

**MINUTES FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING AND THE REGULAR
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WINNIE-
STOWELL HOSPITAL DISTRICT**

The Public Hearing set for 5:30 p.m. on December 14, 2022, to address the 2023 budget of the Winnie-Stowell Hospital District (“District”) was published and filed ten (10) days prior to the meeting in the Hometown Press and Seabreeze Beacon pursuant to Section 286.125 of the Texas Health & Safety Code. Additionally, the Public Hearing and the Regular Board meeting were noticed pursuant to Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code seventy-two (72) hours prior to the opening of said meeting for 5:30 p.m. on the 14th day of December 2023, at the 520 Broadway, Winnie, Texas 77665 (a copy of said Notice being placed amongst the files of the District).

Members of the public were asked to attend in person or allowed to participate by conference call. In addition, a recording of the meeting is available upon request.

Public Hearing

At approximately 5:35 p.m., the Public Hearing was convened, and the roll was called of the members of the Board, to wit:

Mr. Ed Murrell	President
Mr. Anthony Stramecki	Vice-President
Robert “Bobby” Way	Treasurer
Jeff Rollo	Secretary
Kacey Vratiss	Director

All said Board members were present, thus constituting a quorum. In addition, to the above-named Board members, also present at the meeting were:

Mrs. Sherrie Norris	District Administrator
Mrs. Patricia Ojeda	Indigent Care Director
Mr. Hubert Oxford, IV	General Counsel for the District
Mr. David Sticker	District’s CPA
Ms. Kaley Smith	Coastal Gateway Health Clinic
Dr. Michael Lyons	Coastal Gateway Health Clinic
Mr. Robert Jacobs	Clinical Manager for Riceland

Mr. Mo Danishmundt
 Ms. Gloria Roemer
 Mr. Robert A. Pascasio

Chief Financial Officer, Riceland
 Hospital
 The Seabreeze Beacon
 OmniPoint Health

President Murrell then called on Vice-President Stramecki to discuss the proposed 2023 Budget. Director Stramecki informed those in attendance that in anticipation of this meeting, Director Way, and himself (i.e., “Finance Committee” or “Committee”) met with the District’s CPA and General Counsel to discuss the 2022 Final Budget Amendments and the 2023 Budget. (See Exhibit “A-1” and “A-2”). Directors Stramecki and Way then recommended the Board consider both the 1) 2022 Final Budget Amendments; and 2) the 2023 Budget in the public hearing since much of the 2023 Budget was based on the 2022 Final Budget Amendments. The Board agreed.

Moving to the 2022 Final Budget Amendments, Director Stramecki initiated the discussion by reviewing a summary of the 2022 Final Budget Amendment, which is as follows:

	YTD	2022 Budget	2022 Budget Amendment 3			
	Year to Date Through November 2022	Budget (Amendment 2)	Budget (Amendment 3)	Proposed Budget Amendments for Amendment 3	% of Budget Remaining	% Change in Budget
Revenue						
Total Income	\$ 47,269,741.72	\$ 57,713,500.00	\$ 56,773,815.36	\$ (939,684.64)	83.26%	-1.63%
Expenses						
Total Expense	\$ 42,530,229.36	\$ 51,955,370.25	\$ 49,729,604.20	\$ (2,225,966.05)	85.52%	-4.28%
Net Ordinary Income	\$ 4,739,512.36	\$ 5,758,129.75	\$ 7,044,211.16	\$ 1,286,281.41	67.28%	22.34%

Afterwards, Director Stramecki called on Mr. Sticker to review each budget line item and budget amendment recommendation. Some highlights of the Final Budget Amendment for 2022 were that Net Income increased by \$1,286,281.41 from the prior budget amendment because, while the total income dropped by \$939,684.64, the expenses were reduced by \$2,225,966.05. Per Mr. Sticker, the reason the revenue was reduced is because the prior Nursing Home Quality Incentive Payment Program (“QIPP”) estimates were too high. Mr. Sticker further explained that these decreases were the result of lower QIPP revenues, which were offset by

corresponding reduced QIPP expenses. Other than the QIPP income and expenses, staff recommended the following:

- Lowering the FQHC grant request by \$407,372.86 because those funds needed to be shifted to the 2023 budget; and
- Reducing the budget for Property Acquisition by \$689,155.15 to reflect the actual acquisition cost and expenses incurred in 2022 but recommended shifting the outstanding expenses yet to be incurred to 2023 for such things as site preparation and parking (\$200,000.00); electrical and plumbing hooks ups (\$500,000.00); and the balance due for the building (\$269,062.00).

Turning to the 2023 Budget, Directors Stramecki and Way once again called on Mr. Sticker to lead the discussion on the proposed budget for 2023. According to Mr. Sticker, the net income in 2023 was budgeted to decrease by \$1,790,623.42 to \$4,953,787.74. (See **Exhibit “A-2”**). A summary is follows.

