

**MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL OF SWEETWATER COUNTY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

February 5, 2025

The Board of Trustees of Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County met in regular session on February 5, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. with Dr. Barbara Sowada, President, presiding.

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Sowada welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

Dr. Sowada requested a roll call and announced there was a quorum. The following Trustees were present: Judge Nena James, Mr. Marty Kelsey, Ms. Kandi Pendleton, Mr. Craig Rood, and Dr. Barbara Sowada.

Officially present during the meeting: Ms. Irene Richardson, Chief Executive Officer; Dr. Alicia Gray, Chief of Medical Staff; Mr. Geoff Phillips, Legal Counsel; and Mr. Taylor Jones, Sweetwater Board of County Commissioners.

Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Sowada led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mission and Vision

Dr. Sowada read aloud the mission and vision statements.

Mission Moment

Ms. Richardson said she has the opportunity to meet with all new physicians, medical and nursing students, locums, nurse practitioners, etc., and continually hears that people never had the opportunity to meet the CEO and other leaders to learn about the culture and expectations when they visit and work at other locations. They express gratitude for the opportunity we provide. Ms. Richardson gave kudos to Ms. Kerry Downs, Medical Staff Services Director, and her staff for the great orientation they develop for everyone joining us.

AGENDA

The motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Judge James; second by Ms. Pendleton. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The motion to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2025, regular meeting as presented was made by Judge James; second by Mr. Rood. Motion carried. The motion to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2025, special meeting as presented was made by Ms. Pendleton; second by Judge James. Mr. Kelsey abstained and the motion carried. The motion to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2025, special meeting as presented was made by Ms. Pendleton; second by Judge James. Motion carried.

COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION

There were no comments.

OLD BUSINESS

Employee Health Plan

Dr. Ann Marie Clevenger, Chief Nursing Officer, said the Plan is still under review and will be brought back when ready for consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

Employee Policies

Access to Personnel File: Mr. Kelsey asked about adding information regarding other access related to legal requests.

Dress Code: There were no concerns shared. Both policies will be brought back next month. Dr. Sowada asked if there are any questions to contact Ms. Amber Fisk, Human Resources Director.

Critical Access Hospital Policies Consent Agenda

The motion to approve the Parenteral Nutrition and Pharmacy Controlled Drugs: Abuses and Losses policies as presented in the consent agenda was made by Mr. Kelsey; second by Judge James. Motion carried.

SENIOR LEADER REPORTS

Dr. Sowada thanked the leaders for the reports. Ms. Pendleton asked about medical oncology referrals almost doubling. Dr. Kari Quickenden, Chief Clinical Officer, said we are receiving more referrals from providers including from the Huntsman Cancer Institute. Ms. Pendleton asked about cash collections of 110%. Ms. Tami Love, Chief Financial Officer, said with critical access and issues with Medicare and estimates of what collections could have been, we estimated 110% if we had not been waiting on payments.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Ms. Richardson welcomed Dr. Alicia Gray, Chief of Medical Staff, and introduced Ms. Karali Plonsky, Patient Experience Director. She said both have hit the ground running and have great ideas and are making good things happen. Ms. Richardson reported we continue working on the strategic plan initiatives. In Community and Growth, OB Leadership will present at the Rock Springs Chamber Luncheon in February. Dr. Kyle Hoffman, General Surgery, will present to the Rock Springs High School Health Academy. Ms. Richardson will present to the Green River Chamber of Commerce at their monthly luncheon. She said we are working to get our messages out to the community. We are scheduled to have an onsite visit from a Urologist in March. Dr. Ken Holt and Dr. Javier Hernandez, OB/GYN, will join us in March, as will Ms. Mariah Pacheco, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. Ms. Richardson said the Finance and Audit Committee approved a new nuclear medicine camera so we will get some redundancy with CT. We are working with Senior Leaders to develop a flash report for key metrics from various departments. Rock Springs Mayor Max Mickelson invited Ms. Richardson to join him for two community town hall meetings in February. The purpose is to discuss the impact from proposed property tax relief bills. Ms. Richardson said, if passed, it will have a huge impact on us and our community. Ms.

Richardson gave a brief update on other bills moving through the state legislature. She said we are watching federal legislation activities. We are watching tariff activities and eyeing the projected impacts on prices and shortages. Ms. Richardson thanked Ms. Lena Warren, Community Outreach Director, and Ms. Cindy Nelson, Chief Experience Officer, for presenting to the Rock Springs Chamber Boost Leadership Academy when they visited onsite at the end of January. Ms. Richardson thanked Ms. Nelson, Ms. Plonsky, and Mr. Josh Wilson, Patient Relations Specialist, for presenting to the Rock Springs Young at Heart Senior Center at the end of January. Following the Master Plan presentation January 28, Senior Leaders will prioritize and include information in the upcoming budget process plans. Ms. Richardson reported we are still waiting for Noridian to provide a rate to start billing under our new number. The Foundation Red Tie Gala was a huge success. Ms. Richardson thanked Ms. Kayla Mannikko, Foundation Executive Director, the Foundation Board, and everyone who volunteered to help make the event a success. She thanked Unidine for the delicious food. Ms. Richardson said we are thankful for the support of our community. She said the American Hospital Association Rural Health Conference will be held in San Antonio at the end of February. She said we are as busy as can be with staff working on all cylinders. Ms. Richardson thanked the Board for their support.

