

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  
John Ungersma, M.D., Treasurer  
Michael Phillips, M.D., Secretary  
M.C. Hubbard, Director  
Richard Nicholson, M.D., Chief of Staff

ALSO PRESENT                    John Halfen, Administrator  
Douglas Buchanan, Esq., District Legal Counsel  
Sandy Blumberg, Administrative Secretary

ALSO PRESENT FOR  
RELEVANT PORTIONS            Dianne Shirley, R.N., Performance Improvement Coordinator

OPPORTUNITY FOR  
PUBLIC COMMENT                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 May 21, 2008 regular meeting and the minutes of the May 30, 2008 special 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 April 2008. Mr. Halfen noted the statement of operations shows a bottom line excess of revenues over expenses of \$1,293,583. Mr. Halfen called attention to the following:  
- *Net patient service revenue was 30% over budget*  
- *Total expenses were slightly over budget*  
- *Salaries and wages and professional fees expense were over budget*  
- *Employee benefits were under budget*  
- *The Balance Sheet showed an increase to net assets and total liabilities*  
- *Year-to-date net income is \$4,306,418*  
Mr. Halfen noted the average number of days accounts are in receivables is 60.64 days. He additionally noted that funds for financing new General Electric (GE) equipment will be received and disbursed in the near future. It was moved by D. Scott Clark, M.D., seconded by M.C. Hubbard, and passed to approve the financial and statistical reports for the month of April as presented.

ADMINISTRATOR'S  
REPORT

BUILDING UPDATE                Mr. Halfen reported preliminary asbestos abatement work has begun on the 1949 hospital building, but there is confusion as to which public agency is responsible for monitoring this portion of the building project.

The move of some outpatient services to a temporary clinic services building is complete, and the cooperative attitude of those responsible for the move and those departments that were displaced helped to make the transition go smoothly. It is still anticipated that the knockdown of the original 1949 Hospital building will occur in the next month.

PHYSICIAN  
RECRUITMENT AND  
RETENTION  
WORKSHOP

Mr. Halfen reported the Physician Recruitment and Retention workshop took place on June 14 2008 and eight doctors from varied of practices were in attendance, as was one member of the general public. During the month of July Hospital Administration will solicit and attempt to gather written input from area agencies, healthcare providers, and physicians on the question of what role Northern Inyo Hospital (NIH) should take in the effort to recruit and retain physicians in this area. It was noted during the workshop that legislation that would allow rural hospital districts to employ physicians may be passed in the relatively near future.

CHIEF OF STAFF  
REPORT

Chief of Staff Richard Nicholson, M.D. reported the Medical Staff Executive Committee recommends the following (four) policies and procedures for approval by the District Board:

1. *Employee Tuberculosis Surveillance Program*
2. *Picture Archival Communication System (PACS) Direct Physician Access*
3. *Recalls: Drugs*
4. *Black Box warnings*

It was moved by Doctor Clark, seconded by Ms. Hubbard and passed to approve all four policies and procedures as recommended.

OLD BUSINESS

REAFFIRMATIONS OF  
NEGOTIATOR

Mr. Halfen asked for reaffirmation of himself as negotiator regarding the potential acquisition of real property at 2957 Birch Street, Bishop, California. Negotiation will be with the designee(s) of Southern Mono County Healthcare District. Mr. Halfen also asked for reaffirmation of himself as negotiator regarding the potential acquisition of real property at 152-H Pioneer Lane, Bishop, California. Negotiation will be with the designee(s) of Pioneer Medical Associates and/or Alice Casey, M.D. and Clifford Beck, M.D.. It was moved by Michael Phillips M.D., seconded by Ms. Hubbard and passed to approve both reaffirmations as requested, with Doctor Clark abstaining from the vote.

NEW BUSINESS

ACHD NOMINATIONS

Mr. Halfen called attention to a letter received from the Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD) soliciting nominations for their 2008-2009 Board of Directors. He asked if any member of this Board would consider running for ACHD office, and it was suggested that Doctor Ungersma might be an excellent candidate, especially in light of the fact that he has attended ACHD's annual Legislative Day for years. It was moved by Mr. Watercott, seconded by Doctor Clark, and passed to nominate John Ungersma M.D. for the 2008-2009 ACHD Board.

