

A regular meeting of the North Wheeler County Hospital District Board was held at the hospital at 6 p.m. on August 19, 2024.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pam Hibler, Chairman
Marla Ford, Vice-Chairman
Janie VanZandt, Secretary
Ken Daughtry, Member
Meghan Reid, Member

OTHERS PRESENT: Cecil Gaither, CEO; Jace Henderson, CFO; Mandy Meadows, CNO; Skye Lane, EMS Dept Head; Barbara Fowler, Purchasing; Tandy Drake, EMS; Amanda Robertson, EMS; Bryan Yates, EMS; Kevin Louder, EMS.

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND PRAYER:** Pam Hibler, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with a prayer offered by Jace Henderson.
2. **PURCHASING:** Barbara Fowler, Dept. Head, has worked at Parkview for 30 years. She purchases all supplies for the hospital and helps maintain some of the equipment. Medline is one of the main distributors that she orders from because of pricing. She also keeps a close watch on supply expiration dates.
3. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
 - a. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** July 15, 2024
 - b. **Payment of bills**
 - c. **Investments**
 - d. **QAPI**
 - e. **Date of next meeting: October 21 , 2024**

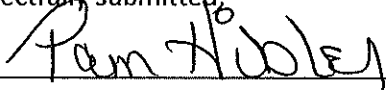
Ken Daughtry made a motion to accept the items on the Consent Agenda. Marla Ford seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.
4. **EMS REPORT:** Skye Lane reported that North Wheeler County EMS was presented the Employee of the Year Award from the Wheeler Chamber of Commerce. Medic 1 has been repaired. EMS continues to train in-house and online. Skye completed her Rural Health Management Academy certification (3-month program on leadership, problem solving, team building, goal setting). EMS organized a LZ class with LifeStar for all fire departments in the county. It was held on the Wheeler High School football field. A full-time employee recently resigned, but the position was filled with an EMT on a PRN basis. EMS participated in the July 4th parade and staged at Britt field for 12 hours during the community celebration. They responded to thirty calls in July.
5. **CNO REPORT:** Mandy Meadows reported that nursing remains adequately staffed with 1 RN and 1 LVN or 2 RNs and at least 2 aides per shift. She is in the process of filling a full-time or part-time RN position on the night shift. A CAN will be leaving to work at the Rural Health Clinic. Mandy attended the Regional Chief Nurse Officers and Rural Healthcare Leaders meeting with the Coalition of Health Services in Amarillo. The Workplace Violence Prevention Plan has been sent to the Policy and Procedure Committee and has been approved. Training will take place in the first two weeks in September and will go into effect September 1, 2024.

6. **FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND STATISTICS:** Jace and the board reviewed the balance sheet and the operating/income statement with the board. Questions were asked by the board.
 - a. **Palo Duro G&P Suit Update** – The court date has been set for October 21, 2024, here in Wheeler.
 - b. **UBS:** Jace Henderson checked with a brokerage firm and determined there is no need to invest monies elsewhere. The percentage is about the same as what we are getting.
 - c. **Audit Status:** Forvis-Mazars is the audit company (used to be BKD). Our hospital has been under constant audit since 2001. They stated that we are a “clean ship”. Krista will be here in October to present the audit report. Concerning the Cost Report, they have started gathering information. Liza Smythe, their old consultant who retired, has come back to do cost reports.
 - d. **Tax rate:** The 2024 no new revenue rate will be \$0.49/\$100 of valuation, including the hospital bond. The proposed tax rate will be \$0.497304/\$100. Ken Daughtry made a motion to approve the no new revenue tax rate. Janie VanZandt seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.
7. **APPROVE BAD DEBT** - No report.
8. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. **Dr. Paul Elangwe payments** - Dr. Elangwe has repaid the \$50,000 sign-on bonus that he was paid when he failed to fulfill his job requirements.
 - b. **Update on Physician recruitment** - Dr. Evans presented a temporary permanent license for Texas that is good until full licensure at the end of the month. Dr. Edrissi is working in the ER.
 - c. **Vestra (rev cycle):** Vestra is a billing company used by the Pampa hospital, with John Gill, CEO, stating that it was great. Ken Daughtry made a motion for Jace and Cecil to investigate the company and make the decision as to whether to change to Vestra. Marla Ford seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.
 - d. **Open Meetings Act:** Pam, Marla, and Janie need to complete the training online.
 - e. **Consent for Background Checks:** All board members completed the forms.
9. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - a. **Texas Opioid Abatement resolution:** Pam Hibler signed the form to get it.
 - b. **Ambulance Financial Information:** Cecil included in the board packet financial information on the cost of operating the ambulance department for the past five years. Copies of this information have been given to the county judge and commissioners.
 - c. **Rural Hospital Article:** Cecil included an article on the risk of rural hospitals closing. There are currently 160 open rural hospitals in Texas with 67% losing services, 50% at risk of closing, and 19% at immediate risk. Pam asked for copies to give to the county judge and county commissioners.
 - d. **EMS Barn:** Jackie Don May had presented the idea of the county giving the county barn that houses the ambulance department to the North Wheeler County Hospital District. Board members stated to him that we would have to investigate the costs for the hospital. Jace is investigating the financial effects on the Cost Report which is a vital aspect of hospital finances and hospital survival since it is regulated by the government.

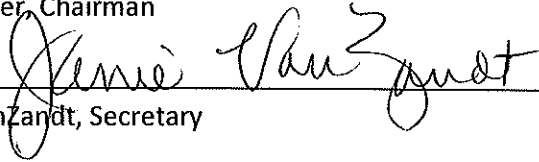
10. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m. The next regular board meeting will be on Monday, September 16, 2024, at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Pam Hibler, Chairman



Janie VanZandt, Secretary