

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
SWEENY HOSPITAL DISTRICT**

April 26, 2022

Time 1800

Members Present: Mason Nichols, President; Scott Swift, Vice President
Patti Foster, Secretary; Violet Weeks, Lisa Leal,
Charlie Genella, Leeda Wood

Others Present: Enrique Leal, III, M.D.
Tom Ronayne
Ron Schmidt

Employees Present: Kelly Park, Cindy Burge, Stuart Butler, Dana Quintanilla, Travis Alford,
Stephanie Crowder, Doug Smith, Jessica Rees, Tommie Reddoch, Jimmy
Mashaw, Kari Schroeter

1. **Call to Order** Mr. Nichols called the meeting to order at 1800.

2. The invocation was given by Ms. Weeks.

3. **Record Members Present and Establish A Quorum**
There being 7 members present, a quorum was established.

4. **Public Comments**

A. Ms. Weeks said at the Forum she had asked the question about one of the candidates posting no hospital (on Facebook) and that candidate stated that they had never posted that. Ms. Weeks commented she found a copy of it and proceed to read it. "I think an emergency room/urgent care facility only supported by the people who use the facility as a patient would be a better option than building a new hospital that has to be supported by the tax payers. I may be wrong on this (have not researched or ask a legal expert)."

She commented of course we all know if you have a free standing ER you can not accept ambulances nor can you transfer out. She also said they will not accept Medicare. Right now, during Covid they made a little exception for Medicaid. She then proceeded to read the rest of the posting.

"I think a hospital board would have to order an election for the dissolving of the hospital district and disposing of the district assets and obligations if the board received a petition requesting an election that is signed by residents in the district equal to a least 15 percent of the registered voters in the district."

This same person also posted "I am tired of paying taxes to support a hospital. Dissolve the hospital district. Taxes (the amount of money each tax payor pays) will increase because our property values will increase."

Ms. Weeks inquired have we increased the taxes or have we stayed at no new revenue tax. Mr. Nichols said the last time taxes were increased for Sweeny Hospital District was in 2013 and was a 13 percent increase. Since 2014 there has not been a tax increase at our hospital. One of the candidates running voted in favor of that increase in 2013. Mr. Nichols asked who posted that. Ms. Weeks said Nanette Richers Lowrie.

5. **Review/Approve Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes:**

A. March 29, 2022 General Meeting

Mr. Swift made a motion to approve the minutes from March 29, 2022. Ms. Weeks said she has a correction. On Agatha Sanchez's public comment, she never had a problem with the Lab Supervisor. It should read "She had a bad experience with the CEO near the Lab Supervisor's door but got that resolved." Mr. Nichols said we have a proposed change to the minutes. Mr. Swift motioned to approve the amended minutes as stated. Ms. Weeks seconded the motion. Unanimous decision, motion carried.

8. **New Business**

B. Monroe Vos

Retirement & Investment Plan Update

Mr. Martinez said he hopes we will not be depressed once he gets through talking. During covid period you see a huge amount of money expensed, supply disruptions caused inflation to creep up. Inflation has exasperated by associated war in Ukraine and causing supply disruptions there. All the funds out there for covid was like kindling for a fire. Now China is going back into lockdown and will exasperate that problem as we move forward. Interest rates continue to increase. As we approach retirement some of the baby boomers should take risk off the table but he still encourages the younger folks to continue to take risk because they will not touch that money for 20 to 25 years. Since interest rates are so low there will not be much return.

Mr. Swift inquired about the time line on the reversal or any improvement or settle in for a long hall situation. Mr. Martinez said the market place will raise the rates in 2023. They may be more aggressive on how the inflation continues to turn out. Retirees can buy bonds and collect interest and be fine in that respect.

He proceeded to give the quarterly summary regarding the retirement accounts (401(a) and 457(b) plans) and the investment funds.

6. **Finance Committee Report**

Doug Smith gave overview of the following:

- March 2022 financials
- Baker's Hospital review
- Interim Cost Report
- Early Out Agency

After discussion, Mr. Genella motioned to approve the March 2022 financials. Ms. Weeks seconded the motion. Unanimous decision, motion carried.

7. **Old Business**

A. Replacement hospital update:

(1) Consider and take action, if needed regarding new hospital

Ms. Park said the target date to receive the GMP from Tellepsen was the 17th or 18th.

We are still waiting and they are working diligently to complete it.

