

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING OF THE HOSPITAL SERVICE
DISTRICT #2 OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD ON
MARCH 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, March 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., Jackie Cheramie, Angelena Brocato, William McCarty and Thane Aucoin

Donald Stephens arrived after Roll Call

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. Aucoin and unanimously carried, the Board approved and signed the Minutes of February 5, 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, St. Mary Parish Council Member at Large District 11 Dean Adams and Bill Decker with the Daily Review were present. Attorney Bourgeois advised that the Guest from South Louisiana Community College will be rescheduled for the April meeting.

Dr. Cefalu called for the Financial Report and the approval of payables. Mrs. Cheramie presented the Financial Report for the period ending January 31, 2025. Upon motion of Mr. McCarty, second by Mrs. Brocato and unanimously carried, the Board approved the financials/payables as presented.

Dr. Cefalu called for discussion and any action on a Resolution of Appreciation and Gratitude for Mrs. Kendra H. Thomas. After a brief discussion, upon motion of Mr. Aucoin, second by Mr. McCarty and unanimously carried, the following Resolution was adopted by the Board, to-wit:

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE

WHEREAS Mrs. Kendra Hebert-Thomas served as member of the Board of Commissioners for Hospital Service District No. 2 of the Parish of St. Mary since being appointed in September 2020, and

WHEREAS Mrs. Kendra Hebert-Thomas served faithfully, diligently, and loyally as a devoted and contributing Commissioner of this public body for over four (4) years, serving as its Vice-Chair since January of 2021, and

WHEREAS Mrs. Kendra Hebert-Thomas has decided to relocate from our community, necessitating her resignation from role as a Commissioner, and

WHEREAS the members of the Hospital Service District No. 2 of the Parish of St. Mary wish to acknowledge publicly their appreciation and gratitude for Mrs. Kendra Hebert-Thomas' devotion and service to the District and community.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Hospital Service District No. 2 of the Parish of St. Mary ("District"), through the unanimous adoption of this resolution, that the Board of Commissioners, and on behalf of the citizens of the District, does hereby tender to Mrs. Kendra Hebert-Thomas, its congratulations on her new relocation and position, its appreciation and gratitude for her valuable service and its well wishes in all future endeavors.

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Dr. Cefalu called for discussion and any action on Community Outreach. Mrs. Jennifer Wise, Chief Nursing Officer and CEO of OSM gave a brief update on the past and current/future events/activities scheduled for community outreach. Mr. Stephens arrived.

Dr. Cefalu called for discussion and any action on FEMA Reimbursement/Capital Outlay Request process. Attorney Bourgeois advised that Ochsner opted to do the Phase #1 Option of the repairs to the building and will totally fund said project. He stated that Ochsner will solely apply for FEMA Reimbursement and that the HSD #2 request for FEMA Reimbursement has been withdrawn. Further discussions were held as to these matters. Attorney Bourgeois stated that the Capital Outlay Request process will continue and will be a long term goal.

Dr. Cefalu called for discussion and any action on OSM architectural, engineering and front entrance overhang assessments. Attorney Bourgeois gave the Board an update on these matters. He stated that Grace Hebert will proceed with the annual Architectural Assessment and give an updated spreadsheet prioritizing the necessary repairs and provide the actual costs of the Phase II Option. With regards to the "overhang," he advised that a detailed engineering assessment had been provided. He gave the recommendations of Grace Hebert and stated that a proposal for the said repairs will be forthcoming. Discussions were held as to any danger concerns regarding the overhang. Mrs. Wise updated the Board on the status of Phase 1 (sealing the building and caulking the windows). She stated that Ochsner will obtain at least three (3) bids even though they do not have to abide by the public bid law and the reasons thereof. A brief discussion was held regarding OSM totally paying for Phase 1 and the reasons thereof (time restraints before hurricane season). Discussions were held as to the installation of a new HVAC system, to which Attorney Bourgeois stated that once the Architectural Report is received, the building is sealed/insulated and a study of air leakage is performed, further discussions/decisions would be held regarding this matter.

Dr. Cefalu called for discussion and any action on medical, nursing and allied health scholarship policies and procedures. Attorney Bourgeois reviewed the drafts/forms of the HSD #2 Scholarship Guidelines, Applications, etc contained in the meeting packets. He requested that the Board Members review and return to April's meeting with questions/concerns regarding the Application forms/process. Discussions were also held regarding the needs of the hospital regarding staffing in radiology, possible summer nurse techs and medical apprentice programs, with the ultimate goal being local persons/students remaining and working in the parish at OSM. Attorney Bourgeois discussed the growing shortfall of physicians, predominately in rural areas. Further discussions were held as to these matters.

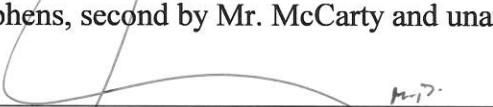
Dr. Cefalu called for discussion and any action on Boards and Commission training. Attorney Bourgeois discussed with Board the documents in their meeting packets regarding Ethics Training, Sexual Harassment Prevention and legal guidance for parish Board/Commissioners.

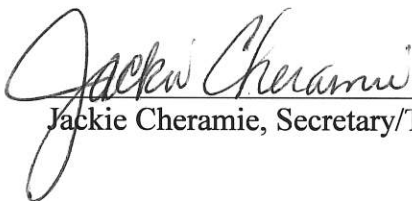
Dr. Cefalu called for discussion and any action on changing meeting times from 6:00 P.M. to 12:00 noon. A brief discussion was held regarding the work/life balance and the huge sacrifice made by various Board Members during the evening hours, especially during the promotion of the tax initiative. Attorney Bourgeois stated that he had cleared/discussed this matter with the Parish Government and the District Attorney's Office and no one had any objections. Further discussions were held as to the changing of the Board Meeting time and the reasons thereof. On motion of Mrs. Cheramie, second by Mrs. Brocato and unanimously carried, the Board voted to change the meeting time from 6:00 P.M. to 12:00 Noon beginning with the April meeting. The meeting location and dates will remain the same.

At this time Dr. Cefalu gave his Chairman's Report. He stated that Mrs. Wise did a great job giving an update on the building repairs and that things are moving well. He also gave Ochsner a big thank you from the Board for the expenditures being made to prepare the building before the hurricane season.

On motion of Mr. Stephens, second by Mr. McCarty 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, on motion of Mr. Aucoin, second by Mrs. Brocato and unanimously carried, the Board authorized Attorney Bourgeois to proceed with the matter as discussed in Executive Session. With no other business to come before the Board, motion of Mr. Stephens, second by Mr. McCarty and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.


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


Jackie Cheramie, Secretary/Treasurer