	2022 Year to Date	2022 Budget Amendment 3	2023 Original Budget	Diff. bw Final 2022 and 2023 Budget	% of Budget Remaining
Revenue					
Total Income	\$ 47,269,741.72	\$ 56,773,815.36	\$ 65,681,574.68	\$ 8,907,759.32	71.97%
Expenses					
Total Expense	\$ 42,530,229.36	\$ 49,729,604.20	\$ 60,727,786.94	\$ 10,698,382.74	70.03%
Net Ordinary Income	\$ 4,739,512.36	\$ 7,044,211.16	\$ 4,953,787.74	\$ (1,790,623.42)	95.67%
Reserved Funds-Building Fund			\$ 3,000,000.00		
Net Addition to Fund Balance			\$ 1,953,787.74		

Per Mr. Sticker, the increase in total income and expenses was mostly due to the addition of more nursing homes and the associated income and expenses from the QIPP program. Likewise, Mr. Sticker informed the Board that the basis for the drop in Net Income from 2022 was because the 2023 Budget was based on projections of 75% achievement rates for the QIPP program compared to actual numbers paid in the final 2022 budget.

Mr. Sticker then discussed each line item in the proposed 2023 Budget. The non-QIPP line items, discussed in more detail, were as follows:

- 601.01a IC-Pmt to Hosp (Indigent)-This line item was reduced by \$147,316.76 to \$288,370.10 to reflect the 2023 contracted payment amount to the Hospital for Indigent care, totaling \$288,370.10.
- 601.01b IC-Pmt to Coastal Gateway (Indigent)-The Board added this line item to account for payments to Coastal Gateway for treating the District's indigent. In addition, the Board assigned \$147,316.76 to the line item which represents the difference between the actual amount incurred by the Hospital in 2022 of \$435,686.86 less the budgeted amount for 2023 in line item 601.01a.
- 607 Grants Totals-The total grants increased by \$899,795.09 because the Finance Committee recommended assigning the full amount of the various grant requests with the understanding that the requestors would make a formal request at a later date, at which time, the District's Board would consider each request.
- 674 Property Acquisition-The Board decided that the Property Acquisition be budgeted at \$534,062.00 to account for the balance due on the building, site preparation and parking; and the acquisition of a generator, as well as plumbing and electrical hook ups once the building was received; and the outstanding balance due on the building.

After the Finance Committee completed their presentation and the Board discussed the recommendations for both budgets, the President asked if there were any other questions. There being none, a motion was made at 6:00 p.m. by Director Stramecki to close the public meeting. This motion was seconded by Director Stramecki and passed with the unanimous consent of all Board members present.

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Regular Meeting

Immediately following the Public Hearing, at 6:00 p.m., President Murrell called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of Winnie Stowell Hospital District to order. The roll was called of the members of the Board, to wit:

Mr. Ed Murrell	President
Mr. Anthony Stramecki	Vice-President
Robert "Bobby" Way	Treasurer
Jeff Rollo	Secretary
Kacey Vratis	Director

All said Board members were present, thus constituting a quorum. In addition, to the above-named Board members, also present at the meeting were:

Mrs. Sherrie Norris	District Administrator
Mrs. Patricia Ojeda	Indigent Care Director
Mr. Hubert Oxford, IV	General Counsel for the District
Mr. David Sticker	District's CPA
Ms. Kaley Smith	Coastal Gateway Health Clinic
Dr. Michael Lyons	Coastal Gateway Health Clinic
Mr. Robert Jacobs	Clinical Manager for Riceland
Mr. Mo Danishmundt	Chief Financial Officer, Riceland Hospital
Mr. Saad Javed	Riceland Hospital
Ms. Gloria Roemer	The Seabreeze Beacon
Mr. Robert A. Pascasio	OmniPoint Health

5. **Review and Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting(s): November 16, 2022 Regular Meeting and the November 30, 2022 Special Meeting.**

President Murrell then called on the Board to return to review and approve the minutes from the November 16, 2022 Regular Meeting and the November 30, 2022 Special Meeting. The Board reviewed the minutes and had no further changes.

Consequently, Director Stramecki made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2022 Regular Meeting and the November 30, 2022 Special

Meeting . This motion was seconded by Director Vratis, and unanimously approved by all the Board members.

6. Review and approve financials report; payment of invoices; receive Accountant’s report, and amend budget, if necessary.

Turning to the District’s financial reports, Mr. David Sticker was asked to discuss the District’s year-to-date Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual. (See **Exhibit “A-3”**). Mr. Sticker then asked the Board if there were any questions regarding the Final Budget Amendments for 2022 as previously discussed in the Public Hearing. There being no questions, he then referred to Attorney Oxford to review the Treasurer’s Report.

