

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
COMMISSIONERS COURT OF THROCKMORTON COUNTY, TEXAS**

Notice is hereby given that a special meeting of the above-named Commissioners Court will be held on Wednesday, the 24th day of April 2024 at 6:00 P.M., at 101 N. Minter , Throckmorton, Texas, at which time the following subjects will be discussed, to-wit:

1. Call meeting to order.
2. Discuss hospital operations with Throckmorton Memorial Hospital Board.
3. Discuss Rural Emergency Hospital designation with Throckmorton Memorial Hospital Board.
4. Adjourn.

Commissioners Court of Throckmorton County, Texas

Kayley Biles
Agenda Clerk

FILED FOR RECORD

at 2:08 o'clock P.M.

APR 19 2024

Diana Moore
CLERK COURT
THROCKMORTON, TX

**COMMISSIONER'S COURT
SPECIAL MEETING**

Throckmorton County Commissioner's Court met in Special Session on the 24th day of April, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., at 105 N. Minter, Throckmorton, TX. with the Throckmorton County Memorial Hospital Board, as which time the following subjects will be discussed, to-wit:

Casey Wells, Commissioner Pct. 1
Greg Brockman, Commissioner Pct. 3
Caleb Hodges, County Judge

Kasey Hibbitts, Commissioner Pct. 2
Klay Mitchell, Commissioner Pct. 4
Dianna Moore, County Clerk

Others Present: Michelle Clark, Brad Bellah, Harrell Keeter, Rick Reynolds, Mike Clark, Jack Fautleroy, David w/ New Light, Bryan Key, Kirby Gober, Dr. Beasley, Susan Leal, Kinsi Voss, Tina Hantz, and Charlotte Norman

1. Caleb Hodges called meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Kasey Hibbitts made the motion with Klay Mitchell seconding to table this line item. Motion carried 5-0. See attached Exhibit to the minutes which are the minutes taken from the Hospital Board during this meeting.
3. Bryan Key presented the Rural Emergency Hospital designation. The County will evaluate the dollar amount once the Hospital gathers financials and what they need. Will be put on the agenda at a later date.
4. Casey Wells made the motion with Greg Brockman seconding to adjourn at 7:48 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Witnessed my hand AND approved this the 13th day of May, 2023.


ATTEST: County Clerk


County Judge

**EXHIBIT to Special Commissioner's Court Meeting
April 24, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.
Minutes taken for the Hospital Board Joint Meeting**

Special Joint Meeting with Commissioners Court

Brad, Harrell, Rick, Mike, Caleb, Klay, Kasey, Greg, Kirby, Bryan, Casey, Jack, David, Dr. Beasley
Susan, Michelle Clark, Kinsi, Tina, Charlotte,

1. Call to Order – 6:01 by Bryan 6 members.
2. Opening Prayer – Jack
3. Open Forum – Commissioners discussing hospital operations w/ Board. Judge here for same goal to make things best we can for the county citizens. Jack – wifi down at hospital this week. Would like to mention that we check out Verizon business hotspot that we have a backup system. Karla Discussion of backup options and issues w/ hotspots. Caleb – make sure is not connected to the same fiber line. County has starlink as backup. Need to look into a backup for the hospital & clinic. Need to ask Randy B. about backup internet solution Caleb reviewed list of things heard talked about in board meetings – discussed audit and deficiencies and why are so far behind w/ bank reconciliations. Brad – why two years in a row are we so far behind. Has been mentioned two years in a row. Would like to see that cleaned up by 2023 audit. Klay – why are financials behind on audits – Kirby – is a combination of things – audit company behind and were slow getting things to auditors. Will try to do better job this year getting bank recs to them. Caleb – visited w/ several people and discussed complaints being addressed. Previous mtgs was told complaints need to be in written form to be valid. Why do they have to write them when nothing is done w/ their name and knowing nothing will change. If do write, will they have repercussions in the workplace that are not addressed? Bryan – are they going through administration to review. Dr. Beasley – unusual occurrences are discussed in dept head including complaints. Has had complaints on himself and there is no retribution and there are no consequences of that. Kirby – usually discuss complaints. Caleb – discussed developing protocol or procedure where if a staff member wanted to make a complaint, there would be a committee. Discussion of follow up with patients – Brad – need to make sure there is follow up on what steps were taken. Complaints going to board before administrative staff. Discussion of appropriate channels for complaints and is there any board follow up. Caleb – discussed clinic issue and complaints on Dr. Beasley. Said in meeting would discuss clinic issue and revisit in 90 days. Did follow up meeting happen. Caleb, numbers are better, Still receive complaints of patients unable to get in same day. At what point do we allow walk ins? When did 90 day mtg happen to discuss concerns of clinic. Dr. B, cannot guarantee that someone will be seen same day. Caleb – has visited w/ office manager about complaints and can resolve. There was a mtg held that said there were problems w/ clinic and would re-address in 90 days. Brad – better job can be done on follow up of certain issues. What does it look like on our end to ensure follow ups happen. Need to notate that will be on agenda. Bryan - Next board meeting will discuss how to follow up in board meeting going forward. See if can agree on procedure for following up on issues that go before board to see if issues have been resolved or addressed. Bryan asked – when go complaint and went to clinic to visit, did address w/ Kirby or Dr. Beasley as far as

