

LLANO COUNTY HOSPITAL AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
JULY 21, 2020

The following members attended the meeting:

President: Bob Wallace
Vice President: Pat McDowell
Secretary: Charles Miller
Treasurer: David Willmann
Bob Shafer
Jay Ward
David Hoerster, MD

1. President Bob Wallace called the meeting to order at 3:13PM.
2. A quorum was established with all members in attendance.
3. Upon a motion by Charles Miller and a second from David Willmann, the agenda was unanimously adopted.
4. The Minutes of the June 16, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously upon a motion by Pat McDowell and a second by David Hoerster.
5. Recognition of Visitors for Public Comment: There were no visitors signed in for comments. It was noted that Mr. Kelly Oestreich had submitted a letter to the board regarding EMS services, to our Gmail account [copy attached].
6. Reports: - None.
7. Old Business
 - A. Update on EMS/ambulance interviews and facilities.
Bob Wallace reported that the committee of himself, Pat McDowell and Bob Shafer interviewed four potential providers, including BSW Health and toured their facilities. Bob Shafer commented that the committee exercised due diligence in its evaluation. Over the coming weeks, the committee will formulate its recommendations to the board. It is expected that the LCHA will seek proposals by September for review and selection by the Commissioners Court.
8. New Business
 - A. Status of Critical Access Hospital certification.
Pat McDowell reported that Medicare currently reimburses in two ways:
 1. Based upon the medical treatment code, a pre-determined amount is provided for hospital treatments and ambulance services. This is the method available to the Llano County Hospital, which does not cover the actual costs.
 2. Based upon a Critical Access Hospital certificate, which his committee is in the process of applying for (previously unavailable and difficult to obtain), reimbursement is provided at 1% above actual cost. This would greatly improve the financial viability for an operator of the hospital and the ambulance service.

B. "Notice of Non-Renewal of Llano Hospital Lease", by BSW Health.
See attached report by Bob Wallace.

9. At 1:29PM, Bob Wallace announced that an Executive Session of the board would commence as authorized by the Texas Government Code SEC. 551.001 et seq[Texas Open Meetings Act]

10. At 1:59PM the regular public meeting was resumed. There were no actions to take regarding discussions in the Executive Session.

11. A date of August 18, 2020 at 3:00PM was agreed upon for the next regular meeting of the board.

12. Possible Agenda items for the next meeting include:

13. A motion to adjourn was unanimously approved on a motion by Charles Miller, seconded by Bob Shafer at 2:02PM.



Bob Wallace, President



Charles Miller, Secretary

President Bob Wallace's Report
July 21, 2020

July 14th, Mr. Timothy Ols, President of BSW Hill Country, formally notified Llano County of their decision not to continue operations of the Hospital and Emergency room past the expiration of the first term of lease. That lease was originally executed effective January 1, 2010, and had an option for renewal, if BSW notified before June 30, 2020.

That Lease required no financial support from Llano County.

BSW has been working closely with this Board all this year in efforts to bring up options for continuation. At the same time, this Board has been exploring other Hospitals for their interest in replacing BSW. No doubt that the national Covid-19 crisis has severely stressed all hospitals interest and ability to expand.

Without substantial increase of funding from the County, our hospital will have to close this Dec. 31, 2020. It is as hope that in the future, we may be able to re-open or even rebuild a Hospital serving the needs of Llano

The BSW clinic is unaffected, and is under separate lease between the Doctors and BSW. That lease however expires same time as hospital.

The BSW rehab is also not affected by lease of hospital nor Clinic.

The EMS service contract also expires Dec 31 with the hospital.

Four EMS firms have been interviewed in May and June, and have expressed interest in submitting formal proposals to the County. BSW is included.

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Bob Wallace

To: Llano County Hospital Authority Board Members
Bob Wallace, President
Pat McDowell, Vice President
Charles Miller, Secretary
David Willmann, Treasurer
Dr. David Hoerster
Bob Shafer
Jay Ward

From: Kelly Oestreich

Dear Board Members,

After listening to yesterday's board meeting and the discussion of emergency medical services I would like to provide some more information for the board to consider. I may have said some of the following before so forgive me if I repeat some information.

Many things will need to be considered before making a recommendation to the County Commissioners for E.M.S. I heard four providers had been had been contacted and met with by board members during the meeting yesterday. Did these providers provide any information as to what they thought about the number of ambulances that were needed for Llano County, staffing levels required, level of service provided (A.L.S. or M.I.C.U.) and what minimum response times should be? These along with other considerations will need to be addressed so another open ended contract is not put in place such as the current one is to provide E.M.S.

Now I would like to offer my opinion about a few of the providers that were named. The private for-profit provider Global Medical Response should not even be considered. I simply say this because they are a large national corporation and I do not believe they would have the best interest of our county in mind.

Our current provider, Baylor Scott and White E.M.S. falls into the same category as Global Medical Response. I say this because I do not believe Baylor Scott and White has any interest in this county other than closing the hospital they promised to keep open and improve. Baylor Scott and White E.M.S. will not even provide an ambulance to cover home football games anymore. I have personally visited with several people in the athletic department of the school district about this and it is very concerning to them.

I quickly did some research on Hamilton E.M.S. yesterday. They seem to have a good model and I believe they will soon take over providing service in San Saba County according to their social media page. Being based in a rural area they should understand the geographic and demographic challenges of providing E.M.S. in an area such as ours.

As far as Marble Falls Area E.M.S. I have been familiar with and worked closely with them for about 25 years. They have a developed a good model for a non-profit provider and also serve rural areas.

Has there been any consideration or discussion about the county operating it's own E.M.S. or a local non-profit being established to operate E.M.S. It would something to consider.

As I have said several times I would be more than happy to help in anyway with this process.

Thank you,
Kelly Oestreich

830-798-6719

LLANO COUNTY HOSPITAL AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WORKSHOP
WITH LLANO COMMISSIONERS COURT
August 17, 2020

The following members attended the meeting:

President: Bob Wallace
Vice President: Pat McDowell
Secretary: Charles Miller
Treasurer: David Willmann
Bob Shafer
David Hoerster, MD

1. President Bob Wallace called the public meeting to order at 1:08PM, at the Llano County Events Center.
2. A quorum was established.
3. Llano County Judge, Ron Cunningham chaired this public meeting. Please refer to the Commissioners Court minutes of this date.
4. Workshop: Discussion only; no action taken.
5. A motion to adjourn was unanimously approved on a motion made by Pat McDowell, with a second by Charles Miller at 2:35PM.



Bob Wallace, President



Charles Miller, Secretary