Attorney Oxford then asked the Board to turn to the Treasurer’s Report in their binders. (See **Exhibit “A-4”**). Attorney Oxford stated that the total invoices to be paid amounted to \$243,839.73 but he did inform the Board that the LTC Invoice of \$240,000.00 had been previously paid earlier in the month. Therefore, the total expenses for the month amounted to \$486,839.73. A complete list of the invoices to be paid is as follows:

Pending Expenses	For	Amount
Brookshire Brothers	Indigent Care	\$1,686.33
Wilcox Pharmacy	Indigent Care	\$1,325.38
UTMB at Galveston	Indigent Care	\$3,395.22
UTMB Faculty Group	Indigent Care	\$1,762.55
Thompson Outpatient Clinic	Indigent Care	\$1,103.52
Riceland Medical Center	Indigent Care	\$54,272.73
Radiology Associates	Indigent Care	\$30.47
WSVEMS	Indigent Care	\$334.54
Indigent Healthcare Solutions	IC Inv #74942	\$1,109.00
Omnipoint Health-Dental	SP Program	\$1,175.00
Dr. June Stansky	SP Program	\$60.00
Penelope (Polly) Butler	Youth Counseling	\$170.00
Nicki Holtzman	Youth Counseling	\$255.00
Kalos Counseling (Benjamin Odom)	Youth Counseling	\$1,105.00
Benckenstein & Oxford	Inv #50640	\$7,102.18
Hubert Oxford	Legal Retainer	\$1,000.00
David Sticker	Inv #91	\$2,812.50
Technology Solutions of Tx	Inv #1733	\$75.00
Felipe Ojedia-Yard Service	Inv #1032	\$300.00
Graciela Chavez-Office Cleaning	Inv #965952	\$150.00
American Education Services	S Stern-Student Loan	\$150.14
WSVEMS	Grant Inv (Nov Payroll)	\$10,080.00
The Hometown Press	Inv #3666	\$45.00
The Seabreeze Beacon	Inv #6216	\$42.00
Chambers County Tax Assessor	Property Taxes/HWY 124	\$7,684.32
Fitz & Shipman Inc	For 3 Invs 16925.00	\$16,925.00
Coastal Gateway Health Center	Grant (Dec Req)	\$80,745.63
Allegiance Bank	LOC Interest-Auto Pay Dec 23	\$14,875.00
Durbin & Co	Inv. No. 11466 2021 Audit and Single Audit	34,068.22
Total Pending Expenses :		\$243,839.73

Next, Attorney Oxford referred the Board to the Funds Summary section of the Treasurer’s report, which is set forth below.

Funds Summary	Totals
Prosperity Operating (Unrestricted)	\$653,850.14
First Financial (Unrestricted)	\$11,147,183.77
First Financial (Restricted)	\$3,607,003.95
TexStar	\$698,671.93
Allegiance Bank LOC (Available)	\$19,421.67
Total District Funds	\$16,126,131.46
Less First Financial (Restricted)	(\$3,607,003.95)
Less TexStar Reserve Account	(\$698,671.93)
Less Committed Funds (Capital Acquisition and	(\$1,164,435.24)
Cash Position (Less First Financial Restricted)	\$10,656,020.34
Pending Expenses	(\$243,839.73)
Ending Balance (Less expenses-Available Cash, not	\$10,412,180.61
Total Funds (Ending Balance+LOC	
Outstanding+QIPP Funds Outstanding)	\$17,724,145.20

In addition, Attorney Oxford discussed the First Financial Bank reconciliation section of the Treasurer’s report. During the discussion of this section, Attorney Oxford and Mrs. Norris informed the Board that they had been working with LTC Group to ensure that the Component 1 payments in the report were accurate because after receiving the Component 1 payments for first half of Year 6, the District was estimated to be short an estimated \$1,906,462.38 in April 2023 when all six (6) component payments had been paid. According to Attorney Oxford, the reason for the shortfall was due to the other Non-State Government Owned (“NSGO) entities acquiring nursing homes in between IGT periods and receiving the Component 1 funds. However, he did explain that the District would be reimbursed for all the unpaid IGT funds starting in October 2023 when he estimated that the District will have received \$814,238.15 in excess Component 1 payments for second half of QIPP Year 6. In addition, Attorney Oxford reminded the Board that whenever the District receives the second quarterly payment for Year 6, the District will true up with the nursing facilities and will be paid for half of any outstanding shortfall.

President Murrell then called for a motion to approve the financials, Treasurer’s Report, payment of invoices, and final Budget Amendment for 2022. In

response, Director Stramecki made a motion, which was seconded by Director Vratis, and with unanimous approval of the Board members to: a) approve the financials for December 2022; b) approve the Treasurer's Report; c) pay the invoices presented; and d) approve the Budget Amendment set forth in **Exhibit "A-1"** as discussed during the Public hearing. (See **Exhibits "A-1", "A-3", and "A-4"**).

7. Discuss and take-action on Committee Reports: a) Finance Committee; b) Indigent Healthcare Committee; c) Personnel Committee; and d) Hospital Liaison.

President Murrell asked the Committees if there were any reports. The Personnel Committee announced that they met with staff to discuss raises and incentive payments for next year. The results of this meeting were reflected in the budgeted salaries for next year that were discussed during the Public Hearing.

