

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

**August 3, 2022**

The Board of Trustees of Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County met via Zoom in regular session on August 3, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. with Dr. Barbara Sowada, President, presiding.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Sowada welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order and announced there was a quorum. The following Trustees were present online at the call to order: Mr. Taylor Jones, Mr. Marty Kelsey, Dr. Barbara Sowada, and Mr. Ed Tardoni. Excused: Ms. Kandi Pendleton.

Officially present during the meeting: Ms. Irene Richardson, Chief Executive Officer; Dr. Brianne Crofts, Medical Staff President; and Mr. Geoff Phillips, Legal Counsel.

Dr. Sowada welcomed guests Ms. Mary Thoman and Mr. Jeff Smith from the Sweetwater County Board of County Commissioners and thanked them for attending.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Our Mission and Vision**

Mr. Tardoni read aloud the mission and vision statements.

**Mission Moment**

Ms. Richardson shared positive comments from recent Press Ganey OB patient surveys. Dr. Sowada said staff do amazing work and it is so nice to hear comments from the community. She said it is fortunate for our community to have a hospital of this size with the services offered.

**AGENDA**

The motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Mr. Kelsey; second by Mr. Tardoni. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The motion to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2022, regular meeting as presented was made by Mr. Jones; second by Mr. Tardoni. Motion carried.

**COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION**

There were no comments.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Taylor Jones Recognition**

Dr. Sowada thanked Mr. Jones for all he has done. She said he is a fearless leader with optimism. Mr. Tardoni said Mr. Jones managed to keep us all together. Mr. Kelsey said Mr. Jones did a wonderful job and was always self-assured and calm. Mr. Kelsey said he likes Mr. Jones' leadership style. Ms. Richardson said Mr. Jones was always available for leadership and guidance. She said his level-headedness helped guide us through all we dealt with and made sure we looked at every angle of things. She said she appreciated everything he has done for us. Mr. Jones thanked everyone and said the comments mean more than people know. He said there is no way he could do anything alone. Mr. Jones said it was a group effort at the Board level. He said folks doing the work should get the credit and he appreciates what everyone has done the past three years. He said it is sometimes hard to believe what has been accomplished and it is through incredible teamwork. Commissioner Smith said on behalf of the County he is grateful for Mr. Jones' service. He said he is a good leader and a great man. Commissioner Smith said it has been an honor to get to know him and we are grateful for his service. The Board presented Mr. Jones with a framed print featuring words that describe Mr. Jones provided by Trustees and hospital leadership, a compass paperweight, and a local restaurant gift certificate.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Professional Practice Review Plan**

Ms. Kara Jackson, Director of Quality, Accreditation, Patient Safety and Risk, said staff have been working on this for about a year. It has been approved by the Medical Executive Committee. Dr. Sowada asked if the governing body needs to be advised following a sentinel event. Ms. Jackson and Ms. Kerry Downs, Director of Medical Staff Services, said they will investigate and review. Dr. Crofts said the medical staff is happy with the update to the plan. Dr. Sowada thanked everyone for the nice work.

### **Conflict of Interest Annual Disclosure**

Dr. Sowada asked Trustees to complete the annual disclosure prior to the next meeting.

### **Miner's Hospital Board Appointment**

Dr. Sowada reported Ms. Suzan Campbell, In House Counsel, would like to be recommended to the Board of County Commissioners to serve on the Miner's Board. Ms. Richardson said Ms. Campbell volunteered and Ms. Richardson feels Ms. Campbell would be a wonderful representative. Ms. Richardson is grateful Ms. Campbell is willing to make that commitment. Ms. Richardson thanked Mr. Tardoni for his service on the Miner's Board. The motion to authorize the President of the Board to send a letter to the County Commissioners recommending Ms. Campbell as a representative to the Miner's Hospital Board was made by Mr. Tardoni; second by Mr. Jones. Motion carried.