CONTRACTS FOR C-  
SECTION / OB / GYN  
CALL

Mr. Halfen called attention to proposed agreements for Obstetrical and Gynecological Services (OB/Gyn) for Lara Jeanine Arndal, M.D., David Greene M.D., and Amr Ramadan M.D.. Mr. Halfen explained the existing OB/Gyn contracts need updating to fit the current physician mix and call arrangement appropriate for coverage, and he noted the proposed agreements would increase the Hospital's cost for OB/Gyn services by roughly \$30,000. Mr. Halfen also noted the proposed agreements cover a 120-day trial period, after which time they will be reevaluated for continuation or possible modification. It was moved by Doctor Clark, seconded by Ms. Hubbard and passed to approve all three OB/Gyn agreements as presented.

EMERGENCY CAPITAL  
PURCHASE OF C-ARM  
FOR SURGERY UNIT

Mr. Halfen called attention to an agreement to purchase a Digital C-Arm for the Hospital's surgery unit, at a total cost of \$201,600. The equipment was scheduled to be a priority one purchase for the 2008-2009 fiscal year but the Hospital's existing C-Arm equipment failed and its replacement was deemed by Administration to be an emergency need. Under emergency conditions Mr. Halfen has authority to approve capital purchases on the condition that they are later ratified by the District Board. Following discussion it was moved by Ms. Hubbard, seconded by Dr. Ungersma, and passed to ratify the purchase of a Digital Mobile C-Arm ESP from GE Healthcare as requested.

CORPORATE BANKING  
RESOLUTION WITH  
WACHOVIA  
SECURITIES

Mr. Halfen referred to a proposal to establish a corporate banking resolution with Wachovia Securities which would allow NIH to open a standard investment account with that company. Following review of the proposal it was moved by Ms. Hubbard, seconded by Doctor Phillips, and passed to approve the corporate banking resolution with Wachovia Securities as presented.

AMMENDMENT TO  
AGREEMENT FOR EKG  
SERVICES

Mr. Halfen referred to a letter received from Asao Kamei, M.D. requesting an amendment to his agreement for EKG services due to an expected increase to his workload when Sudhir Kakarla M.D. moves out of the area on July 1 2008. Doctor Kamei's amendment would increase his compensation for EKG services by \$350 per month, which Mr. Halfen feels is certainly reasonable in light of the fact that Dr. Kakarla's compensation for EKG services was \$740 per month. It was moved by Doctor Clark, seconded by Doctor Ungersma, and passed to approve the amendment to Doctor Kamei's agreement for EKG services as requested.

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 again asked if any members of the public wished to address the Board of Directors on any items on this agenda and/or on any items of interest. Marie Boyd, R.N.

reported the annual Northern Inyo Hospital Foundation High Sierra Ultra marathon was held on May 17 2008, and once again the event was a great success. She noted that the race had more participants than in the past, attracting a total of 230 runners. Ms. Boyd thanked the volunteers who helped make the race possible and thanked the Hospital for their sponsorship of the event. She also reported that a 100K segment is expected to be added to the race next year. Ms. Boyd presented a check to the NIH Foundation in the amount of \$10,000, and noted that overall race proceeds donated to the Foundation over the years now total \$73,000. Members of the Board thanked Ms. Board for her selfless dedication to the Foundation and to the Ultra marathon, and commented on the community's positive response to the event. They also noted that the proceeds from the race benefit all members of our local community.

**CLOSED SESSION**

At 6:05pm 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. Instruct negotiator regarding price and terms of payment for the purchase, sale, exchange, or lease of real property (Government Code Section 54956.8).
- C. Instruct negotiator regarding price and terms of payment for the purchase, sale, exchange, or lease of a second real property (Government Code Section 54956.8).
- D. Discuss with counsel of pending litigation and whether or not the District shall initiate litigation. This discussion will be held under the authority of Government Code Section 54956.9(c).
- E. Confer with legal counsel regarding pending litigation against the District by an employee (Government Code Section 54956.9(a)).

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

At 6:18 pm the meeting was returned to open session. Mr. Watercott reported the Board took no reportable action.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Watercott again asked if any members of the public would like to comment on any items listed on the agenda for this meeting or on any items of interest. No comments were heard.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:19pm.

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Peter Watercott, President

Attest:

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Michael Phillips, M.D., Secretary