

COMMISSIONERS' COURT SPECIAL MEETING

November 9, 2020

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Commissioners' Court of Comanche County, Texas met in a Special Meeting on the 9th day of November, 2020 with the following members present: Gary "Corky" Underwood, Commissioner Precinct #1 Presiding, Judge Stephanie Davis, Russell Gillette, Commissioner Precinct #2; Sherman Sides, Commissioner Precinct #3 and Jimmy Dale Johnson, Commissioner Precinct#4 present by phone.

Commissioner Underwood opened the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Commission Underwood gave the invocation.

Permission to film the presentation by Comanche County Consolidated Hospital District was not requested.

Commissioner Underwood opened the Public Hearing seeking comments on a Rural Waiver of Medicaid Beds in Comanche County.

Dr. Larry Troxell, Chief Executive Officer, Comanche County Consolidated Hospital District, addressed the Court stating Comanche County Consolidated Hospital District is seeking approval for 100 Medicaid beds for a new nursing home in Comanche County. The concept of a new nursing home facility to be owned by CCCHD is not a new concept but had been discussed more than fifteen years ago. However, the District did not have the financial strength to proceed with the concept. The District does have the financial strength to pursue the project at this time.

Dr. Troxell stated the new facility would provide services and amenities not offered by other nursing homes in the county. The new nursing home's ventilation system will have the capability to convert isolation wings to negative pressure to mitigate COVID-19 or any other infectious virus. Amenities to be offered include an isolation wing, chemo, dialysis, wound care treatment, dementia wing, a fitness and wellness center, on site lab services, access to emergency services, increase infectious disease treatment, private rooms with bath, family rooms, inside and outside spaces for patients and families.

The proposed facility could create an additional one hundred new jobs within the county. The new facility would serve to bring nursing home patients back to Comanche County who have gone to surrounding counties for facilities that provide services not offered in Comanche County. Additionally, it would serve to keep Comanche County residents in the county for their nursing home needs. The new facility would be locally owned and operated thus keeping Comanche County dollars in Comanche County. Dr. Troxell added that the District is a non-profit organization and no tax dollars will be spent on the construction of a new facility or the operation of the facility. The only tax dollars spent by the District are for indigent care.

Dr. Troxell stated the District will continue to provide patient referrals to the two existing nursing homes in the county. And confirmed the District will remain committed to DeLeon Nursing and Rehabilitation and Western Hills nursing home facilities.

Nikki Stark, proposed administrator for the new nursing home facility, also stressed the goal of the new facility is to keep Comanche County residents in Comanche County for their nursing home services. It will also serve to bring patients from other counties to Comanche County for services in a first-class facility.

Jr. Pacheco, CCCHD presented a demographic study of the service area. The study reflected a 9.3% increase in population of age 65-85 over the next five years. The median household income for the service area reflected as follows; Sidney the only area above the state median income with \$55,978, Gustine with \$48,154, Comanche with \$44,801 and DeLeon with \$39,933. The state median income is set at \$52,951. Pacheco stated these are statistics that indicate the need for additional Medicaid beds in the county. Comanche County Medical Center has a five star rating for patient satisfaction. The only other hospital in the area with a five star rating is Hamilton General Hospital. Both are superior to Brownwood Regional Medical Center, Eastland Memorial Hospital, Hendrick Medical Center and Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Stephenville. Pacheco hopes to transfer the five star rating to the proposed nursing home facility.

Joey Armstrong reported financials for Comanche Consolidated Hospital District. Assets have increased and debts have decreased. Various other comparisons of nursing homes in surrounding counties for income from Medicaid beds, Medicare and self pay patients were presented.

Brian Thomas, Administrator of Western Hills Nursing Home, made the following comments. Western Hills Nursing Home is connected to a hospital in Glen Rose, Texas and is a for profit nursing home. Thomas stated he believed one of the nursing homes in the county would be forced to close if a third nursing home was established. Thomas stated Western Hills Nursing Home has a good staff, they have rooms they could designate as private rooms and they are working making renovations to the facility.

Commissioner Johnson asks if a person only has social security will they have access to the proposed new CCCHD facility. Dr. Troxell responded yes, we will not be a for profit facility.

Jon Awbrey asked for confirmation that the tax payer would not pay for the construction and operation of the proposed facility. Dr Troxell stated tax payer funds will not be used for construction or operation of the facility. The District will be operated with cash flow of the District.

Commissioner Underwood asked if the other nursing homes will have to close. Dr. Troxell stated the nursing homes will not have to close. The Comanche County Consolidated District will continue to work with and support the other nursing homes.

Dr. Troxell stated the District and doctors at Comanche County Medical Center are working for the betterment of the Comanche County.

Written comments were received in support of the proposed new nursing home from Dana Marable, Superintendent of the DeLeon Independent School District, William Hiram Smith, Jr., Bayer Auto Group, John M. Weaver, Dr. Cecelia Boswell, ED.D., Gayle Pirkle, Dr. Dwayne C. Miller, M.D. and Tony Prather.

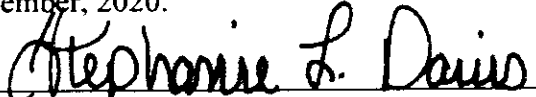
A written comment was received from Creative Solutions In Healthcare Manager of the DeLeon Nursing & Rehabilitation stated their opposition to the addition of Medicaid beds in Comanche County and consider it an unnecessary and detrimental addition. Comanche County has 265 licensed beds of which 163 are licensed for Medicaid. The Medicaid occupancy rate is 57.1%. According to Creative Solutions In Healthcare their statistics

conclude the current number of Medicaid beds (163) is more than enough to accommodate the population growth of those age 65 years or older thru 2020.

Commissioner Sides made the motion to approve a Resolution approving the proposal from the Comanche County Consolidated Hospital District and authorizing Comanche County to recommend and submit, pursuant to the Texas Administrative Code, Title 40, Part 1, Section 19.2322, a rural County Waiver request on behalf of the District to Texas Health and Human Services Commission for one hundred (100) additional Medicaid beds for a nursing facility to be constructed in Comanche County, Texas. Commissioner Underwood seconds the motion. Commissioners Underwood, Gillette, Sides and Johnson voted to approve the motion. Judge Stephanie Davis abstained from voting. Motion passed.

There being no further business to come before the Court, Court was adjourned this the 9th day of November, 2020 with a motion by Commissioner Sides and a second by Commissioner Gillette.

The foregoing minutes approved by the Comanche County Commissioners' Court on the 23rd day of November, 2020.


Stephanie L. Davis, County Judge

Attest

