

A regular meeting of the North Wheeler County Hospital District Board was held at the hospital at 6 p.m. on December 18, 2023.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pam Hibler, Chairman
Marla Ford, Vice-Chairman
Janie VanZandt, Secretary
Ken Daughtery, Member
Zane Zybach, Member

OTHERS PRESENT: Cecil Gaither, CEO; Mandy Meadows, DON; Skye Lane, EMS

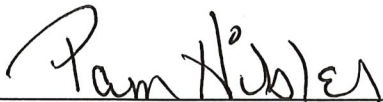
1. **CALL TO ORDER AND PRAYER:** Pam Hibler, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. with a prayer offered by Zane Zybach.
2. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
 - a. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** November 20, 2023
 - b. **Payment of bills**
 - c. **Investments**
 - d. **QAPI**
 - e. **Date of next meeting: January 15, 2024**

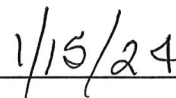
Ken Daughtery made a motion to accept the items on the Consent Agenda. Marla Ford seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.
3. **EMS REPORT:** Skye Lane reported that all three ambulances are fully stocked, and the station has a supply of blue DEF to fill the ambulances. Paramedics Tandy Drake and Skye Lane attended the Texas EMS state convention. Tandy will teach what she learned in the Bob Page 12 lead class at Parkview Hospital after the first of the year. Skye attended a highly informative AOR class on PCR's, no treatment/no transports, and the legal side of how narratives should be written. Both also attended airway classes, vent classes, a trauma class, a very in-depth class on CHF, and a class titled "Rural EMS doesn't have to be Rural, does it?". Both walked away realizing how much more progressive NWCEMS is than most small services. NWCEMS has more aggressive protocols, more advanced skills, and great hospital support. They continue to train in-house and online. They helped escort the Canadian Wildcat football team through town on the way to the state quarter finals as well as the Ft. Elliott Lady Cougars volleyball team after winning Bi-District. They participated in Toys 4 Tots and several angel trees around the community.
4. **CNO REPORT:**
 - a. **Nurse Staffing:** Mandy Meadows stated that nurse staffing remains covered with 2 RNs, or 1 RN and 1 LVN, and at least 2 nurse aides on each shift. Administrative RNs are filling in on shifts as needed. One nurse aide graduated from LVN school and will now transition into a licensed nursing role. Another new LVN has also been hired. A full time RN position will be advertised in 2024.
5. **FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND STATISTICS:** Cecil 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** – No update. Waiting to hear from the lawyer.

- b. **PR Amendment** – Pam Hibler signed the payroll amendment to cover the October 16th raises for nursing.
 - c. **Insurance Bank Account** - Boone Chapman wants a separate bank account to pay claims and get Quisenberry off the account. Cecil mentioned looking into HealthSure, which is backed by NRHA and TORCH, and he will check to see what Childress does.
 - d. **Employee Insurance** - There will be an increase. Stop/loss is up 8%.
6. **APPROVE BAD DEBT** - No report.
7. **OLD BUSINESS**
- a. **Dr. Paul Elangwe payments** - Cecil spoke to Robert Spurk, our lawyer in Austin. Notification has been sent to Dr. Elangwe. Spurk is composing a demand letter. Elangwe sent a check for \$10,000, and said he intends to have it paid by January 1, 2024. The lawyer will be the next step.
8. **NEW BUSINESS:**
- a. **Update on Dr. Evans** - Dr. Evans has been extremely ill and will be out for a while. He does have a provisional Texas license and is waiting on Form L, which must be completed by the Chief Medical Officer.
 - b. **Update on physician recruitment** - Dr. Juson had requested increases in income, but that was denied. Another doctor has expressed interest in coming to Wheeler.
 - c. **Education:** <https://www.tht.org/events-education/webinars-virtual-learning/webinars/> - This is the website where board members can go to see training webinars.
 - d. **Home Health Update** - Home health currently has 3 RN's, 2 LVN's, 2 aides, and the office manager on staff. They only have twenty-two patients. After January 1st, all staff will be cut back to 30 hours/week. Lab expenses are high because rates are going up 8.5% from Fischer Labs. Payton Lefew will go to sonogram school in California. Cecil has completed the CEO training through NRHA. He is continuing classes for his MBA on January 16.
9. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m. The next regular board meeting will be on Monday, January 15, 2024, at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,





Pam Hibler, Chairman





Janie VanZandt, Secretary