, and is, some issues that need to be fixed. It has already been signed off on by our CEO. We have not transferred yet, but if given the green light by the council Perry would move to Fanning Springs under our direction," Lancaster said.

"I am the mayor of Fanning Springs and she (Dayne Miller) is vice-mayor of Alachua. We know what you are going through. We don't like getting those phone calls either. That is why you hire a contractor," Lancaster added.

Miller agreed "there has been major service issues out of our Tallahassee office. If you grant us the ability to service you, you can give us a 12-month contact with a 60 day out so we can prove how the service should be," Miller added.

"You don't deserve the service you have been getting, but Trip and I can't fix the past," she said.

"We can fix it going forward. We sit behind the desk, so we know how it is and the frustration. It is a \$200,000 difference over the life of the contract," Lancaster said.

Hart suggested the proposed change in management happen immediately, "so we can start seeing improvement now."

"If it is city staff that



City council members (from left): Ward Ketring, Venita Woodfaulk, Mayor Shirlye Hampton, Diane Landry and Bill Brynes discuss bids for solid waste hauling and disposal services for city commercial businesses.

makes the decision, we are wasting our time," Landry said.

"I am not getting any good answers. In order to compare, someone has to have the information. Waste Pro refused to provide the information. So, now here we are. You have all the info needed to submit an accurate bid, but your competition does not. You have put us in a heck of a position. You tell us what we need to do?" Brynes told Lancaster.

"Why can't you just say a 2-yard container is blank and a 4-yarder is blank?" Brynes asked.

"That is how Waste Pro submitted theirs. Pop's was not able to compare because he did not know what all was out there," Hart explained.

"I don't understand why

the city would not have just bid it out that way. Maybe it was just too simple," Brynes added.

"That is why we have apples and oranges, because Pop's did not have everything they needed," Ketring commented.

"Because Waste Pro did not provide it," Brynes said.

"Now that we have the list, our suggestion is to bid it out and add a few little things we did not have to start with," Hart said.

"That is the only choice we have. This bid has gone off the rails, through the ditch and in the woods and keeps getting worse," Ketring commented.

"I agree," Landry said.

"I want both of them to agree to the format and on the basis of the pricing," Staffney said.

"No, they don't do that -- we do," Brynes responded.

"Obviously we weren't clear enough," Staffney said.

Hardee suggested the city award the bid based on the level of service provided.

"If I was on the board or in the crowd, it bothers me that Tallahassee is not here to answer those questions.

My phone blows up off the hook due to their service and people wanting us to come in. The county is trying to get the same list from them and can't get it," Hardee said.

"If you re-bid it out, how many more months, how many more phone calls about bad service?" Hardee asked.

"We were unable to compare apples to apples because we were not given the information. One bid was by the cubic yard and the other bid was by rent of the container and frequency of pick-up. Once we got their actual sheet, we were less than \$800 per month different — and that included one of the addresses on their list being in Steinhatchee," Hardee said.

Reading from the bid specifications, Hardee pointed out the bid could be awarded based on service, cost and qualifications, adding he would work with bigger customers to reduce the difference that they would pay.

Hardee said he could work with larger accounts, such as the hospital or school, to reduce their

costs under his bid proposal by customizing the size and number of containers and frequency of pick-up.

"The problem here is the \$200,000," Brynes said.

"It is actually way different than that. Once we look at those numbers, we are probably only \$800 more a month than they are," Hardee argued.

"That is why we have to re-bid," Hart said.

"I can't put a \$200,000 burden on our businesses. We are not going to negotiate anything," Brynes said.

City Attorney Hope Demps spoke up to agree with Hart and recommended re-advertising.

Brynes made a motion to re-advertise for proposals with a deadline in 30 days.

"Why are we even involved?" Landry asked.

"I will tell you why. They (staff) awarded this to Pop's. If they awarded it with an over \$200,000 difference, you don't think they (Waste Pro) won't sue you?" Brynes responded.

The council voted 5-0 in favor of the motion to re-advertise for bids.

County will consider resolution reducing speed limit on July 10

KEATON BEACH
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the speed limit should be considered a separate issue, adding that it would require a resolution. The commission's policy is to hold public hearings when considering resolutions to change speed limits.

Moody made a motion to approve the ordinance amending the Keaton Beach golf cart zone. Newman

seconded, and the measure passed 4-1 with Feagle voting against.

