

**Hamilton County Hospital District
Board Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2024**

Presiding: Neil Muxworthy

Board members in attendance: Doug Forrest, Robert Witzsche, Karen Craig, Neil Muxworthy arrived at 11:55am

Others Present: Grady Hooper, Chief Executive Officer; Melissa DeLaGarza, Chief Operating Officer; Debbie Martin, Chief Nursing Officer; Tammy Schreiber, Chief Financial Officer; Tracey Karasek, Chief Administrative Officer; Bobbie Nichols, QIPP Director; Stacie Brooks, Administrative Assistant; Maria Weaver, Hamilton-Hearld News; Dr. Harper Stewart, Hamilton ISD Superintendent; Ryan Polster; Rodney Craddick; Tim Thompson, EMS District Chief,

Date and time: Friday, March 1, 2024, 12:00p.m., Hamilton General Hospital Board Room, 400 N Brown St, Hamilton, Texas 76531

Citizen comments (limit of 3 minutes per person): Dr. Harper Stewart, Hamilton ISD Superintendent-wanted to thank the board for the trailer and new scoreboard. Hamilton General Hospital has the logo on the trailer and scoreboard.

Ryan Polster discussed AWOS-a system that keeps up with weather. Notifies pilots about the weather when flying in and out. AWOS is being replaced. Asking the hospital to donate. Asking for local match up to 20,000. AWOS is at the end of life due to being old and electrical issues. TX Dot has approved grant for 180,000. Helicopters use the system for weather awareness to transfer patients out of hospital. The existing AWOS was acquired through the Trauma RAC. Debbie Martin suggested that Ryan Polster needed to work with Patrick Cobb, Chief of Emergency Services to determine appropriate follow-up is done with the existing system according to any RAC requirements.

Consider and act on minutes of Special Called Meeting, December 15, 2023: Witzsche moved, Forrest seconded approval for minutes of December 15, 2023 special called meeting. Motion carried.

Consider and act on minutes of January 18, 2024 regular called meeting: Witzsche moved, Forrest seconded approval on minutes of January 18, 2024 regular called meeting. Motion carried.

Consider and act on Order of Cancellation of Hamilton County Hospital District Board of Directors election May 4, 2024, as candidates are unopposed: Witzsche moved, Craig seconded Order of Cancellation for Hamilton County Hospital District Board of Directors election May 4, 2024, as candidates are unopposed. Motion carried.

Consider and act on approval to support purchase of Automated Weather Observing System at the Hamilton Municipal Airport up to \$20,000.00: Craig moved, Forrest seconded approval to support purchase of Automated Weather Observing System at the Hamilton Municipal Airport up to \$20,000.00. Motion carried. Witzsche voted against the funding of AWOS and voiced his opinion about affiliation with airport related topics.

Consider and act on bid for Goldthwaite Physical Therapy/Wellness Center: DeLaGarza referred to page 7 of the packet. This is for the old Family Dollar building in Goldthwaite currently owned by Hamilton County Hospital District. Due to cost, the plans and scope for previously discussed renovations in this building has changed. The current proposed project would renovate the building to provide space for Mills County Physical Therapy and a community fitness center with 24-hour access. This would require framing, sheetrock, updated electrical and lighting, flooring, and the addition of new restrooms with plumbing. Three bids were received for the project from David Parmer, Buster Taylor, and Carson Padgett. David Parmer supplied the low bid of \$335,769 with a 90-day expected timeframe. Buster Taylor was the next competitive bid at \$419,716 with a 6-month timeframe. The third bid exceeded the expected amount for the project. The project goal is to expand physical therapy services and provide a community fitness area. Witzsche moved, Forrest seconded approval on bid from David Parmer with Parmer Construction for Goldthwaite Physical Therapy/Wellness Center. Motion carried.

Consider and act on Focused Care line of credit: Schreiber discussed being partnered with Focused care, and that Focused Care is requesting an extended line of credit based on the AR. We currently have 2 other homes under Focused Care. Tammy said Trent, our attorney, has reviewed the request for legality. Witzsche moved, Forrest seconded approval on Focused Care line of credit. Motion carried.

Consider and act on Financials Reports for December 2023: Schreiber reported October had a net loss of \$5K and November had a loss of \$123K and the YTD loss through November is \$129K. In November we had a two-week Cerner on site testing and planned PTO for the holidays. Billed revenue was \$10.1M and \$10.5M for October and November respectively. The collection percentage for October and November was 32%. Salary expenses included a PTO buyout. Purchased Services declined due to the 3rd party billing for EMS run out. Accounting and Legal increases were due to QIPP Legal fees. Forrest moved, Craig seconded approval on Financial Report for December 2023. Motion carried.

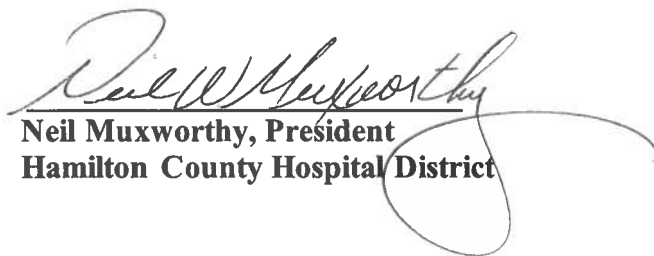
Other financial items: Schreiber reported on other financial items and stated the Cost report has been submitted and \$1.1M will be paid back to us. We have been approved for a SECO lighting grant for \$173K. This grant will allow us to replace lighting with updated LEDs.

QIPP Report: DeLaGarza gave the report on QIPP. Discussed quarterly joint training with monthly offerings for QIPP homes. March 1 we now have all new facilities brought on under Hamilton County Hospital District. QIPP 8 enrollment will begin on March 15th. Due to the program changes and the requirements for establishing relationships between hospitals and nursing facilities, we anticipate less movement and home transfers in the future. Included

Reports show star ratings. Site visits, QAPI attendance, and inspections are being performed by the QIPP staff. Several site visits were made to the McAllen home that had significant damage and was closed. The facility has been renovated and reopened. Changes expected in September 2024 include metric requirements for Component 1 that make the return of IGT contingent on nursing facility performance. This does increase the hospital district liability in the program and is something being closely monitored by staff for any concern that a facility is not performing adequately to meet the required metrics that would ensure the return of IGT. Currently we have 62 homes. Witzsche moved, Craig seconded approval on the QIPP Report. Motion carried.

Administrator Report: Hooper talked about electric bills and resigning contract that increased. Electric prices continue to increase. Discussed lowering energy cost options. The contract up for renewal in 2029. The Behavior Clinic closed, and 1 counselor moved to Family Practice Rural Health Clinic. Others are moving to private practice. Wound Care is moving to Solutions building. The Business office is moving to the Wound Care building. Moving employees around for more suitable workstations. Discussed operational loss. Tammy Schreiber can drill down and give departmental financials. We will use the data to expand or cutback within departments. Project updates are doors are almost complete. All doors will require access. Waiting on equipment for Hico fitness. The water project is almost completed. We paid the city for water and sewer hookup. Pad on specialty building completed. New signs are up at the Hamilton locations. Discussed new lab design that will make the lab more workable. Grady discussed the house between the specialty clinic and the 2-story house, and he would like to secure that piece of property for additional parking. We are looking to tidy the streets around the hospital perimeter.

Adjourn: Forest moved, Witzsche seconded at 1:36pm that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.



**Neil Muxworthy, President
Hamilton County Hospital District**