

# SOUTHERN INYO HEALTHCARE DISTRICT

## Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors Minutes

Date: Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Due to the COVID-19 state of emergency, the Board of Directors will conduct this meeting via video and tele-conference. A physical location will not be available to the public. You may participate in the meeting by using the call in number specified in this Notice of Meeting. If you wish to speak to an item on the agenda, please inform the Board Chair when she asks for public comment. The Board's normal rules for public comment apply: speakers are limited to 3 minutes per item. You may also email comments to [mperkins@sihd.org](mailto:mperkins@sihd.org) prior to the start of the meeting, and your comment(s) will be distributed to the directors at the meeting.

If you need special assistance to participate in the meeting, please contact Maritza Perkins at 760-876-2210, and the District will attempt to accommodate your need.

### Participate by using the following:

Call-In # 310-747-3280

Access 4506953

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#### **PRESENT** (via phone)

Jaque Hickman, President

Charles Carson, Vice President

Bruce Branson, Treasurer

Carma Roper, Secretary

#### **ABSENT**

Mark Lacey, Director

#### **OTHERS**

Peter Spiers, CEO

Maritza Perkins, Executive Assistant

Chester Beedle, Financial Consultant

Scott Nave, Legal Counsel

Fred Hawkins, Ridgecrest Regional (public)

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m.

Treasurer Branson moved to approve the 12/08/2020 Regular Board meeting agenda. Vice President Carson seconded.

#### **Roll call-**

##### Board of Directors:

Jaqueline Hickman  
President

Charles Carson  
Vice President

Carma Roper  
Secretary

Bruce Branson  
Treasurer

Mark Lacey  
Director

Bruce Branson	"AYE"
Charles Carson	"AYE"
Carma Roper	"AYE"
Jaquie Hickman	"AYE"

## II. BUSINESS ITEMS

**A. Consent Agenda:** These items are considered routine and non-controversial and will be approved by one motion. If a member of the Board or public wishes to discuss an item, it will be removed from Consent and considered separately at the end of Business Items.

### 1. Approval of Minutes

#### a. Special Board Minutes of November 17, 2020

**Action:** Treasurer Branson moved to approve the November 17, 2020 Special board minutes with adding the missing word "approved" to the minutes. Secretary Roper seconded.

#### **Roll Call-**

Bruce Branson	"AYE"
Charles Carson	"AYE"
Carma Roper	"AYE"
Jaquie Hickman	"AYE"

#### B. Update on GE Healthcare Optima 200amx Portable System (Financial Consultant)

Chet Beedle, Financial Consultant provided an update on the GE Healthcare Optima 200 amx portable system. The Board of Directors approved the purchase of the portable system. Mr. Beedle recommended that we consider checking with GE because they have a special rate of interest for government hospitals and other government entities. GE requested information from SIHD which SIHD provided to see if we were qualified. GE stated that SIHD was not eligible for that financing. A commercial lender doesn't make sense because we will be paying 6-7% of interest to the lender. SIHD does have the ability to pay for the portable system with the proceeds of the revenue bonds. The indenture states "*The proceeds from the sale of bonds will be used to fund working capital and capital improvements.*" This is a capital improvement. SIHD can put in a request for reimbursement from the trustee of the bonds. GE stated that they would accept 30% down at time of order, 20% down time of delivery and 50% down at the time of the installation. SIHD will be able to control the order timing.

No action needed. The purchase of the GE Healthcare Optima 200amx portable system was approved by the board on November 10, 2020 Regular Board Meeting. The Board of Directors are in an agreement with the plan of action as presented by Chet Beedle.

#### C. Omnicare Rate Increases (CNO)

Peter Spiers stated that Omnicare does this on an annual basis. It is about a 10% increase on the fees/rates. Omnicare is responsible for all medications for all patients, medication review and appropriateness. This is a contractual piece of the agreement. Scott Nave stated that under the agreement if the district did not want to agree to the rate increase we have the option to terminate the contract. But the district does not need to approve the increase (take action).

