

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING OF THE HOSPITAL SERVICE
DISTRICT #2 OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD ON
FEBRUARY 5, 2025

A regular monthly business meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Hospital Service District #2 of the Parish of St. Mary was held on Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. in the Media Room of the Morgan City Harbor & Terminal District Building located at 7327 Highway 182, Morgan City, LA 70380.

PRESENT: Dr. William A. Cefalu, Jr., Donald Stephens, Jackie Cheramie, Angelena Brocato, William McCarty and Thane Aucoin

Also present: William E. Bourgeois, Counsel for Hospital Service District #2

Dr. Cefalu called the meeting to order.

Dr. Cefalu lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken. Those Board Members present and those absent listed above.

On motion of Mrs. Brocato, second by Mr. Stephens and unanimously carried, the Board approved and signed the Minutes of January 15, 2025.

Dr. Cefalu opened the floor for Guest/public comments. Raymond Pisani with Respiratory Therapy at Ochsner St. Mary (OSM), Dr. Larry Nelson, Mrs. Lea Hebert, a member of the Hospital Governing Board, Dane Robison with Robison Wealth Management and Bill Decker with the Daily Review were present. Attorney Bourgeois then introduced Dr. Danielle Vauclin, Dean of Nursing & Allied Health at Fletcher Technical Community College. Dr. Vauclin made a power point presentation of all the programs available, the success rates, the accreditation status and future programs to be offered at Fletcher Technical Community College. She also discussed the credit program admissions numbers, the number of sessions given per year, the approximate costs and other scholarships/funding that is available for students. Further discussions were held and Dr. Vauclin stated that she would conduct a survey as to the actual deficiency of positions needed in the District and that there is 100% job placement upon graduation for their programs. Lea Hebert made brief comments regarding the time line of the repairs to the hospital and a brief discussion was held. She was informed that the repairs are in the process and are moving forward. Raymond Pisani then echoed the concerns of the time line. Further discussions were held. The repairs/improvements to the hospital are the HSD #2 highest priority.

Mrs. Cheramie presented the Financial Report for the period ending December 31, 2024. Upon motion of Mr. Stephens, second by Mr. McCarty and unanimously carried, the Board approved the financials/payables as presented.

Dr. Cefalu called for discussion and any action on Resolution for canvassing the Results of

the Election. After a brief discussion, upon motion of Mrs. Brocato, second by Mrs. Cheramie and yeas by Dr. Cefalu, Mrs. Cheramie, Mrs. Brocato, Mr. McCarty and Mr. Aucoin and with Mr. Stephens abstaining, the following Resolution was adopted by the Board, to-wit:

RESOLUTION

A resolution providing for canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the special election held in Hospital Service District No. 2 of the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, December 7, 2024, to authorize the levy of a special tax therein.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Hospital Service District No. 2 of the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of Hospital Service District No. 2 of the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana (the "District"), that:

SECTION 1. Canvass. This Governing Authority does now proceed in open and public session to examine the official tabulations of votes cast at the special election held in Hospital Service District No. 2 of the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, December 7, 2024 (the "Election"), to authorize the levy of a special tax therein pursuant to the following proposition (the "Proposition"):

PROPOSITION (MILLAGE)

Shall Hospital Service District No. 2 of the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana (the "District"), levy a tax of 9 mills on all the property subject to taxation within the District, for a period of 10 years, beginning with the year 2025 and ending with the year 2034 (an estimated \$3,443,827 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), to be used to improve, maintain, operate and support hospital and other health care facilities in the District, including but not limited to repairing existing facilities, acquiring equipment, and otherwise supporting the provision of hospital services?

This Governing Authority does further proceed to examine and canvass the returns of the Election thereof.

SECTION 2. Election Results. According to the official certified tabulation of votes cast at said Election, there was a total of 2,128 votes cast IN FAVOR OF the Proposition and a total of 924 votes cast AGAINST the Proposition, resulting in a majority of 1,204 votes cast IN FAVOR OF the Proposition. The Proposition was therefore duly CARRIED by a majority of the votes cast by the qualified electors voting at the Election.

SECTION 3. Promulgation of Election Result. The results of said election shall be promulgated by publication in the manner provided by law, after receipt from the Secretary of State's office of the actual costs of the election, as required by §18:1292 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended.

SECTION 4. Declaration. The foregoing results of the Election are hereby declared by this Governing Authority and shall be published as required by law.

SECTION 5. Procès Verbal. A Procès Verbal of the canvass of the returns of the Election shall be made and a certified copy thereof shall be forwarded to the Secretary of State, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who shall record the same in her office; another certified copy thereof shall be forwarded to the Clerk of Court and Ex-Officio Recorder of Mortgages in and for the Parish of St. Mary, who shall record the same in the Mortgage Records of said Parish; and another copy thereof shall be retained in the archives of this Governing Authority.

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Dr. Cefalu called for discussion and any action on The Communication Institute's (TCI) Post-Election communication proposal. Mrs. Barbara Carey, President TCI congratulated the Board on the passage of the "HSD #2 tax" and praised the Board for their hard work and dedication, especially

Dr. Cefalu, Attorney Bourgeois and Mrs. Brocato for the extra time devoted. Each Board Member was presented a plaque from TCI for their contributions towards "A Win for Healthcare in St. Mary Parish." At this time Mrs. Carey discussed the post-election proposal and a brief discussion was held. All Board Members thanked Mrs. Carey for her service and she stated that it had been a pleasure to work with each and every Board Member. On motion of Mrs. Brocato, second by Mrs. Cheramie and nays by Mr. Aucoin, Mr. McCarty and Mr. Stephens, the Board declined to approve the fee schedule of TCI for post election communication services.

Dr. Cefalu called for discussion and any action on Community Outreach. He stated that Jennifer Wise, Chief Nursing Officer and CEO of Ochsner St. Mary (OSM) was unavailable to provide an update on Community Outreach matters. Mrs. Hebert inquired as to submission of community outreach invoices and a brief discussion was held.

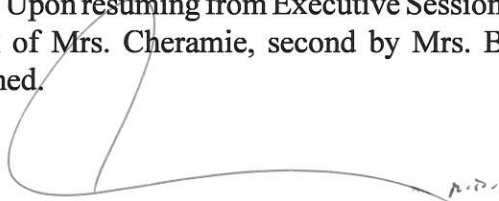
Dr. Cefalu called for discussion and any action on FEMA Reimbursement/Capital Outlay Request process. Attorney Bourgeois stated that there were many complexities and decisions need to be made between HSD #2 and OSM but things were moving as fast as they can. Discussions were held as to the "tentative timeline" contain in the meeting packets and that more information will be provided at the March meeting.

Dr. Cefalu called for discussion and any action on the OSM front entrance overhand assessment. Attorney Bourgeois stated the prior facts of this matter and that it was a coordination between all parties to proceed expeditiously. More updated information will be provided at the March meeting.

Dr. Cefalu then gave his Chairman's Report. He stated that we need to move forward quickly to address the needs of the facility prior to hurricane season, hopefully within the next 30 days. He also stated that the "flu" is bad this year and a brief discussion was held as to the current flu vaccine.

On motion of Mr. Stephens, second by Mr. Aucoin and unanimously carried, the Board retired into Executive Session to discuss strategic planning pursuant to *LA R.S. 46:1071, et. seq.*

Upon resuming from Executive Session and with no other business to come before the Board, motion of Mrs. Cheramie, second by Mrs. Brocato and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.



William A. Cefalu, Jr., M.D., Chairman



Jackie Cheramie, Secretary/Treasurer