

Cochran County Hospital District
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2024

Cochran Memorial Hospital Lobby
201 E Grant Ave
Morton, Texas 79346

ATTENDANCE

Board of Directors

Richard Houston
John Schmidt
Ray O'Brien

Absent

Betty Lyon
William (Bill) Albus

Hospital Administration

Kody Kitchens

Minutes Taker

Mary McKnight

Guests

Maggie Ramon
Amanda Turney
Grant Turner

1. Opening

- a. Quorum present
 - i. Richard Houston will preside over meeting in the absence of Betty Lyon
 - ii. Meeting called to order 5:03 p.m.
- b. Invocation led by John Schmidt
- c. Public Comments/Open Forum
 - i. No public comments.
- d. Review and Consider Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
 - i. Motion made to approve the March 20, 2024 regular session meeting minutes as presented. Motion seconded. Two (2) votes in favor of approving minutes, zero (0) votes against. Motion passed

2. Matters for Discussion and/or Action

- a. Purchase of Epoch Blood Analysis System
 - i. Kody presented need to purchase a backup blood analysis system in the event the main blood analysis system goes down for several days again. The Epoch Blood Analysis System can be used to run electrolytes, cardiac enzymes, blood counts, etc. It is easy enough it could be used by the nursing staff if needed. The biggest issue is we will not be able to bill for it. The machine is \$8,700. Will need to purchase cartridges to use in the machine. Discussion was held.
 - ii. Motion made to purchase the Epoch Blood Analysis System. Motion seconded. Two (2) votes in favor, zero (0) votes against. Motion passed to purchase the Epoch Blood Analysis System.

3. Reports

- a. Financials
 - i. Seeing increase in patient numbers in Clinic. Payments are going through; billing is doing better. Still have some issues, but has shown improvement.
 - ii. Received \$2.3 million in taxes this year.
 - iii. Will present CD data at the May 2024 meeting.
 - iv. Have 600 days cash on hand.

- v. Vending machine sales are down.
 - vi. Seventeen-eighteen days behind on daily deposits. Some of that is due to system issues while the other is user error. Joann Gonzalez will be going to part time; Tiffany Martinez will be training in that position.
 - vii. Line items discussed.
 - viii. Inquiry made as to who sets the fee for the Appraisal District. Answer unknown for sure, more than likely it was set by the Appraisal District Board of Directors. Payments to the Appraisal District are made quarterly.
- b. Administrator's Report
- i. Kody spoke with Micah, pharmacist in charge of the outpatient pharmacy. Micah stated the pharmacy is losing money and may not be able to stay open at our hospital. Kody is working on the application for the 340B Pharmacy Program to help supplement the costs and keep the pharmacy open at our location. This program would lower costs for our patients and help the outpatient pharmacy gain added income and the hospital will stand to make an additional \$100,000-\$120,000 a year based off the number of prescriptions our providers are currently writing. The deadline is April 15, 2024, we did get an extension until April 21, 2024 and we should know by the next Board Meeting if our hospital will be added to the program this quarter. If we don't get it this quarter, we will re-apply in June.
 - ii. Received our insurance renewal for the hospital property on April 8, 2024. The invoice was \$50,143.00, last year it was \$34,063.00, a \$16,080.00 increase. Kody contacted Sanford & Tatum and spoke with our account manager. Was told that the 35% increase in property values is the reason for the increase in premium. Due to inflation, the cost of building materials and cost of labor has increased leading to significant increases in building replacement values. Each board member has been provided with a letter from our account manager explaining the increase as well as a copy of the invoice.
 - iii. The Capital Improvement Program Grant is almost completed, deadline is April 23, 2023. Currently waiting on a few more quotes from vendors that need to be included with the grant submission. Found a company who will replace the Emergency Room floor with the same flooring that Covenant Hospital uses in their operating rooms. The brown and green hospital hallways will be filled and levelled with a hard epoxy that will be buffed and shined before being sealed with a transparent coating. This coating will allow proper cleaning and infection control. Have quotes from a woodworker to rebuild the nurse's station on the floor and the workstations in the emergency room. Also have quotes for a new oxygen shuffle valve in the oxygen control room and a quote to switch our fire system to cellular. Also plan on purchasing new chairs for the lobby and the in the lab and clinic areas. The full grant is \$100,000.

- iv. Texas A&M School has a program that allows some of their masters and doctorate level students to help with our chargemaster. Kody visited with them in March during his training in Austin where it was found our prices have not been updated in over ten years. We are hoping to have their help starting sometime in May 2024. These services are free of charge to us.
- v. Kody, Grant and Maggie will be attending a conference at the end of April to learn more about new CMS reporting requirements and third-party vendor interfaces we would need should we decide to opt-in on the reporting.
- vi. Kody received a call from Garret Peters, he works for KB Andrews. Who works for Wildcat Ranch Energy, there will be a tax abatement agreement. He would like to speak to the board at the next meeting.
- vii. A board education program will be available by Webex on May 10, 2024 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. if anyone is interested in attending.
- viii. Will be holding at retirement party in honor Betty Nichols for her 54 years of service to the hospital. The party will be Thursday, May 9, 2024 from 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. in the hospital lobby.

4. Personnel

- a. No new business

5. Adjournment

- a. Motion made to adjourn. Motion seconded. Two (2) votes in favor; zero (0) oppose. Motion carried.
 - i. Meeting adjourned 6:24 p.m.

Cochran Memorial Hospital CEO

Date

Cochran Memorial Hospital President, Board of Directors

Date