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#### D. Sick Leave Donation Policy

Scott Nave stated that administration and legal counsel was approached by Michael Floyd, CNO about employees who were interested in donating their accrued sick leave hours to other employees who have used all of their own sick leave. SIHD has a policy for this for PTO hours but not sick leave. Sick leave is different from PTO because sick leave is required by law. Presented today is a temporary sick leave donation policy, a sick leave donation request and agreement that allows employees to donate sick leave (must have 24 hours remaining in their sick leave bank).

Taxes- Benefits that are accrued are considered to be earned income subject to taxes. Even if they are donated. All parties donating and receiving the donation of hours should consult with their tax advisor regarding the implementation of the transaction. The IRS has a policy on this. In regards to the permanent sick leave policy, SIHD will be consulting with the IRS guidance on this so we are not creating any issues for the district.

The presented temporary sick leave donation policy does not have an expiration date. It does say it can be revoked at any time by the board of directors. As Michael Floyd, Barbara Southey, Peter Spiers and Scott Nave discussed they anticipated that this policy will remain in effect for 2-3 months until they can come back to the board with a complete updated package for PTO, Sick leave and new employee handbook.

**Action:** Secretary Roper moved to approve the temporary sick leave donation policy. Treasurer Branson seconded.

#### Roll call-

Carma Roper	"AYE"
Bruce Branson	"AYE"
Charles Carson	"AYE"
Jaquie Hickman	"AYE"

### III. REPORTS

#### A. Financial Report

Chet Beedle, Financial Consultant reviewed the September 2020 financials.  
*(Financial reports are provided at the end of these minutes.)*

#### B. CEO Report

Peter Spiers reported the operations review. The current surge of Covid-19 and the stay at home order has impacted SIHD. However, we are functional and all services are operating. In the past week there are no new cases in-house. Peter stated that there are 6 areas of concern that need to have consent diligence (Skilled Nursing, Patient Financial Services- Accounts Receivable and Collections, ER- nursing, Lab, Rehab and Radiology). There are 8 positive cases in our skilled nursing. We have an excellent system of tiered levels of care and it has worked phenomenally over the last months. The physicians have been every helpful. There has been a renew efforts in collections. The lab services have been stretched to the max (with 3 Abbott machines/testing). We had to let go of two nurses due to disciplinary actions. We do have two other nurses coming in. The acute and swing is being watched by the physicians (hospitalist). Rehab has taken a hit.

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Our wound care is up and running. SIHD has been doing promoting (flyers and radio spots). We look forward to working with UC Davis Telemedicine.

The Board of Directors look forward to hearing the radio spots and are glad that Peter Spiers is doing better.

**C. Employee of the Month- December**

Employees of the month of December-

Rod Young, PT  
Parul Patel, Lab Manager

There will be a holiday lunch on December 16<sup>th</sup> for the employees. The Board of Directors are welcome to join. There are other employee activities planned for the whole month of December.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

None.

**V. BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Vice President Carson is glad to hear Peter is doing better and looks forward to him returning to the hospital.

Treasurer Branson would like to have the hospital signs up.

President Hickman stated that SIHD has a rented generator at the hospital. David with DWP has helped Jeff Sheffield, Director of Facilities.

Secretary Roper is happy to hear that Peter is getting better and would like to wish everyone a safe and Covid-free holiday. We are hoping for a better 2021.

**VI. CLOSED SESSION**

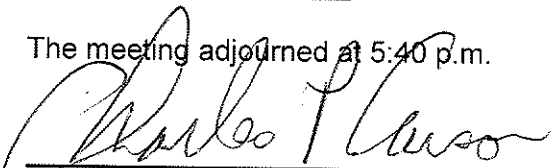
A. Existing Litigation (Govt Code 54956.9): Chapter 9 Bankruptcy

**VII. CLOSED SESSION REPORT**

In closed session, the Board and counsel discussed the chapter 9 bankruptcy.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Board President or Secretary

2-9-21  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Board of Directors:**

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Charles Carson  
Vice President

Carma Roper  
Secretary

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Treasurer

Mark Lacey  
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