

# LLANO COUNTY HOSPITAL AUTHORITY

## MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

APRIL 7, 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

Jay Ward

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1. President Bob Wallace called the meeting to order at 3:06PM.
  2. A quorum was established with all members in attendance.
  3. Upon a motion by Pat McDowell and a second from Jay Ward, the agenda was unanimously adopted.
  4. The Minutes of the March 17, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously upon a motion by Charles Miller and a second by David Hoerster.
  5. Reports were received from:
    - A. President Bob Wallace

Our Llano Hospital and ER run by BSW might close 1/1/21 unless:

      1. Llano County will provide improvements costing \$2-\$3 million
      2. Llano County can supplement operating annual loss of \$1.5- \$2.0 millionWe have not found any other Hospitals interested in taking over operations of the present hospital. It is the intent of this board to explore funding options with the County, a Hospital District or charitable foundations. In light of that we are seeking outside legal/and or specialized consultants to assist the Board in evaluating options.  
We will continue to discuss any options with BSW such as:
      - Continue just the ER
      - Establish an Urgent Care facility
    - B. Committee members McDowell and Willmann reviewed solicitation letters of interest to three law firms and one CPA firm for services to the LCHA Board. To date, only one firm has expressed interest; however, replies from the others are anticipated within a week. By our next meeting, a selection will be recommended to the board.
  6. Old Business
    - A. David Willmann reported that the Corporate Resolution has been received by the bank. Personal identification information from Charles Miller is needed to complete the new signature cards.
    - B. At this time, no perspective boundaries for a possible hospital district are available. A follow up request will be made with the County Judge.

7. A. The board unanimously adopted a Policy on Public Comment upon a motion by Charles Miller with a second by David Willmann. The motion included adoption of a Public Participation Form. [Copies attached]

B. A statement for inclusion in board email, alerting board members to the requirements of the Texas Open Meeting Act [TOMA] was discussed.

C. Charles Miller requested reimbursement of \$106.22 for purchase of a recording device for future in-person meetings.

D. Bob Wallace requested reimbursement of \$157.40 for purchase of a one-year subscription to Zoom to allow audio/video access to the current and future meetings of the LCHA board meetings. Upon a motion by David Willmann and a second by Bob Shafer, both requests were approved unanimously.

E. Mr. Tim Ols, President of BSW Health, Hill Country Region, provided an update on the status of COVID-19 activities within the BSW Health system. The greatest activity thus far has been in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. The Llano hospital; has one room capable of producing negative pressure with one ventilator available for possible treatment of highly infectious patients. With current staffing, he deems it likely that a COVID-19 patient would require transfer to their Marble Falls hospital or to Austin. The Marble Falls hospital has four rooms that are equipped to care for highly infectious patients. BSW Health is actively engaged in preparation for penitential surges in cases of COVID-19 admissions.

#### 8. Public Comment

Mr. Kelly Oestreich offered comments regarding his concern over adequate EMS and ambulance service in Llano County. A copy of his prepared remarks is attached. Attch#1

9. At 3:45PM, 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 4:12PM the regular public meeting was resumed. There were no actions to take regarding discussions in the Executive Session.

11. A tentative date of April 21, 2020 was proposed, pending board efforts to gather additional information for the board.

12. Possible Agenda items for the next meeting include:

- Discussion of EMS and ambulance operations.
- Recommendation of legal counsel and/or consultants to evaluate future facility options.
- Discussion of an Urgent Care facility as an alternative to a hospital or ER service.

13. A motion to adjourn was unanimously approved on a motion by Charles Miller, seconded by David Willmann at 4:18PM.

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Bob Wallace, President

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Charles Miller, Secretary

Attachment #1-

Thank you for allowing me the time to address the board. As some of you may know I served on the Llano County Hospital Authority Board of Directors from approximately 2007 – 2011. This was the time period that all the changes with Scott and White and Llano Memorial Hospital were taking place and the construction of the clinic and new hospital were in the process of being planned.

Throughout the many meetings I was in attendance during that time period I repeatedly heard Scott and White management stress how the hospital in Llano would not be affected by the new facility in Marble Falls. In fact, they said numerous times that it would actually help the Llano Hospital and they would continue to build up the services available in Llano. At the final vote I was assured our hospital would not be affected and I reluctantly voted in favor of the takeover by Scott and White and here we are today facing the high risk of our hospital closing.

As some of you may know I worked for Llano County E.M.S./Llano Memorial Hospital for 14 years as a paramedic and served as E.M.S. director for five years. I have seen firsthand many times how important this hospital, the emergency room and physicians are to our community and surrounding areas. Many emergencies cannot wait 30 – 45 minutes for physician intervention even with the best emergency medical services. Many patients require physician intervention and stabilization before being transferred to a facility with a higher level of care if the patient could not be admitted and treated at Llano Hospital.

I have seen where Scott and White have constructed and opened several new clinics and hospitals in the area, did they receive funding from cities, counties or other taxing entities to construct these and supplement them like they were suggesting at the first meeting of the board last month?

I would also like to offer my assistance in reference to the future of emergency medical services for Llano County. Our service, at one time was recognized as a leader in rural E.M.S in Texas but that status has since been lost under the direction of Scott and White.

Thank you,

Kelly Oestreich