

- CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Peter Watercott, President.
- PRESENT Peter Watercott, President
D. Scott Clark, M.D., Vice President
Michael Phillips, M.D., Secretary
John Ungersma, M.D., Treasurer
Taema Weiss, M.D., Chief of Staff
- ALSO PRESENT John Halfen, Administrator
Sandy Blumberg, Administrative Secretary
- ALSO PRESENT FOR
RELEVANT PORTIONS Dianne Shirley, R.N. Performance Improvement Director
- PUBLIC COMMENTS
ON THE AGENDA Mr. Watercott asked if any members of the public wished to address the Board on any items listed on the agenda for this meeting. No comments were heard.
- MINUTES The minutes of the March 21, 2007 meeting were approved.
- FINANCIAL AND
STATISTICAL REPORTS John Halfen, Chief Financial Officer reviewed with the Board the financial and statistical reports for the month of February 2007. Mr. Halfen noted the statement of operations shows a bottom line deficit of revenues over expenses of -\$193,448. Mr. Halfen called attention to the following:
- *Inpatient and ancillary patient revenue were under budget*
 - *Total expenses were under budget, but were not low enough to compensate for low patient revenue*
 - *Salaries and wages were under budget*
 - *Employee benefits were under budget*
 - *Accounts receivable averaged 56 days*
 - *Assets and Liabilities did not experience significant change*
 - *Year-to-date net revenue is \$3,007.813*
- ADMINISTRATOR'S
REPORT Mr. Halfen noted the Hospital had a busy prior fiscal year and that revenue estimates for this fiscal year may have been too high. It is possible that revenue projections for the upcoming 2007-2008 budget year may be adjusted to lower numbers. It was moved by John Ungersma, M.D. seconded by D. Scott Clark, M.D. and passed to approve the financial and statistical reports for the month of February 2007.
- BUILDING UPDATE Mr. Halfen referred to reports provided by Turner Construction detailing budget information and timelines for completion of the Support and Radiology Buildings. Construction of both buildings is running on

schedule and on budget at this time. John Haas of Turner Construction was available at this meeting to answer any questions the Board may have on the building project. The Board reviewed the reports presented and had no questions on their content.

PARKING

Mr. Halfen stated rebuild construction is still creating parking challenges at the Hospital, and he has submitted a formal request to the Bishop Paiute Tribe to lease land adjacent to the Hospital to create additional parking space. He is currently waiting to hear back from the Tribe on this subject, and reminded everyone that in the mean time overflow parking is still available at the Nazarene Church across West Line Street.

GRANTS

Mr. Halfen reported that Georgan Stottlemyre has been hired as the Hospital's new Grant writing and Marketing Director, and he stated that she will begin work on obtaining grants that may help offset the cost of the Hospital rebuild project.

FYI SECTION

Mr. Halfen called attention to a Legislative Update from the California Hospital Association (CHA) regarding health-related bills that will be presented to the California State Legislature at its next session.

CHIEF OF STAFF
REPORT

Chief of Staff Taema Weiss, M.D. reported the Executive Committee met on April 3 2007, and following careful review and consideration of the recommendations of the Credentials Committee recommends the following to the District Board:

1. Appointment of Board-certified general surgeon Robbin Cromer-Tyler, M.D. to the Northern Inyo Hospital (NIH) Provisional Active Medical Staff with requested privileges. It was moved by Doctor Clark, seconded by Michael Phillips, M.D. and passed to approve the appointment of Doctor Cromer-Tyler as recommended.
2. Appointment of William M. Carter, D.D.S. to the NIH Provisional Consulting Medical Staff with requested privileges. It was moved by Doctor Clark, seconded by Doctor Ungersma, and passed to approve the appointment of Doctor Carter as recommended.

OLD BUSINESS

REAFFIRMATION OF
ASSIGNMENT OF
NEGOTIATOR

Mr. Halfen asked for reaffirmation of assignment of himself as negotiator on NIH's behalf regarding a potential real estate purchase or lease at 152 Pioneer Lane, Bishop, California in whole or in part. Negotiations may be with Stephen Kobayashi, M.D., Pioneer Medical Associates, a partnership, or its designee, singly or collectively. It was moved by Doctor Phillips, seconded by Doctor Ungersma, and passed to reaffirm the assignment of Mr. Halfen as negotiator on behalf of NIH.

POSSIBLE
REPLACEMENT OF A
DIRECTOR

Mr. Halfen called attention to a letter of interest received from M.C. Hubbard to serve as the Board representative of Zone 5 of the Hospital District. Ms. Hubbard's letter of interest is the only letter of interest

received as of this date. Following discussion of Ms. Hubbard's qualifications and extensive experience and service to the local community, it was moved by Doctor Clark, seconded by Doctor Phillips, and passed to approve appointment of M.C. Hubbard to the Northern Inyo County Local Hospital District (NICLHD) Board of Directors to represent Zone 5. Ms. Hubbard will fill the vacancy of Patricia Calloway, who recently resigned in order to accept the position of Activities Director at Northern Inyo Hospital. Mr. Halfen, Mr. Watercott, and Doctor Ungersma expressed their feeling that Ms. Hubbard will be a tremendous addition to the District Board.

NEW BUSINESS

RADIOLOGY POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL APPROVAL

Mr. Halfen referred to a Radiology Policy and Procedure manual submitted for approval at this meeting. PACS Administrator Bill St Jean informed the Board the *Mammography and MQSA* manual is required to be reviewed and approved on an annual basis, and it has already been approved by appropriate committees and service chiefs. It was moved by Doctor Clark, seconded by Doctor Phillips, and passed to approve the *Mammography and MQSA* Policy and Procedure manual as presented.