### **MHSC Think Tank Proposal**

Mr. Tardoni said a think tank project involves inviting a limited number of people for a limited amount of time to engage in mind power. The topic was brought up and discussed at the July meeting. Mr. Tardoni said he volunteered to put some ideas together. He said when a group reports back on their thoughts, there are a lot of potential outcomes. He said a group can be organized in a lot of different ways. Dr. Sowada thanked Mr. Tardoni for bringing forward a new idea. There was a recommendation to try it for 30 days. Ms. Richardson said she hopes Mr. Tardoni will help chair the project. Mr. Tardoni suggested he serve as an aid to Ms. Richardson in executing the Think Tank Ad Hoc Committee. They plan to report on the progress at the October meeting.

### **September Board of Trustees Meeting Date**

Dr. Sowada said the Wyoming Hospital Association annual meeting is September 7 and 8. Many senior leaders are participating. The motion to move the monthly meeting to September 14 was made by Mr. Jones; second by Mr. Tardoni. Motion carried.

### **State Land Investment Board Projects**

Mr. Tardoni referenced two grant application resolutions in the meeting packet. He said we have two projects with three potential outcomes: both approved, only one approved, neither approved. He said the Board of County Commissioners showed their support and the MHSC Foundation gave their support for a total of \$4M in promised funds. The projects and request for support were presented at a July Board of County Commissioners meeting. We are grateful for their support. The timing did not allow hospital staff to finalize funding plans. Mr. Tardoni reviewed the process including a special finance meeting on August 1. The motion to approve the Board submitting both grant applications as shown to the State Land Investment Board (SLIB) was made by Mr. Tardoni; second by Mr. Jones. Motion carried. Mr. Kelsey said he is okay to submit both, but no one should assume he is in favor of both projects. He said he is conservative and concerned about financials. Ms. Tiffany Marshall, Foundation Executive Director, said the grant applications are due August 12. She anticipates hearing back mid-to-late September. She said the process took two to three months last time for contracts to be out. Ms. Marshall said quarter one of 2023 is the anticipated timeline. Dr. Sowada thanked Ms. Marshall, Ms. Tami Love-Chief Financial Officer, staff, and the Finance and Audit Committee for their work. She said a lot of time and thought have been given to these two projects. She said we look forward to updates as the process moves forward.

### **Credentials Policy**

Ms. Downs reported legal counsel suggested having a policy that matches the information in the bylaws and will match updated applications. The motion to approve the credentials policy as presented was made by Mr. Tardoni; second by Mr. Jones. Motion carried.

## **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT**

Ms. Richardson reported we continue work with person-centered care initiatives. We continue work on improving Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) results. We are working with Cerner on the open ticket process. Auditors will be onsite

later in the week. Ms. Richardson will conduct a Town Hall Meeting via Zoom. She met with the Commissioners July 19. Ms. Richardson thanked them for their generous contributions to our projects and for their continued support. She said we are working hard to make sure this hospital is here to serve our community for years to come. Ms. Richardson thanked the Foundation Board. She said they are very excited to support the lab remodel project. They also bought a digital mammogram unit in March 2020. It is an incredible state-of-the-art unit, with incredible images. We have received very good feedback from patients and have seen an increase in volume. We continue working together to get better access for our patients. We are participating in a Wyoming Hospital Association economic impact study. We have started working on updating the strategic plan. MHSC won first place in the civic category for the Red Desert Roundup Parade. We have a booth at the county fair, and we are the Friday night concert sponsor. Ms. Richardson invited Trustees to attend the hospital picnic August 13 at Crossroads Park. She thanked Mr. Jones again for his help and service to the Hospital as President. Ms. Richardson thanked staff for their work every day. She thanked the Board and County Commissioners for their support.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Quality Committee**

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

### **Human Resources Committee**

Dr. Sowada said the Committee did not meet in July.

### **Finance and Audit Committee**

Mr. Tardoni said the Committee did not meet in July to allow staff to concentrate on year-end closing and prepare for the audit.

***Bad Debt:*** The motion to approve the net potential bad debt of \$1,094,745.51 as presented was made by Mr. Tardoni; second by Mr. Kelsey. Motion carried.

### **Foundation**

Ms. Marshall said the Foundation Board is developing a new mission statement. She said she will forward the update to the Trustees with a request for feedback and suggestions. The group is also looking at implementing a new vision statement and developing a strategic plan. The Foundation Board continues to discuss ways to provide support. Employee rewards information has been distributed. Ms. Marshall said we are grateful for staff support of the Foundation.