8. Receive reports, by:

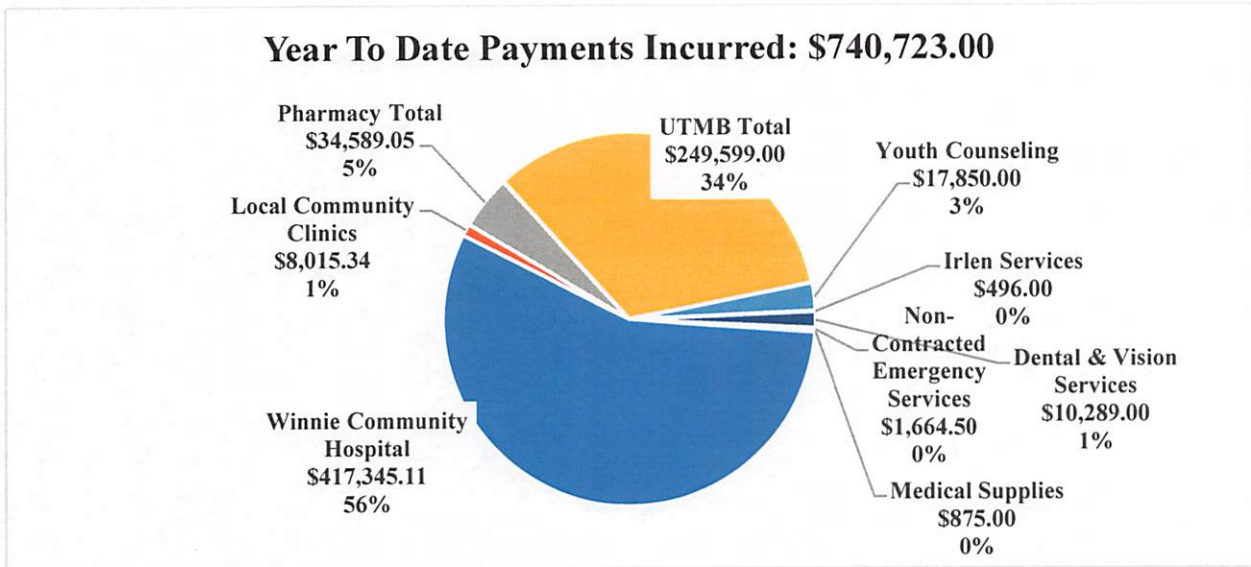
a. Administrator's Report

Mrs. Norris asked the Board to advise her after the meeting who was going to be able to attend Chambers County Day on February 22, 2023. According to Mrs. Norris, she recommended reserving hotels rooms from February 21, 2023 and checking out on February 23, 2023.

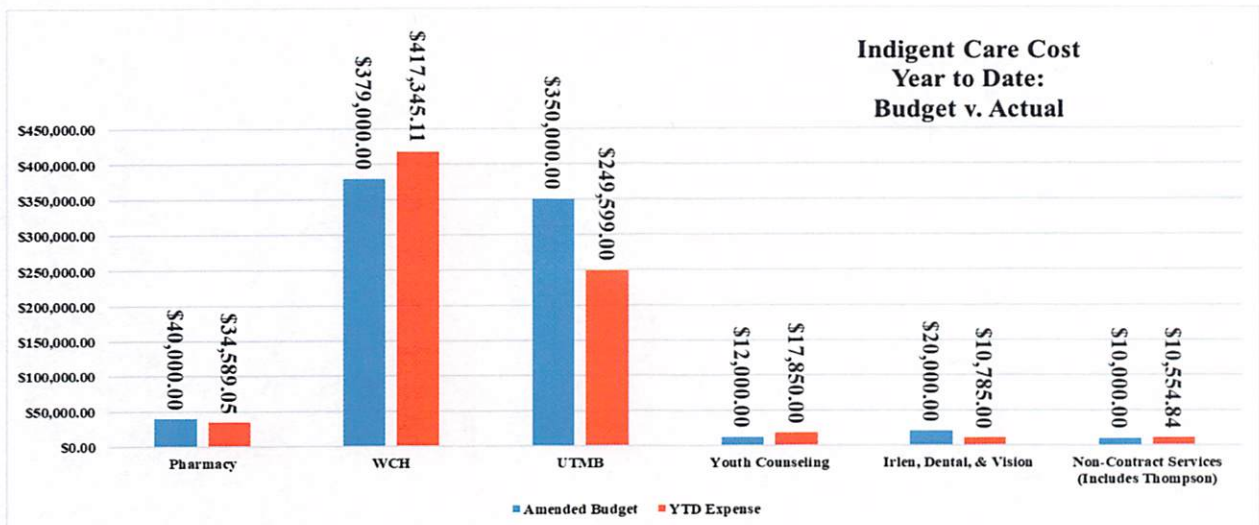
b. District Indigent Care Director Report

Next, Mrs. Ojeda was called on to give the Indigent Care report. Mrs. Ojeda reported that in November 2022, there were eighty-nine (89) indigent clients enrolled in the District's Indigent Care Program. This is a decrease of four (4) clients from the previous month. Mrs. Ojeda then informed the Board that the number of children who have received youth counseling in November increased by four (4) from the previous month to sixteen (16) children. Furthermore, as in the prior month, the District did not provide any Irlen services, but in November, one (1) resident used the vision benefits and five (5) used the dental benefits. (See **Exhibit "B"**).