HOLOGIC STEREOTACTIC BREAST BIOPSY SYSTEM

Mr. Halfen referred to a proposal from the Radiology Department to purchase a Hologic Stereotactic Breast Biopsy system for NIH. PACS Administrator Bill St Jean presented an overview of the equipment and stated the purchase would bring local services to a level where residents no longer need to travel outside the area for breast diagnoses. John Nesson, M.D. added the system will allow for quicker patient diagnoses and will bring NIH's breast assessment and treatment abilities to a state-of-the-art level. The system was not included in the 2006-2007 budget but if purchased now the Hospital will realize a considerable cost savings on the equipment. Additionally, it is expected the equipment will pay for itself within 3 years of purchase. It was moved by Doctor Clark, seconded by Doctor Ungersma, and passed to approve the purchase of the Hologic Stereotactic Breast Biopsy system. Mr. St Jean stated a media campaign will take place in order to inform local residents of the level of care available in this area for breast assessment and treatment.

NATIONAL PATIENT SAFETY GOALS AT NIH

Compliance Officer Leo Freis presented an update to the Board on the status of NIH's compliance with National Patient Safety goals. The current National Patient Safety goals are as follows:

- Improve the accuracy of patient identification
- Improve the effectiveness of communication among caregivers
- Improve the safety of using medications
- Reduce the risk of health care-associated infections
- Accurately and completely reconcile medications across the continuum of care
- Reduce the risk of patient harm resulting from falls

- Encourage patients' active involvement in their own care as a patient safety strategy

Mr. Freis reviewed the Hospital's performance in each of these areas and also reviewed ongoing efforts to maintain high standards in all areas of patient safety.

EKG AGREEMENT,
VASUKI
SITTAMPALAM, M.D.

Mr. Halfen referred to an agreement for the EKG services of Vasuki Sittampalam, M.D.. Doctor Sittampalam has been reading EKG's at NIH for some time and has been overseen by EKG service chief Asao Kamei, M.D.. It was moved by Doctor Phillips, seconded by Doctor Clark, and passed to approve the agreement with Doctor Sittampalam as presented.

IDENTIFICATION OF
JOHN HALFEN AS
NEGOTIATOR IN A
POTENTIAL REAL
ESTATE ACQUISITION

Mr. Halfen asked the Board to identify him as negotiator regarding the potential acquisition of real property at 2957 Birch Street, in Bishop California. NIH is looking into the possibility of purchasing the former Cerro Coso College building, and Mr. Halfen requested Board authority to look into the possibility more and to negotiate on behalf of the Hospital if necessary. It was moved by Doctor Ungersma, seconded by Doctor Clark, and passed to approve identifying Mr. Halfen as negotiator regarding the potential acquisition of real property at 2957 Birch Street in Bishop, California.

RESOLUTION 07-04
LAFCO ANNEXATION

Mr. Halfen stated the Hospital intends to pursue the possibility of annexing additional areas into the Northern Inyo County Local Hospital District (NICLHD). He asked for Board approval of Resolution 07-04 to request that the Local Agency Formation Commission Organization (LAFCO) annex areas including Swall Meadows, Hammill Valley, Chalfant, and Benton into the NICLH District. The majority of residents in these communities receive healthcare at NIH but currently do not contribute to the District's tax base. Annexation into the District would also allow residents in those areas to benefit from the 10% discount provided to District residents. District legal counsel Doug Buchanan suggested minor changes to the wording of the Resolution, and it was moved by Doctor Clark, seconded by Doctor Ungersma, and passed to approve Resolution 07-04 to annex additional areas into the Hospital District.

BOARD MEMBER
REPORTS

Mr. Watercott asked if any members of the Board of Directors wished to report on any items of interest. No reports were heard.

OPPORTUNITY FOR
PUBLIC COMMENT

In keeping with the Brown Act, Mr. Watercott asked if any members of the public wished to address the Board of Directors on items of interest. No comments were heard.

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:40p.m., Mr. Watercott announced the meeting was being adjourned to closed session to allow the Board of Directors to:

- A. Hear reports on the Hospital quality assurance activities, and hear a report from the Medical Staff Executive Committee (Section 32155 of the Health and Safety Code, and Government Code Section 54962).
- B. Confer with legal counsel regarding claim filed by Patrick Plunkett, M.D. against Northern Inyo County Local Hospital District (Government Code Section 54956.9(a)).
- C. Confer with legal counsel regarding claim filed by April Villalobos against Northern Inyo County Local Hospital District and other defendants (Government Code Section 54956.9(a)).
- D. Confer with legal counsel regarding claim received from Xxxxx Xxxx against Northern Inyo County Local Hospital District (Government Code Section 54956.9(a)).
- E. Confer with legal counsel regarding claim received from Landon and Lisa Kleeman against Northern Inyo County Local Hospital District and other defendants (Government Code Section 54956.0(a)).
- F. Instruction of negotiator regarding price and terms of payment for the purchase, sale, exchange, or lease of real property (Government Code Section 54956.8).
- G. Instruction of negotiator regarding price and terms of payment for the purchase, sale, exchange, or lease of a 2nd real property (Government Code Section 54956.8).

RETURN TO OPEN
SESSION

At 7:21p.m., the meeting was returned to open session. Mr. Watercott reported that the Board took no reportable action taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Watercott again asked if any members of the public wished to address the Board on any items listed on the agenda for this meeting.

Mr. Halfen reported the NIH Foundation's annual Spring Fling was held on April 14th and the event was a great success. Doctor Ungersma reported on an item of personal interest, and stated he recently traveled to Germany where universal health care is provided to citizens, but with that care comes a high cost to the citizens (in the form of taxation) and a significant compromise to the quality of services provided.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Peter Watercott, President

Attest:

Michael Phillips M.D., Secretary