Cochran County Hospital District
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2024

Cochran Memorial Hospital
201 E Grant Ave
Morton, Texas 79346

ATTENDANCE

Board of Directors
Betty Lyon
Richard Houston
John Schmidt
Ray O'Brien
William (Bill) Albus

Hospital Administration
Kody Kitchens

Minutes Taker
Mary McKnight

Guests
Maggie Ramon
Grant Turner

Public
Shannon Prieto, City of Morton; Alfred Herlocher, CCEMS; Daniel Molinar, Tommy Smith, Cochran County Treasurer; Pat Henry, Cochran County Judge; Jorge De La Cruz, Cochran County Sheriff; Chris Brown, Cochran County Commissioner; Matt Patterson, President Frontier Ambulance Service; Veronica Olguin, City of Morton; Sandra Elmore, City of Morton; Luke Patterson, Chief, Morton Volunteer Fire Department; Tim Roberts, Cochran County Commissioner; Peggy O'Neal; Kannen Richardson, Assistant Chief, Morton Volunteer Fire Department.

1. **Opening**
    a. Quorum present
        i. Meeting called to order 5:01 p.m.
    b. Invocation led by John Schmidt.
    c. Public Comments
        i. Betty Lyon welcomed all guests to meeting and opened the floor to public comments, limited to three (3) minutes per person.
            1. No public comments.
    d. Review and Consider Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
        i. Motion made to approve the July 17, 2024 regular session meeting minutes as read. Motion seconded. Four (4) votes in favor of approving minutes; zero (0) votes against. Motion passed; minutes approved as read.
2. **Matters for Discussion and/or Action**
    a. Proposed management of Frontier Ambulance Service (Cochran County EMS)
        i. Kody Kitchens reported on August 12, 2024, The City of Morton City Council met to discuss their problems, including financial problems. He stated he received a certified letter from the City of Morton stating the city dropped EMS service from the Frontier Ambulance Board. They have given their ninety (90) days' notice of termination. The city will continue to operate EMS services until November 11, 2024. After that time, Frontier Ambulance Corporation will need to find someone else to manage it. Kody stated EMS was a much-needed service in our county and he believes Cochran Memorial Hospital is capable of managing EMS services. Kody

volunteered his services to run EMS under the contingency that we are able to get help from the city, the county, the schools.

ii. Kody discussed the benefits and needs of Cochran Memorial Hospital managing EMS service including the need for higher level staff for the ambulance service.

iii. John Schmidt asked that it be made part of the minutes that he, as a member of both the Cochran Memorial Hospital Board of Directors and the Frontier Ambulance Service Board, would be abstaining from any discussions or voting regarding issues concerning Frontier Ambulance Service and/or Cochran County EMS.

iv. Discussions were held among members of the board and guests including costs, billing, management, and staffing. Suggestion was made by Shannon Prieto to have a public meeting consisting of all interested entities to determine contributions from each to help alleviate costs on Cochran Memorial Hospital.

v. Motion was made to table topic.

b. 2025 Hospital Tax Rate

i. Discussion held regarding 2025 tax rate.

ii. Motion made to set 2025 tax rate at 0.5655%. Motion seconded. Four (4) votes in favor, zero (0) votes against. Motion passed. The 2025 tax rate will be set at 0.5655%

c. Motion made to reopen proposed management of Frontier Ambulance Service. Motion seconded.

d. Proposed management of Frontier Ambulance Service, reopened

i. Motion made for Cochran Memorial Hospital to take ownership of Cochran County EMS with the contingent of continued support from other local entities including the cities of Morton and Whiteface, Cochran County, and the school districts. Motion seconded.

ii. Four (4) votes in favor, zero (0) against. Motion passed. Cochran Memorial Hospital will take ownership of Cochran County EMS with the contingent of continued support from other local entities including the cities of Morton and Whiteface, Cochran County, and the school districts.

e. Proposed 2025 Budget

i. Board of Directors directed Kody to refigure the proposed 2025 budget to include the new tax rate and EMS service.

ii. Special meeting will be called before end of August to review the 2025 budget. Meeting date to be determined.

iii. Item tabled until special meeting is called.

3. Reports

a. Financials

i. CDs

1. \$1.25 million was taken out of the operating account and placed in to CDs. We were offered 4.25% on an 8-month term.

2. CD matured August 5th, it was renewed at 4%, but interest rates are coming down. Do not anticipate future rates at 4%

ii. Fraudulent Checks

1. Haven't anymore fraudulent checks but we have had some automatic drafts come out, one for \$3100. Positive Pay caught it and were able to decline it.

iii. Uncompensated Care Funds
1. In the past charity and indigent care patients have not been reported correctly, which is why we are having to pay back $705,000, however, within the next thirty days we will be receiving a payment of $1,771,524, making our uncompensated care $1,065,572.

iv. Line items discussed
1. Inquiry made about Lubbock Sound
   a. Fire system, paid quarterly.
2. Inquiry made regarding Visual Edge IT
   a. Computer service, will have to check with Maggie.
3. Inquiry made regarding payment to US Treasury
   a. Uncertain, believe it was a penalty for not getting taxes filed on time, will have to check with Maggie.

b. Administrator's Report
   i. Aaron Milligan with Durbin & Co., was unable to attend this meeting, he is scheduled for September meeting.
   ii. Board members signed Delinquent Tax Roll.
   iii. Company installing batteries for wind farm will be out next month to make a presentation to the board. Will need to sign a tax abatement agreement, but will bring in more tax revenue to the hospital.
   iv. Lights in the kitchen have all been fixed, Scotty Simpson rewired the existing lights.
   v. New paint and floors in clinic.
   vi. Governor Abbott has issued an executive order to all hospitals in Texas to track and report undocumented patients and their medical care. This will be inpatient and ER patients only and is uncompensated reporting. This option is already available in our system, so will not be an additional cost.

4. Personnel
   a. No new business

5. Open Forum
   i. No new business

6. Adjournment
   a. Motion made to adjourn. Motion seconded. Four (4) votes in favor; zero (0) oppose. Motion carried.
      i. Meeting adjourned 7:07 p.m.

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Cochran Memorial Hospital CEO | Date

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Cochran Memorial Hospital President, Board of Directors | Date