



Acadia St Landry Hospital
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Acadia St. Landry Hospital
Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes
August 25, 2022

The Board of Commissioners of the Acadia St. Landry Hospital Service Districts No. 6 and 7 met on Thursday, August 25, 2022 at 6:00pm in the Acadia St. Landry Hospital Board Room at 810 South Broadway Street, Church Point, Louisiana.

CALL TO ORDER:

- The meeting was called to order by Chairman L. Bellard August 25, 2022 at 6:00p.m.

PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

- The Prayer led by Deacon Doug Wimberly and Pledge of Allegiance led by Chairman L. Bellard.

ROLL CALL OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEMBERS:

- Board Members Present: Benji Bellard, Jeff Richard, Lee Ward Bellard, Dr. Mike Williams, Tony Cook, Rachel Broussard
- Board Members Absent: None

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

- **ASLH EMPLOYEES:** Michael J. LeJeune – CEO/Administrator, Brenda Pourciau, Garrett Higginbotham, Eloise Bougeois, Melinda Thibodeaux, Karen Boudreaux, Debbie Williams, Jann Blanchard, Andre Venable, Dodie LeJeune, Annette Arnaud, Dale Mills, Tammy Quebodeaux, Stormy Matte, Curtis Wyble, Terrance Garrick
- **GENERAL PUBLIC:** George Pourciau, Pat Daigle, A.J. Credeur, Lainie Toups, Jason LeBlanc, Paul Boudreaux, Doug Wimberly, Claudette Olivier, Chris LeBas Errol Comeaux, Nicole Simon, Candy Leger, Cindy Walters, Megan Barousse, Melissa Stevens, Susie Daigle

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Chairman L. Bellard stated there was no public comment due to no one signing the form. There was confusion between the new sign in form and the public comment form. Chairman L. Bellard allowed time for signing of the public comment form. L. Bellard informed the crowd that public comment is limited to 3 minutes per person.
- Candy Leger – There are rumors going around that no action will be taken on the new hospital tonight, it's not on the agenda and I would like y'all to update those present with what the plans are for proceeding. If we are collecting about \$400,000 a year, probably about \$1.2 million of tax money has been collected thus far without anything proceeding, Leger said. Everyone here voted on the tax or those who voted on the tax, yes, it technically does say that it's for improvements to the existing facility, but we had done some feasibility studies on whether or not it would be more economical to build a new facility or improve this facility with the new

model of outpatient services and this is a hospital that's designed for medicine that was practiced in the 60s, 70s and before. Leger said it would take a lot of money to get the current hospital facility up to code. She said she is concerned that renovating the current facility would cause the hospital to lose its "grandfathered in" clause. If we would find asbestos which I am certain that there is, it could be very detrimental, Leger said. If y'all are thinking about improving this facility, I would just ask you to please do your due diligence and get a feasibility study and I think you'll will find that it would probably be in everyone's best interest to build a new facility. Leger said the patient census is up at ASLH, but the board should also focus on ancillary services and attracting new physicians. Leger finished by stating, I would just urge y'all to please move forward for the benefit of everyone

- Chris LeBas – LeBas began by thanking the board for the new orientation of the room stating that it is a better set up for a meeting of this type. He continued, not to sound like a broken record, but I am 100% in favor of the new hospital, moving forward with that. I've been to meetings, been involved with things, and I believe 100% in the plan and the experts who were hired to do it. I am going to believe in those plans until I see any sort of plan by an objective expert that says they are not in line with what has to be done. I've talked to at least one other hospital CEO from the area. I have talked to some very prominent economic developers. I have not been given any shred of evidence or reason for them to doubt the process that has taken place so far. Lebas was also concerned about rumors that are circulating regarding the future of the hospital. Lebas said he would do anything he can to support moving forward with plans for the new hospital, and he would like a statement to be made by the board to help quell the rumors.
- Anette Arnaud – I want to clarify something that Candy said about 'everybody had voted'. Out of 100% of voters, only 13.6% actually voted, so that means that a very large margin of people within this area, district, did not vote. I just wanted to clarify that
- Following the comment from Arnaud. Candy Leger stood up and asked to rebuttal Arnaud's comment. L. Ballard stated that she had no remaining time. Attorney Doug Wimberly allowed 1 minute for rebuttal from Leger.
- Candy Leger Rebuttal - We, the previous hospital board, commissioned a study of the whole hospital service district, and 76% of people who responded to that study, it was a scientific study with a big market and 76% of people in that study were for the new facility, Leger said. Also, if someone is interested in something, they should get out and vote, so if they would have voted 'no,' then we would not be here today. Leger then stated elections have consequences, don't they Mr. Credeur and Mr. Daigle. Elections have consequences.
- Chairman L. Ballard asked ASLH CEO if he had any comments to the statements and questions asked during public comment. LeJeune stated that he would answer all of the questions and statements in the CEO Report.
- With no further public comments, the public comment section was closed.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES:

- Motion by Broussard, second by Richard to approve minutes of the regular meeting held July 28, 2022. A vote was called, motion passed unanimously.

