

MINUTES OF THE **HOSPITAL SERVICE DISTRICT MEETING** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2009** AT SEVEN (7:00) P.M. IN ST BERNARD PARISH COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LOCATED AT 8201 WEST JUDGE PEREZ DRIVE, CHALMETTE, LOUISIANA.

The Hospital Service District met on Wednesday, May 27, 2009 in the St Bernard Parish Council Chambers pursuant to notice given to each member and posted in the manner required by law.

The Chairman, Mr. Dysart, convened the meeting at 7:10 p.m. and continued with calling the roll.

There were present: Mr. Dysart, Mr. Ron Chapman, and Mr. James DiFatta.

There were absent: None.

Also present were: Recording Secretary Joanna Ragas, Parish President Craig Taffaro, Councilmen Wayne Landry and George Cavignac.

Mr. Dysart led the Pledge of Allegiance and delivered the invocation.

Mr. Dysart stated that although the HSD board has not received an official notice of Drs. Bertucci and Verrette's resignation from the board, they were submitted to the Council effective 5/15/09. He thanked both the doctors for their service to the HSD and to St. Bernard Parish before and after Hurricane Katrina. Mr. Chapman also thanked the doctors for the medical education they have given him in this process. Mr. DiFatta stated the doctors are a pair of individuals that have given of themselves. Most people do not realize the busy schedule that they worked and the hours they put in for the HSD. He said the board would not be at this stage without their efforts. They are stepping down but their tenure would have been up at the end of 2009 anyway. Mr. Landry then requested that the board appoint the doctors as advisors to the HSD. Mr. Dysart said he never received a formal resignation from either Dr. Bertucci or Verrette and asked if Dr. Verrette's resignation went to the Council also.

**#1**

On motion of Mr. Chapman, seconded by Mr. DiFatta, it was moved to approve the minutes of the 4/22/09 and 4/29/09 HSD meetings.

The above and foregoing having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereupon resulted as follows:

**YEAS:** Chapman, DiFatta.

**NAYS:** None.

**ABSENT:** None.

The Chairman, Mr. Dysart, cast his vote as **YEA**.

And the motion was declared **adopted** on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2009.

**#2**

On motion of Mr. DiFatta, seconded by Mr. Chapman, it was moved to approve the Master Site Plan for the Airport Tract property.

GSP/Sizeler gave a presentation as to their recommendations for the site plan. Trip Glankler, GSP, stated that Option #5 is their recommendation with a 50,000 sq ft Administrative Services Building (ASB). Mr. Dysart asked if this is for the 11.6 acre plan. Mr. Landry stated that the board needs to present their

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immediate plans and future plans. Dr. Verrette stated that they received communication that before the construction plans are finalized the board needs to present a master plan and their immediate plans. Mr. DiFatta stated that he recalled the Meraux Foundation was interested in the 20 year plans. The footprint is necessary to supply to the A/E. Mr. Dysart stated that the board needs guidance if the Meraux Foundation says they are ok with the original plan but not the 20 year plans. Mr. DiFatta stated that he does not believe it should be a take or leave proposition. Mr. Dysart stated that it is important to give the A/E the site plans for what the Meraux Foundation is willing to give the board, so the A/E can proceed with the renderings. Mr. Glankler agreed. Dr. Bertucci stated without future expansion possibilities the board may need to look at building on another site. The 5 year restriction needs to be considered so the facility can be expanded. Mr. Dysart stated that he will send the package to the Meraux Foundation to get approval. Mr. DiFatta asked if it were Phase I with 90'. Mr. Dysart stated they are looking to approve option #5. Dr. Verrette stated that the board strongly consider if there is no option of a guarantee of expansion.

On motion of Mr. Chapman, seconded by Mr. DiFatta, it was moved to adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION HSD #32-09**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Bernard Parish Hospital Service District hereby approves the Master Site Plan for the Airport Tract property and request that it be forwarded to the Meraux Foundation for approval of Option #5.