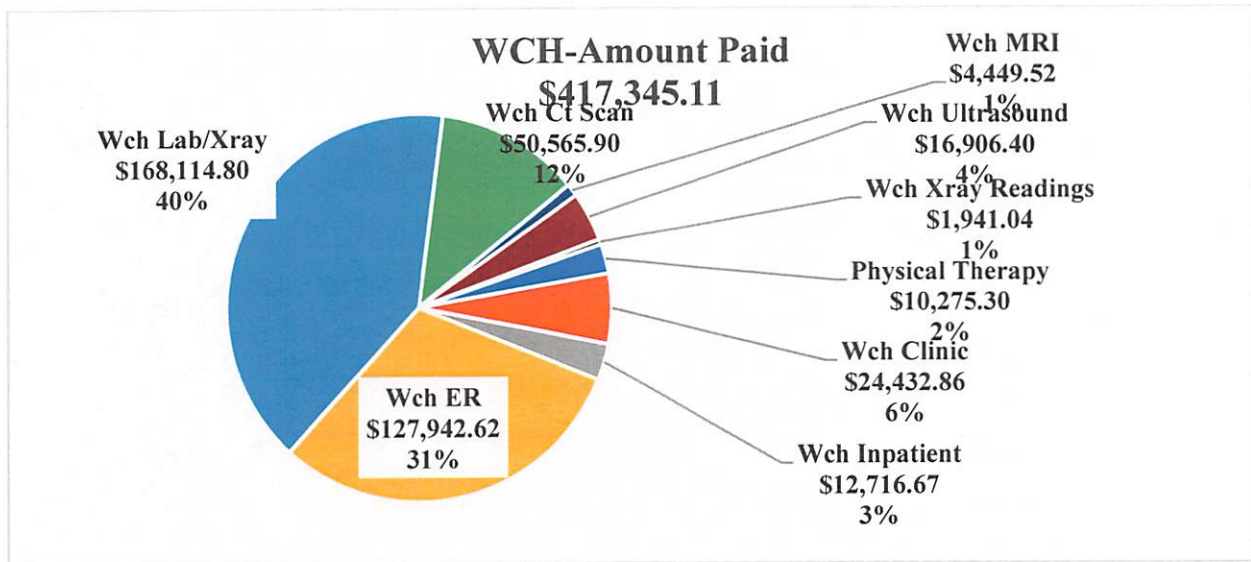
Mrs. Ojeda then reviewed the year-to-date indigent care cost as summarized in the following table:



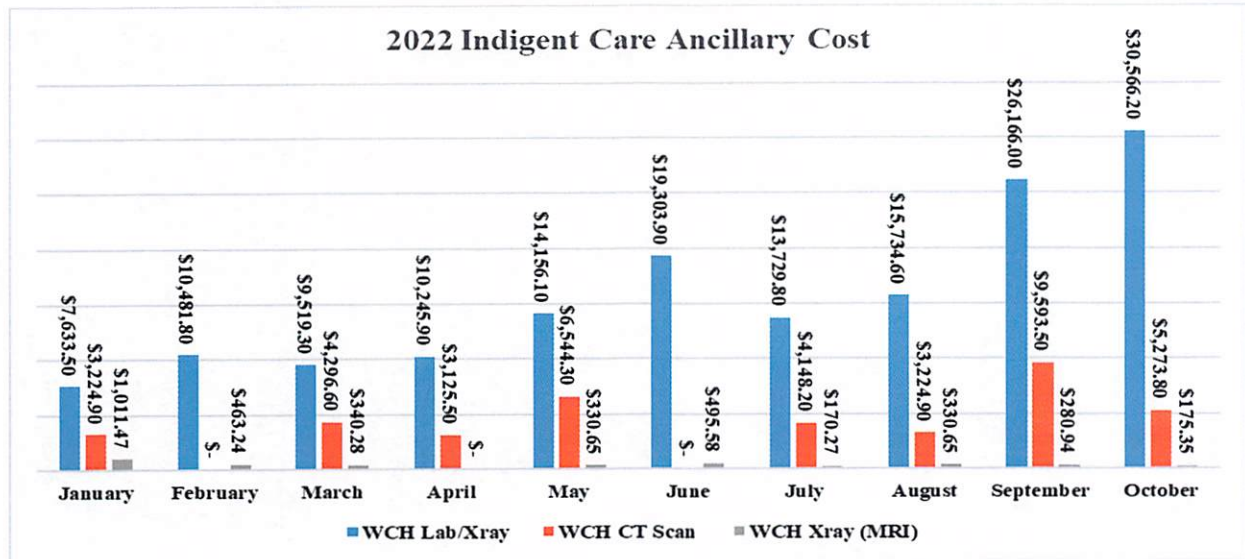
In addition, Mrs. Ojeda advised that prior to the budget amendment adopted earlier in the meeting, there were several indigent care budget items that were not within the budget as reflected below:



Regarding the Hospital specific expenses, year to date, the District has incurred \$417,345.11 in Hospital expenses. The chart below identifies how these funds were spent by the various departments at the Hospital.



In response to questions about the increased Lab and Xray cost, Mrs. Ojeda explained to the Board that the monthly amount for labs and x-rays in 2022 have steadily increased as illustrated in the following table.