administration? Individual board member does not get involved and directs to Kirby. Caleb – feels like it falls through cracks. Had board member complain but would not bring it up in a meeting. Rec'd direct follow up to ensure doing duty. Brad – have proper policies and procedures. Need to be cautious of doing things out of order like a previous board member did. What is the issue and what is the policy and procedure? Kirby – since he has been there, have had a handful of written complaints. Met with complainers discuss the issue and let the person know the outcome of the complaints. Meeting documented. Caleb – if someone comes to Kirby and makes a complaint verbally, they are not valid b/c they are not written down. Kirby – if involves wrongdoing by employee, it's easier to do specifics if it's in writing. Casey Wells – need form of documentation for complaints to be discussed. Write them down and give to Kirby. Dr. Beasley – things get written for protection of county and hospital and discuss during PIPS w/o putting county and hospital at risk. Dr. Beasley discussed w/ office manager next day and had no merit. Caleb discussed his view of the issue. Jack – scheduling patients has been addressed. Caleb – did approach about getting numbers for a CT scanner asking for middle of road number. After happened asked him again if had a chance. Dr. Beasley – have to divert people and does not have administrative time to come up w/ numbers and when trying to see patients does not have time to make separate documentations. Kirby – Board in past several years ago, have looked at CT machines and Beasley given board his specifics. Boils down to maintenance fee is about \$8k a month. Dr. Beasley – are cost based reimbursed so expenses would be tough first year. Kinsi – complaints addressed in PIPS. Do not do that. Kinsi take UOs which are unusual things that happen in the hospital which are falls. Do not bring complaints to PIPS meeting. Usually handled by Karla and Kirby sometimes CNO & CMO but don't take complaints to PIPS meeting. If need to we can. Need to decide if going to b/c all department heads are present. Dr. Beasley has been confronted about complaints in PIPS. Nothing resolved b/c Kirby says nothing and Dr. Beasley gets upset b/c things are taken personally instead of discussing like is a workplace. Caleb – moving forward, how are we going to address it. How does he know that issue will be addressed that concerns are taken w/ validity. Brad – everyone needs to be heard. Don't think they can always get the results they want. Need to document everything. Paper trail here is warranted. Bryan – need to have discussion as a board and will come up w/ P&P on handling complaints. Caleb – Is there a way or how do we get our Concord bill decreased paid about \$500K in 2022 \$440K in 2023. Did we have scheduling conflict w/ Concord and Dr. B work clinic, and they work ER. Dr. Beasley - Was not clear communication. Keep email paper trail. Was told that they couldn't find coverage for him that day so he was there to avoid abandonment by patient. Confronted scheduler and he called back and apologized b/c his server didn't deliver the email. Did physician work 24hrs. Who decided that both would work, and said he could work and was here. Dr. Beasley already had patients and was under the impression he was to work that day. Kirby - Not sure who made decision for him to stay. David – can review contract and see if there is avenue for complaint on fee for that day. Dr. Beasley was not confrontational w/ physician b/c it was not his fault. Caleb – who handles coverage issues. Discussion of why judge knows information before hospital board. Caleb – Karla passed out new employee job descriptions at board meeting & voted to approve. Who knows what is in them? Brad – there

