

**Nocona General Hospital  
Board of Directors Meeting  
November 17, 2020  
*Via Teleconference***

**Board Members Present:**

Charles May, President  
Ken Koontz, Vice-President  
Chris Keck, Secretary  
Paula Webb  
Ron Brown

**Absent:**

Cris Lemon  
Kristal Ferguson

**Hospital Administration:**

Lance Meekins, CEO; Rebecca Hamilton, Admin. Assistant/HR

**Others Present:**

Brian Jackson, Jackson & Carter, PLLC

Meeting was called to order by President, Charles May at 12:35 PM.

Attorney Brian Jackson gave some instructions regarding the best practices for managing the teleconference.

**Approval of Previous Minutes**

Chris Keck made a motion to accept both the minutes of the October 20, 2020 board meeting as presented, and Paula Webb seconded. Charles polled those in attendance, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Community Input:** None

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

**Discussion and Possible Vote on October 2020 Financial Statements**

For October the hospital finished with 29 admissions, 611 outpatient discharges, including 1 surgery, 266 ER visits, 66 ambulance calls, 364 home health visits and 1336 clinic visits. Additionally, there were 9 observation admissions. This utilization resulted in gross revenue of \$1,667,000, missing budget by about 5.6%. The average daily census was 5.6 patients. The average length of stay was 6.0 days.

For year over year comparison:

- Gross revenue is right on budget, although there are variances among the individual departments, and is running about 3.5% above last year.
- The ADC is matching last year.
- Admissions are down about 9%.
- The ALOS is up about ½ day.
- Outpatient discharges are up 25%.
- ER visits are up 21%, with admits from the ER up 9.5%.
- Ambulance calls are up 9%.
- Obs admissions are about the same.

- O/P surgeries are down 53%.

On the net revenue front the hospital benefited from the QIPP year 3 quarter 4 payments and year 4 Sept comp 2 payments of \$480,000 and the quarterly EMS county subsidy of about \$15,000. Lance stated that he continues to book allowances between 62-65%, meaning the hospital is anticipating the collection of approximately \$0.35 per each dollar charged.

Expenses continue to exceed budget due to COVID. Specifically, the lab, COVID tests, and pharmacy, mainly Remdisiver, are exceeding budget and are the culprits when it comes to the supplies and expense line item. Lance stated that the hospital had done very well with salaries despite the additional overtime being paid and the COVID-19 pay the hospital is required to pay for COVID + employees. He reminded the board that he still had accrued all of the COVID-19 relief funds. Once there is a better feel for what will be allowed, he will be more confident of dropping some of it to the bottom line. FTE's continue to run close to last year's number at this point in the year.

Obviously for the month the QIPP payments allowed a positive bottom line despite the increased expenses and lower than expected revenue. Lance stated that his biggest concern right now is the collections process. Accounts receivable continues to increase. Insurance companies and self-pay are the driving factors behind this problem.

Ken Koontz made a motion to accept the October financial report as presented, and Ron Brown seconded the motion. Charles polled those in attendance, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Discussion and Possible Vote on Employee Health Insurance Renewal**

Renewal quotes have been received for the employee health insurance plan. Lance included his normal spreadsheet showing the various quotes received. He was pleased to state that, after a bit of arm twisting, the TPA and reinsurance carriers gave the hospital a renewal with no increase in rates; a first for the facility. This was mainly due to a solid year of claims, as the hospital is projected to come in well under the aggregate attachment point. He stated that the hospital is projected to have a net cost to the hospital for 2020 of about \$420,000 including the pharmacy cost. For 2019 the hospital net cost was about \$510,000. Employee cost sharing has remained the same for the past 5 years, so if the Board wishes to change those amounts now would be the time so we can advise the employees.

Ron Brown made a motion to accept the renewal with no increases as presented, and Paula Webb seconded. Charles polled those in attendance, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Administrative Report**

Lance presented the following report to the Board:

#### Coronavirus Update

- Testing and positive results have ramped up over the past 3-4 weeks.
- The positive results are split about 50-50, Nocona residents and non-Nocona residents.
- Late October saw a spike in admissions as we reached 6 for several days.
- Since November the average census has been between 1-2.
- Supplies are in good shape.
- Currently have 4 employees out, utilizing 1 staffing agency RN on a 13-week contract.
- Reviewing options for increased oxygen delivery, possibly a mini-bulk tank.
- Have established COVID clinic patient parking north of the clinic with tent; providers are performing visits outside to prevent utilizing clinic rooms at this time.
- Have expanded our transfer agreements to include other rural hospitals.
- Have purchased 2 additional bi-paps and 4 vapotherms, and are renting 2 bipaps.
- Additionally have 2 vents and another 2 transfer vents with bipap capability.

- Renting 3 beds that allow proning of the patient.
- Renting additional blood pressure monitors specifically for the COVID area.

COVID	Tested	Positive	Negative
MARCH	15	0	15
APRIL	34	4	30
MAY	11	0	11
JUNE	29	5	24
JULY	60	10	50
AUGUST	103	21	82
SEPTEMBER	111	36	75
OCTOBER	278	102	176
NOVEMBER	195	84	107
DECEMBER			
TTL	836	262	570
	ICU	M/S	Staff Absenteeism
URHCS	16	50	70
Clay Co	0	1	Yes
Electra	0	7	Yes
Encompass			
Faith	0	3	0
Graham	0	7	Yes
Hamilton	0	0	0
Hardeman	0	2	1
Kell West	0	3	Yes
NGH	0	1	4
Promise			
Seymour	0	2	0
Wilbarger	4	1	2

**Medical Staff Report:** Nothing to Report

**Other Business:** None

**Meeting was adjourned at 1:16 PM.**

---

Charles May, President

---

Chris Keck, Secretary