Thereafter, Mrs. Ojeda presented reports on the County Van, Marcelous Williams, and the Winnie Stowell Emergency Medical Services (“WSEMS”). A summary of activity for August 2022 is as follows:

District Program	Residents Served	District Indigent Clients
County Van	76	5
Marcelous Williams	13	13
	Transports by WSVEMS	Transports From Riceland
WSEMS Transport Van	9	3

For the balance of her reports, Mrs. Ojeda referred the Board to the remainder of **Exhibit “B”** and asked that the Board members please contact her with any questions after they have had a chance to review them in more detail.

c. District General Counsel Report

Attorney Oxford had nothing to report outside of the agenda.

d. Coastal Gateway Report

Turning to the Coastal Gateway report, Ms. Kaley Smith, Coastal Gateway’s (“Health Center”) Chief Executive Officer, introduced Dr. Lyons to the Board and explained that Dr. Lyons was hired to be the Chief Medical Officer for the clinic to provide clinical and administrative services. Dr. Lyons thanked the Board for their support of the clinic and expressed his enthusiasm for the start of the clinic operations.

After a discussion with Dr. Lyons, Ms. Smith then moved to her report set forth in **Exhibit “C”**. This month, Ms. Smith and the Board spent a considerable amount time discussing the status of the building and the status of the approval of the Drainage plan. According to Ms. Smith, the building is completed and is in the holding lot in Mansfield, Texas awaiting delivery. Meanwhile, Ms. Smith received notice that the District’s second submission for drainage approval was returned by Chambers County for revisions. Upon receipt of the returned submission, the District’s engineer and Ms. Smith immediately updated the District’s drainage plan and refiled it on December 2, 2022. According to Ms. Smith, the County has 10-14 days to approve or return to the District for additional modifications.

e. LTC Report

The Board was then directed to **Exhibit “D”** for a review of the LTC Report for November 2022. (See **Exhibit “D”**). After being given time to review the report, the Board was asked if there were any questions but there were none.

f. Hospital Report

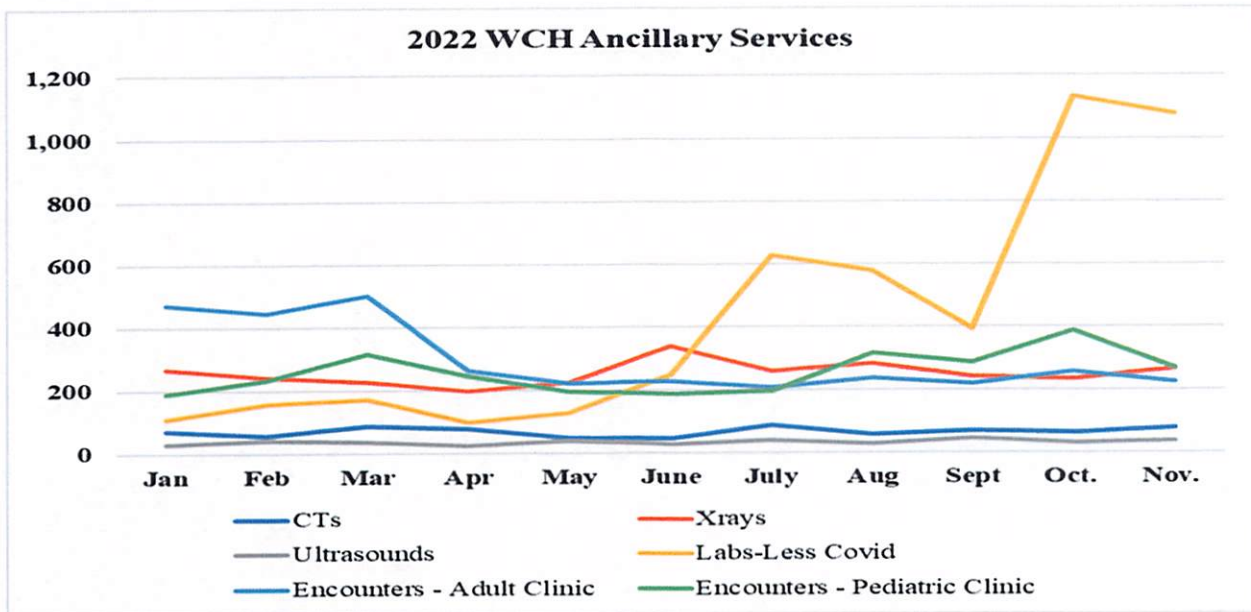
President Murrell then called on Mr. Javed to provide the Hospital’s monthly report for November 2022. Mr. Javed distributed his monthly report, which is set forth below, and began to review the statistics.