CHIEF OF THE MEDICAL STAFF REPORT

Dr. Gray said she is happy to serve and reported many medical staff committees have started convening for 2025. Physicians have been appointed to various committees. She said we are excited for the opportunities to serve and be involved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Joint Conference Committee

Dr. Sowada said the Committee did not meet.

Buildings & Ground Committee

Mr. Rood said the information is in the meeting packet.

Compliance Committee

Ms. Pendleton said she did not have anything additional to report.

Governance Committee

Mr. Kelsey said the Committee is working through policies with the Board Attorney.

Quality Committee

Dr. Sowada said the information is in the meeting packet.

Finance & Audit Committee

Capital Expenditures:

Mr. Kelsey said the Committee approved three capital expenditure requests to move forward for Board approval. The motion to approve FY25-29 for \$442,349.89 for network infrastructure as presented was

made by Mr. Kelsey; second by Mr. Rood. Motion carried. The motion to approve FY25-32 for \$52,992 for website redesign as presented was made by Mr. Kelsey; second by Ms. Pendleton. Motion carried. The motion to approve FY25-35 for Siemens Symbia Lease for \$880,000 as presented was made by Mr. Kelsey; second by Mr. Rood. Motion carried.

Bad Debt: The motion to approve the net bad debt and recoveries as presented of \$1,900,904.86 was made by Mr. Kelsey, second by Ms. Pendleton. Motion carried.

Foundation Board

Mr. Rood said the Red Tie Gala had a great turnout and it was a great event. He shared preliminary numbers and said we will see a final report coming out in the near future.

Ratify Foundation Board of Directors Member: The motion to ratify Mr. Jim Jessen as a Foundation Board of Directors member as presented was made by Mr. Rood; second by Ms. Pendleton. Motion carried.

Executive Oversight and Compensation

Dr. Sowada said there would be discussion in the executive session.

CONTRACTS

Consent Agenda

There were no questions or comments.

GOOD OF ORDER

Dr. Sowada encouraged Board members to consider adding community members to be on Board Committees. She said it would be nice to build our own pipeline. She invited Trustees to let her or Ms. Richardson know if they had suggestions for community members to invite.

Ms. Downs said the Board recently reviewed the Medical Staff Peer Review Plan. She said there was a section referencing the Chief Medical Officer. We will need to update since we do not have that position any longer. Dr. Sowada asked Ms. Downs to bring the Plan back to the Board with updates. Dr. Sowada said she hopes to have a Joint Conference Committee meeting in March.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The motion to go into executive session at 2:41 p.m. to discuss legal, personnel, and items considered confidential by law was made by Ms. Pendleton; second by Judge James. Motion carried.

RECONVENE INTO REGULAR SESSION

The motion to leave the executive session and return to the regular session at 4:55 p.m. was made by Judge James; second by Ms. Pendleton. Motion carried.

ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to the notice provided in the agenda, the Board of Trustees held discussions and action was taken.

The motion to grant clinical privileges and appointments to the medical staff as discussed in executive session was made by Judge James; second by Ms. Pendleton. Motion carried.

Credentials Committee Recommendations to the Board of Trustees for Granting Clinical Privileges and Granting Appointment to the Medical Staff from January 20, 2025

1. Initial Appointment to Associate Staff (1 year)
 - Dr. Gregory Hammond, Sleep Medicine
 - Dr. Alexandru David, Infectious Disease
 - Dr. Ghazi Ghanem, Infectious Disease
 - Dr. Mark Dowell, Infectious Disease
 - Dr. Charles Mateskon, Radiation Oncology
 - Dr. Ram Baboo, Neurology
 - Dr. Cesar Javier Hernandez, OB/GYN
2. Initial Appointment to Active Staff (2 year)
 - Dr. Rami Ibrahim, Radiology
3. Initial Appointment to Consulting Staff (1 year)
 - Dr. Michael Caruso, Tele-Radiology (VRC)
4. Reappointment to Active Staff (2 year)
 - Dr. Steven Croft, Anesthesia
 - Dr. Michael Bowers, Family Medicine
 - Dr. Peter Jensen, Ophthalmology
5. Reappointment to Consulting Staff (2 year)
 - Dr. Gregg Sydow, Tele-Radiology (VRC)
6. Reappointment to Non-Physician Provider Staff (2 year)
 - Emily James, FNP-C Family Nurse Practitioner

The motion to approve a Memorandum of Understanding and authorize the CEO to sign as discussed in executive session was made by Judge James; second by Mr. Rood. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Dr. Barbara Sowada, President

Attest:

Judge Nena James, Secretary