are formalities that are put in front of & just pass it. Were there questions asked if anything changed. Casey – looking at digging deep for the hospital for support. Just would like for everyone to do their best. Brad – reminder that are volunteer. Are funds going to be put to the best use and is not a dig at anyone just to make sure support is being provided for the most appropriate reasons. Dr. Beasley will discuss current scheduling complaints w/ office manager tomorrow. Can appreciate concerns. If hospital goes away right now, county is still obligated to supply EMS to county. EMS is not cost based reimbursement and does not cost \$200K but costs more. Dr. Beasley – fighting things no one foresaw like Medicare Advantage. Klay asked if there's anything Comm court could do to support. Jack just understand that doing this as a volunteer and giving up time and that hearts are in correct place. Trying to get to best place which is why volunteer their time.

4. Discuss REH designation w/ Commissioners Court – Bryan – have been trying to discuss and figure out best approach for this designation. Explained program. Have had fortunate financial benefits due to COVID w/ CARES act funds and have been able to make improvements. Now dealing w/ Medicare Advantage plans issue & have been expenses that have increased and trying to keep up w/ market like salaries. Govt giving small hospital another option to go by through REH. Have been discussing for well over a year and trying to find best fit. To Bryan, would lost CAH designation and services of SWB & IP. Keep OP, ER, lab, x-ray, clinic but would be check govt provides monthly w/ designation. SWB has been niche for hospital and has paid well up until MA situation. If county could subsidize to a number to keep SWB and CAH designation going. There is a talk about including SWB w/ REH designation. If went to new designation now, would lose SWB. Fear that if change and implement SWB in future, would we be able to get back SWB patients that come to use. Staff done great job contacting larger hospital & keeping SWBs coming back to us. Greg, is that the only option there is? Bryan have looked at options there are to see what would be best way. Discussion of paying back subsidy. Caleb – if lose IP, would be more transfers & would be issues on deciding who gets to stay. Discussion of 24 hour average. David – Anson will go through first annual reporting and can receive some knowledge and guidance. David – discussed similar hospital that is a district. Caleb – agrees \$200K is not enough will be up to commissioners to decide what that number needs to go to. Bryan recommended minimum of \$600K in addition to current. Bryan – spends a lot of time crunching numbers. IGT & NH program has eaten up about \$700K. There are funds we can operate on & discussion of QIPP funding. Est for 2022 that county would net about \$923K. Estimating for this year is about \$400K so has dropped and will put more pressure on hospital to find funding if stay w/ CAH. More NHs has diluted funds. David reiteration of nursing home program and how funding works. Will need to meet regularly and keep an eye on hospital status if subsidy increased. Have safety net if want to go that route but do not want to give up services. No timeline on if SWB will be added to REH program. Bryan – need to put an end date w/ re-evaluations. Caleb discussed how county budget works. Prelim budget due Aug 15th. Could amend budget if comm increase for 2024. 2025 budget submitted in Aug. Brad – need to be specific on number approving and need a follow up date of next round and evaluate if number is working before August 15th. Caleb – Is \$600K mid year going to affect cost report and have to give it back. Will need to ask Desley to

verify. Bryan still waiting on sizeable Medicare payment. Caleb – next reg. scheduled meeting is on 13th. Klay – want to exhaust every measure possible to support hospital. David – no window for closure on REH program. Are keeping an eye on it and discuss it internally frequently. If ever feel like swb will not be included in REH, will go ahead and make change. Discussion of number of hospital looking into this. Other discussion of Medicare Advantage.

5. Adjourn Brad & Harrell 7:48 pm