Census	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Average
ER Visits	210	161	215	229	240	245	242	194	244	260	261	227
Conversion to Inpatient/observation	17	18	26	24	20	16	19	15	18	24	14	19
Percentage	8%	11%	12%	10%	8%	7%	8%	8%	7%	9%	8%	8%
Transferred out of ER	13	10	12	12	11	15	13	7	16	8	10	12
Percentage	6%	6%	6%	5%	5%	6%	5%	4%	7%	3%	4%	5%
ER shifts covered by doctors	3%	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	10%	10%	6%	3%	5%
Number Inpatient days	187	171	127	74	125	163	174	191	170	136	183	155
Number Hospice days	0	4	8	5	7	0	0	8	6	5	5	4
Number Swingbed days	27	47	53	60	67	218	47	59	12	19	129	67
Number Observation days	47	38	29	24	51	14	34	39	27	26	32	33
Total All Inpt. Days	261	260	217	163	250	395	255	297	215	186	349	259
Average Inpatient days per day	8.42	9.29	7.00	5.43	8.06	13.17	8.23	9.58	7.17	6.00	11.63	8.54
CTs	70	56	85	77	47	44	86	55	68	61	76	66
Xrays	268	241	228	198	225	340	259	283	242	234	265	253
Ultrasounds	29	41	35	25	40	28	40	28	45	31	35	34
Labs-Covid (#encounters)	3,028	1,137	380	23	47	96	130	200	112	91	188	494
Labs-RPP (#encounters)	6	2	23	9	20	25	91	125	139	381	394	110
Labs-All Other (# encounters)	102	153	149	89	107	223	536	453	252	752	682	318
Encounters - Adult Clinic	471	445	499	262	220	227	206	236	218	257	224	297
Encounters - Pediatric Clinic	188	232	316	245	195	187	196	316	286	386	267	256
Behavioral Health patients	30	29	31	32	44	43	34	43	45	42	46	38
Physical Therapy	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	3	4	2	2	1

Upon the competition of the monthly statistics, Mr. Javid highlighted the following items:

- The Hospital has been tracking the clinic volumes and they have been declining. As such, they have been marketing for new providers and patients.
- Hospital has had another influx of Covid patients and inpatient.

In light of the concerns raised by Mr. Javed regarding the clinic’s numbers dropping, the Board then reviewed the status of Hospital’s ancillary services for the year. A chart of the various services is set forth below and once again, the Board inquired about the spike of labs being performed and was told that because of the time of year and respiratory illness circulating, the Hospital has been running the Respiratory Pathogens Panels (“RPP” labs more frequently).



The final outstanding issue that was discussed by the Hospital was the status of their discussions with the Clinic regarding updates to the Hospital’s Electronic Medical Records (EMR). Mr. Robert Jacobs, with the Hospital lead the discussion by explaining the issues were that: 1) the Hospital’s EMR system was outdated and not compatible with the newer EMR system that the clinic purchased; and 2) the cost to make the change to a newer system was excessive. After discussing the issues, Mr. Jacobs informed the Board that the Hospital was in the process of evaluating alternatives and cost but would have additional information at the next meeting.

Subsequently, the Parties engaged in an extensive dialogue with the representatives of the Clinic whereby staff at the Clinic provided several explanations for why it was critical that the Hospital update their system. According to representatives of Clinic, updating the Hospital’s EMR system was essential for the following reasons:

- Current proposal for the two (2) parties to fax medical records to each other was outdated, time-consuming, expensive, inefficient, and subject to error by the party entering the information into the system.
- Without both parties using the updated EMR system, the Clinic will not be able to track their medical services as efficiently because once an order is submitted to the Hospital for a service, there is no mechanism in the current system to track whether the order was fulfilled. Having the ability to track medical services is critical for the Clinic because of the reporting requirements for a Federally Qualified Health Clinic (“FQHC”).
- Most importantly, Health Resources & Services Administration (“HRSA”), the governing authority for FQHCs will not accept paper records as a source for their grant funds. Therefore, unless the Hospital updates their EMR system so that the medical records are exchanged electronically, the Clinic will not be able to utilize the paper records exchange process and receive the HRSA grant funds that are critical to FQHCs.

In response to the Hospital’s concerns about the cost, Dr. Lyons clarified that he had recently worked for a Hospital that underwent an update to their EMR system. According to Dr. Lyons, he was confident that the cost to make the upgrade was approximately \$64,000.00, which is substantially less than previously discussed costs. Moreover, Dr. Lyons reemphasized that the cost associated with paying employees on both sides to manually enter the medical information, as proposed, would quickly exceed the cost to purchase the new software.

At the end of the discussion, the Hospital agreed that they would investigate further and provide more information at the next meeting.

9. Discuss and take-action, if necessary, to adopt 2023 proposed budget.

President Murrell then called the Finance Committee to address this agenda item. The members of the Finance Committee asked if the Board had any further questions about the 2023 proposed budget but there was none.

Therefore, a motion was made by Director Stramecki to approve the 2023 Budget as presented during the Public Hearing and set forth in **Exhibit “A-2”**. The motion was seconded by Director Vratis, and unanimously approved by all the Board members.

10. **Discuss and take-action, if necessary, on receiving proposals from contractors to assist with the installation of the new facility on Highway 124 (i.e., foundation, electricity, plumbing, and concrete) and consider request for foundation change orders for the facility.**

No action was taken on this agenda item, but the Board asked that it be tabled until the next meeting in the event that there is the need for any change orders to the proposals adopted during the November 30, 2022 Special Meeting.

Consequently, a motion was made by Director Stramecki to table this agenda item. Director Stramecki’s motion was seconded by Director Vratis, and unanimously approved by all the Board members.