MEDICAL STAFF REPORT:

- The following medical staff were reviewed for credentialing or recredentialing: Dr. Tricia Lowrey, Dr. Douglas Hughes, Dr. Steven Mczco, Dr. Jennifer Ngo, Judy Guillory APRN, Dr, Matthew Smetko, Dr. Mary Alfid. Credentials deactivate were Dr. James Denier.
- Motion by Broussard, second by Cook to approve the credentialing of the above-mentioned medical providers. A vote was called, motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Broussard, second by Cook to approve the medical staff report held August 24, 2022. A vote was called, motion passed unanimously.

QA REPORT:

- Motion by Broussard, second by Cook to approve minutes of the QA report from meeting held August 18, 2022. A vote was called, motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

- Jason LeBlanc, CPA with Lester, Miller & Wells, CPAs presented the financial report. He first presented the June financials followed by the July financials.
- Motion by Broussard, second by Richard to approve the June 2022 financial report. A vote was called, motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Broussard, second by Cook to approve the July 2022 financial report. A vote was called, motion passed unanimously.

BUSINESS OFFICE REPORT:

- The business office report for the month of July was presented by Jason LeBlanc, CPA with Lester, Miller & Wells, CPAs.
- Motion by Broussard, second by Cook to approve minutes of the business office report. A vote was called, motion passed unanimously.

CEO REPORT:

- LeJeune began by stating that ASLH was asked to participate in the Rural Hospital Coalitions proposed Cooperative Endeavor Grant. LeJeune then turned the floor over to Jason LeBlanc who gave the board a thorough explanation of the program.

- Motion by Broussard, second by Cook to allow ASLH to participate in the Rural Hospital Coalitions proposed Cooperative Endeavor Grant. A vote was called, motion passed unanimously.

Following the vote, LeJeune gave the CEO Report. He began saying the he has been with ASLH now for five weeks and thanked the staff and community for their continued support and encouragement. LeJeune then addressed the clinical, hospital and general updates followed by community concerns. Clinical updates included: July swing-bed patient averaging 3.5 patients per day. Since the first week in August our swing bed census has increased significantly reaching 13 patients. As of today, we have 13 and tomorrow we will have another admit. The average for the month of August so far is 8.56 patients in the swing bed unit. Fleur-de-lis currently averaging 7.9 patients per day. Per all CMS guidelines, a rural health clinic is required to have a NP who is an employee of the hospital actively working at least 50% during the clinics open hours per week. He stated this was the reason we had a NP position posted. Wound care had a physician 3 days in the month of July with an average of 10 patients per day. LeJeune finished the clinical report by stating that he is actively trying to recruit new physicians, having talked to a few in residency that have expressed interest in rural healthcare.

LeJeune gave a few hospital facility updates including adding LED lights to the front and ER canopies of the hospital for safety. For additional safety reasons he stated we will be altering some of the landscape on the hospital grounds such as removing all of the large shrubs. He thanked the maintenance department acknowledging their hard work and said we will continue doing things such as tidying up the grounds, repainting lines, changing faded signs. He finished by saying “Our hospital may be small, it may be old, but as long as I am here, we will be proud of what we do have and will treat it as such”

LeJeune then addressed the community concerns.

“I would like to address some recent public concerns:

It was recently stated per social media

“Latest on the new hospital is it’s not going to get done. The Acadia Parish Police Jurys Plan seems to have won out.”

- I am not sure when a meeting took place that stated there will be no new hospital. I began here at the hospital on July 25th, there have been no meetings discussing such.

In response to someone saying “What’s the reason for it not happening?” It was stated Supposedly the Police Jury wants to hire a firm to oversee this”

- I can only assume they are referring to a healthcare or hospital management company.

Someone asked “What is the source claiming it will not happen? “A lady that works at the hospital would repair and work on the existing one.”

- Whoever this “lady” is, is 100% correct, we are actively working to repair and work in the existing hospital. The hospital is over 50 years old; things break daily here. We are still in business and still seeing patients, so yes, we do actively work every day to repair this current building.