### **Compliance Committee**

Mr. Jones reported the information is in the meeting packet.

## **Governance Committee**

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

### **CONTRACT REVIEW**

#### **Consent Agenda**

The motion to approve the contracts as presented was made by Mr. Tardoni; second by Mr. Jones. Motion carried.

### **BOARD EDUCATION**

#### **Pandemic Considerations for Maintaining Quality and Safety**

Dr. Sowada said the topic was chosen primarily at Ms. Richardson's request. Staff safety is becoming as important as patient safety as they are so inter-related. Some items of note listed are error traps, asking challenging questions, and opportunities for debriefing. Mr. Tardoni said he feels the way our committees function is where the difficult questions are asked.

### **MEDICAL STAFF REPORT**

Dr. Crofts said HCAHPS scores are important to a lot of people. We are creating a small group to review and improve. Dr. Sowada thanked Dr. Crofts for taking on the small group process. Dr. Crofts said we are reviewing the impact of Roe v. Wade being overturned. She said we fully support robotics. When interviewing surgeon candidates, we are seeing it is imperative for us to obtain the robot and include in processes.

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Mr. Jones repeated his appreciation to everyone. He said he has been volunteering his time since his early 20's and has served on boards and commissions. He said to have been thanked in this manner meant a lot. Mr. Jones said some of the words on the framed print included his favorite: accountable. Dr. Sowada said he has made an impression on all of us and made us all a little better. She thanked him again for what he has done and will continue to do. She stressed his time will still be put to good use with his continued service on the Board.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The motion to go into executive session was made by Mr. Kelsey; second by Mr. Jones. Motion carried. Dr. Sowada thanked Ms. Thoman and Mr. Smith for their participation. She thanked the Board of County Commissioners for their generosity and support of the community's hospital.

### **RECONVENE INTO REGULAR SESSION**

At 5:02 p.m., the motion to leave executive session and return to regular session was made by Dr. Sowada; second by Mr. Tardoni. Motion carried.

## **ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION**

### **Approval of Privileges**

The motion to approve the list of providers and non-physician providers privileges and appointments to the Medical Staff was made by Dr. Sowada; second by Mr. Tardoni. Motion carried.

#### Credentials Committee Recommendations from July 19, 2022

- Initial Appointment from Locum Tenens to Active Staff (2 years)
  - Dr. Don Dickerson, Radiation Oncology
  - Dr. Wesley Pedicini, Emergency Medicine (U of U)
  - Dr. James Fierbaugh, Emergency Medicine (U of U)
  - Dr. Wesley Williams, Emergency Medicine (U of U)
  - Dr. Nicholas Levin, Emergency Medicine (U of U)
- Initial Appointment to Associate Staff (1 year)
  - Dr. Ahmad Bashirimoghaddam, Hospitalist
  - Dr. Brian Moon, Anesthesia
  - Dr. Karen Hayes, OB/GYN
  - Dr. Claudia Tuffanelli-Bouvier, Emergency Medicine (U of U)
  - Dr. Helen Palatinus, Emergency Medicine (U of U)
- Initial Appointment to Non-Physician Provider Staff (1 year)
  - Alisha Mackie, RN First Assist
- Reappointment to Active Staff (2 years)
  - Dr. Jacob Johnson, Family and Occupational Medicine
  - Dr. Christopher Hunnicutt, Radiology
  - Dr. Cody Christensen, Urology
- Reappointment to Consulting Staff (2 years)
  - Dr. Piotr Tekiela, Tele Stroke (U of U)
- Reappointment to NPP Staff (2 years)
  - Katherine Moczulski, Family Nurse Practitioner

The motion to approve the provider contract and authorize the CEO to sign was made by Dr. Sowada; second by Mr. Tardoni. Motion carried.

The motion to approve the CEO evaluation conducted at the July 6, 2022 meeting was made by Dr. Sowada; second Mr. Jones. Motion carried.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

*Dr. Barbara Sowada, President*

Attest:

*Ms. Kandi Pendleton, Secretary*