11. **Discuss and take-action, if necessary, on approving an agreement with VMG Healthcare Solutions to perform a fair market value assessment of the six (6) new Gulf Coast facilities.**

President Murrell called on Attorney Oxford to discuss this agenda item. Attorney Oxford presented the Board with a proposal by VMG Healthcare Solutions to perform fair market value appraisals for the six (6) nursing facilities being acquired by Gulf Coast. (See **Exhibit “E”**). According to Attorney Oxford, the cost to perform the appraisals is \$46,500.00 of which, Gulf Coast is going to reimburse the District for half of the cost, or \$23,250.00 per party.

Upon the conclusion of the discussion for this agenda item, a motion was made by Director Stramecki to authorize the engagement of VMG Healthcare Solutions to perform a fair market value appraisal for the six (6) nursing facilities being acquired from Gulf Coast, subject to Gulf Coast reimbursing the District for half the cost. This motion was seconded by Director Vratis, and unanimously approved by all the Board members.

12. Discuss and take-action, if necessary, on approving grant request.

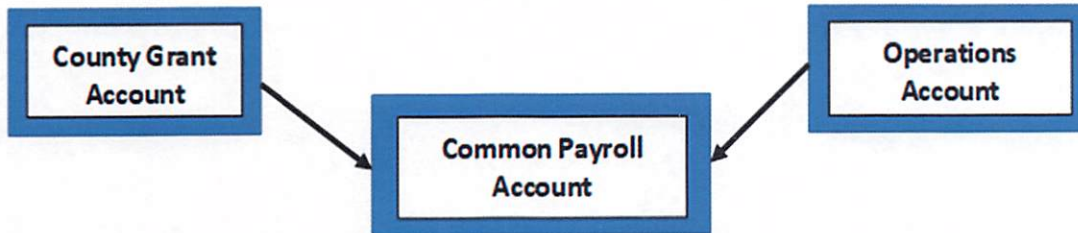
Turning to Agenda Item No. 12, staff presented the Board members with a packet that included grant requests for Marcellous Williams, Coastal Gateway, and Winnie Stowell Volunteer Emergency Medical Services (“WSVEMS”). (See **Exhibit “F”**). Staff explained that these grant requests needed to be considered before the end of 2022 in order to keep funding streams continuing through 2023. Attorney Oxford was called to discuss further and stated that he had reviewed the grant request for Marcellous Williams and Coastal Gateway and recommended to the Board that these requests be approved.

As to the WSVEMS, Attorney Oxford informed the Board members that before the meeting, he and Director Way met with the Indigent Care Director and Ms. Meredith Hamilton who is a Board member for the WSVEMS. Attorney Oxford explained that the group discussed the District’s concerns with the operations of the transport van whose staffing is the basis for the grant request. In addition, the District representatives told Ms. Hamilton that they were concerned about the WSVEMS’s accounting practices.

Given the concerns with the WSVEMS, Directors Way and Rollo, with the support of Attorney Oxford recommended that the District’s Board approve the WSVEMS’s request to increase grant funding for staffing the transport van from \$125,000.00 to \$152,744.40 to enable WSVESM to increase its hourly rate for the transport ambulance to \$16.00 per hour and to cover the estimated employment taxes of \$12,614.40. However, Director Way explained that the District’s financial obligation would be pro-rated for six (6) months of the meeting (i.e., June 14, 2023), or \$76,372.20, with the option to fund the remaining six (6) months upon a showing by the WSVEMS that the following conditions have been satisfied:

1. The WSVEMS will enter into an agreement with Hospital to provide transport services on an expedited basis; or provide proof that the WSVEMS has made a good faith attempt to secure an agreement.
2. The District’s funds shall not be used for overtime.

3. WSVESM shall implement a payment system for employees as required by the grant agreement which contemplates a payment model as set forth below:




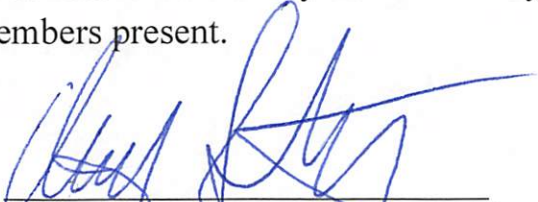
4. The WSVEMS shall operate on a fully staffed basis (i.e., three employees) separate and apart from the transport ambulance staff so as to ensure that the District's funds were being used to only pay for the transport ambulance staff as required in grant agreement.
5. The WSVEMS agrees to provide proof that they were billing timely for the transport ambulance because the WSVEMS's current collection rate was only twenty-one percent (21%).
6. The WSVEMS shall timely provide completed reports without the District's staff having to assist with preparing the reports.

Upon the competition of the discussion of the various grant requests, in particular, the WSVEMS request, a motion was made by Director Stramecki to approve the grant request by Marcellous Williams and Coastal Gateway as submitted to approve grant funding for the WSVESM subject to the terms set forth above. This motion was seconded by Director Vratis and unanimously approved by all the Directors.

{INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK}

Thereafter, President Murrell then called for any other such matters before the Board. There being none, the Board then confirmed the date for the next Regular Meeting on January 19, 2022. A motion was made by Director Stramecki at 8:07 p.m., to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Director Way and unanimously approved by all the Board members present.


Edward Murrell, Preside


Anthony Stramecki, Vice-President