8. **New Business**

A. Frost Bank

(1) Consider and take action, if needed regarding loan for new hospital
No business for this item since we are still waiting on the GMP to forward to the bank.
The bank is in a hold pattern until they receive that information.

C. Miscellaneous Capital Requests

(1) Consider and take action, if needed to approve capital requests presented

None

9. **Board Committee Reports:**

A. Sweeny Community Hospital Foundation Board Update:

Kari Schroeter gave update for the Foundation board regarding the golf tournament and a grant applied for. Minutes from last meeting was included in the board packet.

B. Board Strategic Planning Committee Update

Leeda Wood said the committee completed the spread sheet. The county supplied the numbers that she needed. She added an additional column to include any improvements. She has the amount for each year of what is expected to be brought in. Everything up to 2020 was pulled from the subsequent year. That should be as close as we can get for any sort of adjustments that they may have made based on the original estimated amount except for 2021 and that is what we anticipate collecting. We all got our tax statements and will be screaming including herself. Property values have gone up. She said she still needs to verify who was voting each year and update the sheet. She said she had herself in 2020 and she wasn't here. Mr. Nichols said the data comes from several different areas. Ms. Wood said she did have to question about what is the homestead percentage that comes off the taxes for the hospital district. It is nice to have all the information in one document. Mr. Genella thanked the committee for taking the time to compile all the information about the abatements presented and everything. Mr. Nichols said it is perfect and enables us to know what is going on historical here.

Property values have gone up in the district and tax statements will increase unless you go to the tax appraiser's office and put in a protest about the increase in value on personal property. Mr. Nichols said if you don't win your protest with the county, your taxes will obviously go up and you will pay more taxes.

8. **New Business**

D. Annual Review/Approval Administrative Manual Policies and Procedures

Mr. Nichols said through the year updated policies and procedures have been included in the board packets for review. This item is for the annual approval of the manual for those updates.

After discussion Ms. Wood made a motion to approve the Administrative Manual Policies and Procedures. Mr. Swift seconded the motion. Unanimous decision, motion carried.

E. Annual Review/Approval Safety Manual Policies and Procedures

Mr. Nichols asked if this is the same process for the Safety Manual. Response was yes. Ms. Wood made a motion to approve the Safety Manual Policies and Procedures as presented. Mr. Genella seconded the motion. Unanimous decision, motion carried.

10. **Administrative Information Report – Kelly Park**

A. CEO Report

Updates were given on the following:

- Covid numbers at all time low
- Biweekly covid swabs for employees that signed declinations.
- Mask mandates made by CMS and CDC
- Covid pandemic timeline increased through the end of May to end of June.
- Swingbed patients have increased, we have a good referral program
- Changing pharmacy groups to Hunter Pharmacy June 1st except the 340 program which will remain with Luker Pharmacy Management.
- Brief update given regarding the Tennessee nurse.
- Productivity meetings are going well
- High, Middle, Low conversations, middle year review

Inquiry was made about Texas Healthcare Trustees Conference July 28-30. Pricing and availability will be checked for in person verses virtual attendance.

Briefly discussed was the board being certified. Ms. Weeks and Ms. Foster have completed their certification. Ms. Weeks said it would save on the hospital's insurance if the full board becomes certified. Mr. Nichols said let's do our due diligence and get certified.

B. Human Resources Report: Dana Quintanilla

Updates given on the following:

- 196 Employees, (part time, full time and PRN), 5 new hires, 2 resigned. Turn over rate for March was zero. There are a lot of job openings at this time.
- TORCH Conference was good, and learned a lot.

C. Emergency Medical Services Report: Stuart Butler

- Nothing extravagant in changes, numbers are really swinging a lot.
- ESD 6 – The ESD 6 President went on to be the Mayor of Brazoria so Bryan Jones stepped up to fill that position.
- ESD 6 - May re-negotiate the contract to adjust the time frame instead of being 2 years behind. They continue to be happy with our service in that area.
- The crews are seeing a lot more overdoses since the border has opened.

Ms. Weeks inquired again about tracking life flights from the hospital. Mr. Butler said they are manually tracking it now. He needs to include it in his report to the board.

11. **CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Mr. Nichols announced the Board would go into closed, Executive Session at 1953 to review the following:

A. Discuss personnel matters

End of Executive Session

Went out of Executive Session at 2031

12. **Action regarding Executive Session:**
None

13. **Adjournment**

Mr. Swift moved for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Genella. Meeting adjourned at 2032.



Mason Nichols, President
Recorder: Cindy Burge