The board then instructed Bishop to draft a resolution to reduce the speed limit along that section of Beach Road to 25 mph. County Administrator LaWanda Pemberton said the public hearing could be held at the board's next regular meeting on July 10.

The new northern boundary at J.L. Gibson

Road is the same as the one approved by the commission in March 2017. However, after receiving numerous complaints regarding the reduced speed limit, in November 2018, the commission approved an amendment that set the boundary at 700 feet north of the Corner Store (in the area of the ice house), where it remained until the most recent change.

Rising prices have resulted in fewer SHIP housing projects

HOUSING REHAB
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and the rehab will be 2023-24 funds, which we will receive in July."

According to Cox, the county's bid committee reviewed the bids, and all of the documents were found to be in order.

Commissioner Pam Feagle questioned whether the county would have to pay for the amounts over the LHAP limits, and Cox said 100% of the projects would be funded through SHIP.

"It is what it is now," Cox said. "Housing is so much higher. I look at our SHIP money. We get \$350,000 annually. We used to do seven or eight projects. Now, we will have ended up doing three projects with the 2022-23 money, because we already gave out down-payment assistance to one individual."

"I'm clear now," Feagle said.

Commissioner Michael Newman asked Cox about how the projects are ranked, noting that there were three demo/reconstruction projects approved in 2022, but due to the available funding, the county only went out for bids on the top two projects.

"We have a ranking system," Cox said. "If you are disabled or if you're elderly over a certain age, you get additional points. So, that moves up an individual considerably. That's a requirement of the SHIP program, as well as the [Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)]. You'll be getting that grant in the near future."

Feagle then made a motion to approve all three bids, as well as to exceed the LHAP limits. Commissioner Thomas Demps seconded, and the measure passed unanimously.

LEGALS

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COUNTY, FLORIDA" to the Clerk of Court, 1st Floor Courthouse, 108 North Jefferson Street, Perry, Florida 32347 to arrive no later than 4:00pm, local time, on July 7, 2023. All bids MUST have name and mailing address clearly shown on the outside of the envelope or package when submitted. Bids will be opened and respondents announced at 6:05pm local time, or as soon thereafter as practical, on July 10, 2023 at the Taylor County Administrative Complex, 201 East Green Street, Perry, Florida 32347.

The County reserves the right, in its sole absolute discretion, to reject any or all bids, to cancel or withdraw this bid at any time or waive any irregularities in the bid process. The County reserves the right to award any contract(s) to the bidder/respondent which it deems to offer the best overall service, therefore, the County is not bound to award

any contract(s) based on the quoted price. The County, in its sole and absolute discretion, also reserves the right to waive minor defects in the process and to accept the bid deemed to be in the County's best interest. The County, in its sole and absolute discretion, also reserves the right to assign a local business preference in the amount of five percent (5%) of the bid price. NO FAXED BIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Taylor County is an AA/EOE employer and requires all contractors and subcontractors to comply with Executive Order 11246.

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PUBLIC NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, the following application for permit was received on June 16, 2023:

Cross Country International,

LLC, 1350 Silver Moon Circle, Tallahassee, FL 32312 has submitted an application to renew a Water Use Permit; application number 2-123-215742-3 for agricultural use. The project is located in Township 4 South, Range 8 East, Sections 29, & 30 in Taylor County.

Interested persons may comment upon the application or submit a written request for a staff report containing proposed agency action regarding the application by writing to the Suwannee River Water Management District, Attn: Resource Management, 9225 C.R. 49, Live Oak, Florida 32060. Such comments or requests must be received by 5:00 PM within 14 days from the date of publication.

No further public notice will be provided regarding this application. A copy of the staff report must be requested in order to remain advised of further proceedings. Substantially affected persons are entitled to request an administrative hearing, pursuant to Title 28, Florida

Administrative Code, regarding the proposed agency action by submitting a written request after reviewing the staff report.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Notice is hereby given from UP IN FLAMES, LLC, owner, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of THE CONE ZONE, intends to register said name in Taylor County with the Florida Department of State, Division of Corporations, pursuant to the fictitious name statute (Chapter 20953 or Section 865.09). Upon receipt of proof of publication of this notice, I expect to engage in business at our address: 2085 N. SAM POPPELL RD., Perry, Fla., 32347. The extent of ownership is: UP IN FLAMES, LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company, (100%).