

# Highlands County Hospital District Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting – August 22, 2024

The Highlands County Hospital District Board of Commissioners met at 1:32pm on Thursday, August 22, 2024, at the Highlands County Commissioner's Board Room. Notice of the Regular Meeting was published in the Highlands News Sun on August 11, 2024. The notice is filed in the Board's meeting file.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Victor Divietro, Dean Gerber, Dusty Johnson, Jeff Roth, Katie Wilson

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** none

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Gail Escobar- Clerk, Ingra Gardner – Community Programs Director, Leah Sauls – Development Services Director, Joe Gleason – HCA Florida Highlands CEO, Lori DeLoach - County Purchasing Manager, members of the public

**I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER** at 1:30 pm by Chairman Gerber.

**II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Roth led the pledge and gave the invocation.

**III. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

No comments were given.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Mr. Divietro made a motion seconded by Ms. Wilson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 30, 2024. Upon roll call, all Members voted aye. The motion carried.

**V. ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT**

A representative from the accountant Wicks, Brown, Williams & Co was not able to be present at today's meeting. Full written report was provided and included in the agenda packet.

a. Written report provided reflected investments updated through July 31, 2024, cashflow through June 30, 2024, check register through third quarter ending June 30, 2024, financial statements for third quarter April 1, 2024 and June 30, 2024, and summary of brokerage statements through July 31, 202.

**MOTION:** Mr. Johnson made a motion seconded by Mr. Divietro to accept the written accountant's report. Upon roll call, all Members voted aye. The motion carried.

b. Amended 2023-2024 Budget – written amended 2023-2024 budget was provided for approval.

**MOTION:** Mr. Divietro made a motion seconded by Ms. Wilson to approve the amended 2023-2024 budget as written. Upon roll call, all Members voted aye. The motion carried.

c. 2024-2025 Budget – written 2024-2025 budget was provided approval.

**MOTION:** Mr. Divietro made a motion seconded by Ms. Wilson to approve the 2024-2025 budget as written. Upon roll call, all Members voted aye. The motion carried.

d. Letter of Engagement for 2024-2025 – written letter of engagement was provided for approval.

**MOTION:** Mr. Roth made a motion seconded by Ms. Wilson to accept the letter of engagement for 2023-2034 as written. Upon roll call, all Members voted aye. The motion carried.

#### **VI. APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF INVOICES**

**MOTION:** Mr. Johnson made a motion seconded by Mr. Divietro to approve payment of invoices for Highlands News Sun – 146.96; Swaine, Harris, & Wohl - 3,884.00; Wicks, Brown, Williams & Co. – 1,990.00; CliftonLarsonAllen LLP – 14,175.00; Highlands County BOCC – 343,997.00; Brown & Brown of Florida – 4,709.93 for a total of \$368,902.89 as presented by the Clerk. Upon roll call, all Members voted aye. The motion carried.

#### **VII. RATIFICATION OF AUDIT**

The auditing process for audit year ending September 30, 2023 began after the contract was signed with auditor CliftonLarsonAllen LLP in March 2024 and was completed in June before the required filing date of June 30, 2024. Electronic copies of the audit were distributed to board members at that time. There were no findings or recommendations and the Chairman of the Board and the Board accountant signed the representation letter with the intent for the District Board to ratify the audit at the regular August meeting. Copies of signed representation letter was provided in agenda packet.

**MOTION:** Mr. Divietro made a motion seconded by Ms. Wilson to ratify the audit. Upon roll call, all Members voted aye. The motion carried.

#### **VIII. HRMC REPORT**

Joe Gleason presented. The last needed fulltime hospitalist will begin in September and will reside in the community as does all of the hospitalists. HCA community involvement includes working with Ridge Area ARC on Project Search during their summer camp, participating with Healthy Families of Highlands County in their Back-to-School drive by collecting over one thousand items from colleagues, and partnering with the Highlands County Sheriff's Office for the second year as host for therapy dog training class participants. Upgrade projects are continuing with the CT scanner and RNF x-ray room that will be completed in October, along with the installation of the whole hospital generator. Physicians continue to participate in the YMCA lecture series that is part of their organized group classes and plans are in place to participate in the BOCC employee health fair, September blood drive, and City of Sebring Police Department "Crush the Crisis" for the collection of unused medications.

**IX. BUSINESS RELATED TO THE SALE OF THE HOSPITAL**

- a. No RFPs for the valuation of the hospital were received by electronic or by paper submission. After discussion, it was decided to advertise the RFP for 60 days and schedule the evaluation meeting for November 21, 2024 to begin at 1:30pm with the regular meeting immediately thereafter.

**MOTION:** Mr. Divietro made a motion seconded by Mr. Johnson to re-advertise the RFP for valuation of the hospital parcel for sixty days. Upon roll call, all Members voted aye. The motion carried.

Lori DeLoach will update the necessary documents and forward to the Board Clerk for approval by the Chairman and legal counsel.

- b. Chairman Gerber stated that Bert Harris, legal counsel, said that the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) has strongly recommended that the District seek the services of special counsel to aid in the process of the sale of the hospital. Mr. Harris will be collecting information to present including the estimated cost.

Mr. Harris was not able to attend today's meeting.

**X. LEGAL COUNSEL**

No legal business.

**XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

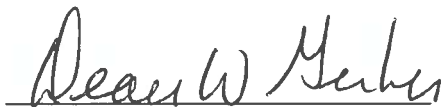
Mr. Johnson and Mr. Divietro asked why the agenda item of Laurie Hurner, County Administrator, regarding funding for a Fire Services ambulance was removed from the agenda. Chairman Gerber said that Ms. Hurner asked for the removal, and that it would be presented at a future meeting.

Mr. Divietro said he did not understand why the funding request would be made again when it was already denied. Mr. Johnson said he spoke with Commissioner Roberts because he was concerned for the current non-profits that were recommended for funding, who said that the request would be to consider using the District's reserves for Fire Rescue to purchase an ambulance.

There was discussion as to the basis of the establishment of the reserve funds and the District's ability to use them.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Next regular meeting is set for Thursday, November 21, 2024. Chairman Gerber adjourned the meeting at 2:05pm.



Dean W. Gerber, Chairman



Gail Escobar, Clerk