In another response, “somebody needs to contact Jeff Landry’s office, we are paying for a new hospital, needs to be built or give us our money back.”

- We are willing to contact Jeff Landry’s office, yet no one is willing to contact mine?
- I wish this would have been published in the paper. I made it very clear in the last board meeting that I have an open-door policy, not only to the employees but to the general public as well. Facebook is clearly not a very reliable source for hospital information unless it is posted on the hospitals page.

- I will say again, any of you in this room and any one not in attendance is more than welcome to schedule a meeting to meet with me.
- Since I made nearly this exact comment last meeting, I have had a total of one individual schedule a meeting with me, and we meet tomorrow.

Allow me to address the second part of that comment “we are paying for a new hospital, needs to be built.” Several people have stated that the tax that was passed was for the purpose of a new hospital. Based on comments that have been made, such as we were told “Vote Yes for a new hospital” “We had yard signs that said we were getting a new hospital if the tax passed. I would like to read how the new tax was written. This is what you voted yes for... LeJeune then proceeded to read the ballot of the election. “Let’s have a moment of transparency about this potential new facility.

There appear to be 3 trains of thought when it comes to the new hospital.

1. And Ive had a handful of people say this. “The hospital is a sinking ship and won’t be around much longer. Fix it up a bit and paint the outside and ride it out until it closes.
2. Build the new hospital in the new location.
3. Have we looked into what it would cost to completely renovate the existing hospital and add on to it? A Feasibility report was don’t that said this option was not a financially viable option, however, there was no number attached to it. CAH’s across the state are renovating extremely old hospitals, by gutting them and adding on making them essentially new state of the art facilities

I am not saying this is the route we take, but we need to at least know the figure of it.

- Some things you should be aware of, our current facility per the feasibility report sits at 23,850sq feet.
- The proposed new hospital based on rough plans will be roughly 105,000 square feet.
 - The medical office building alone as it currently stands would be 850sqft smaller than this entire hospital.

The price tag which is now old, was \$57 million dollars. Yes, I am aware of the USDA loan (which some of you have referred to as a grant) there is a significant difference. Keep in mind, when those financials were presented, we had a full hospital and a rural health clinic seeing 20+ patients a day. A lot has changed since then, and while I am convinced, we can get back to those numbers, it will take a lot of work, which has already started. It has been said that the USDA will not close down a hospital. That is also likely true, that does not however mean they won’t foreclose on the loan if it cannot be paid and sell the hospital to a system or management company.

We have to be realistic in our plans. We are a grandfathered in critical access hospital. Per the regulations we are to be no closer than 30 miles to the next hospital.

Acadian Medical Center Eunice– 16.1 miles
 Opelousas General Main Campus – 16.4 miles
 Lourdes ER Scott Location – 15.9 miles
 Ochsner Acadia General Crowley – 19.2 miles

I am not saying we are not building a new hospital; I am not saying that we don’t need a new hospital, quite the opposite actually. If you walk around and through the halls of this hospital, it is incredibly obvious that if we will continue moving forward as a hospital, we need to do something, and relatively soon.

With that being said, the way the hospital proceeds need to be done after weighing all possible options. And in a way that it can be sustainable.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN:

- Motion made by Broussard to remove from the table the election of chairman.
- Chairman L. Bellard stated no one was willing to accept the nomination. Broussard confirmed with the board members who all indicated they would not accept a nomination for chairman.
- The original motion by Broussard did not receive a second. There was no election of chairman.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Motion by Broussard, second by Richard to enter into executive session. A vote was called, motion passed unanimously.
- Attorney Doug Wimberly was a guest in Executive Session

RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Motion by Broussard, second by Williams to exit executive session and return to regular session. A vote was called, motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Broussard, second by Cook to approve the Sysmex contract. A vote was called, motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Broussard, second by Richard to approve the CPSI contract. A vote was called, motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by Broussard, second by Richard to approve the strategic plan which included the job postings for a Controller, Director of Human Resources and Healthcare Marketer. A vote was called, motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURN:

- Chairman L. Bellard asked if there was any further discussion. Being none, he asked for a motion to adjourn.
- Motion by Williams, second by Broussard to adjourn the meeting. A vote was called, motion passed unanimously to adjourn.
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

/S/ Lee Ward Bellard

Lee Ward Bellard
Board of Commissioners Chairman
Acadia St. Landry Parish Hospital

/S/ Michael J. LeJeune

Michael J. LeJeune MBA, BSN-RN
CEO/Administrator
Acadia St. Landry Parish Hospital

Minutes prepared by: Michael J. LeJeune