The above and foregoing having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereupon resulted as follows:

**YEAS:** Chapman, DiFatta.

**NAYS:** None.

**ABSENT:** None.

The Chairman, Mr. Dysart, cast his vote as **YEA**.

And the motion was declared **adopted** on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2009.

**#3**

On motion of Mr. DiFatta, seconded by Mr. Chapman, it was moved to review and approve the hospital program.

Mr. Dysart stated that the board received the plan from Mr. Landry, Dr. Bertucci, and Dr. Verrette. Phil Wendling, Hammes, gave the presentation of the plan which included 101,000 sq ft pending that a Medical Office Building is built along with the hospital. Mr. Dysart asked if there were plans to use trailers if there is no funding for the MOB. Mr. DiFatta stated that the board needs to put the program in place and if they can't get funding then those services will have to go back into the hospital. Mr. Dysart stated that the only issue he had with that is he would be remised to vote for something that they do not have funds in place for. Mr. Chapman asked what the minimum square footage for the Admin services would be. Mr. Wendling stated it would take 30,000 sq ft. Mr. Dysart asked if the hospital would be fully functional if these services had to go back into the hospital. Mr. Wendling stated it would be fully functional but he is not sure it would be viable. Dr. Verrette stated that this reflects a lack of understanding of what a fully functional hospital means. You would have to take out services that are required to put these services back in. The hospital won't be able to survive. Specialist will not admit a patient to the hospital from other areas outside of St. Bernard. This community needs a 40 bed hospital with all services and the Medical Society agrees unanimously with this. Mr. Wendling stated that they don't want to short change for the future. Some

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things can't be put back in to the hospital. They could take the cafeteria space and put the admin services in there.

**#4**

On motion of Mr. Chapman, seconded by Mr. DiFatta, it was moved to adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION HSD #33-09**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Bernard Parish Hospital Service District hereby approves the payment of the Gresham Smith and Partners invoice for the month of April in the amount of \$30,393.13 from CDBG funds.

The above and foregoing having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereupon resulted as follows:

**YEAS:** Chapman, DiFatta.

**NAYS:** None.

**ABSENT:** None.

The Chairman, Mr. Dysart, cast his vote as **YEA**.

And the motion was declared **adopted** on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2009.

**#5**

On motion of Mr. DiFatta, seconded by Mr. Chapman, it was moved to adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION HSD #34-09**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Bernard Parish Hospital Service District hereby approves the payment of the Hammes Company invoice for the month of April 2009 in the amount of \$21,537.49 from CDBG funds.

The above and foregoing having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereupon resulted as follows:

**YEAS:** Chapman, DiFatta.

**NAYS:** None.

**ABSENT:** None.

The Chairman, Mr. Dysart, cast his vote as **YEA**.

And the motion was declared **adopted** on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2009.

On motion of Mr. DiFatta, seconded by Mr. Chapman, it was moved to adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION HSD #35-09**

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BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Bernard Parish Hospital Service District hereby approves the payment of the Hammes Company invoice for the months of January, February, and March 2009 in the amounts of \$838.59, \$15,877.00, and \$1529.00 respectively from the \$600,000 Parish loan.

The above and foregoing having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereupon resulted as follows:

**YEAS:** Chapman, DiFatta.

**NAYS:** None.

**ABSENT:** None.

The Chairman, Mr. Dysart, cast his vote as **YEA**.

And the motion was declared **adopted** on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2009.

**#6**

On motion of Mr. DiFatta, seconded by Mr. Chapman, it was moved to discuss pre-payment of the advertisement for the HRSA grant.

Mr. Dysart explained that this advertisement needs to be pre-paid before the Times Picayune will run the advertisement.

On motion of Mr. DiFatta, seconded by Mr. Chapman, it was moved to approve the pre-payment of the advertisement for HRSA grant.

The above and foregoing having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereupon resulted as follows:

**YEAS:** Chapman, DiFatta.

**NAYS:** None.

**ABSENT:** None.

The Chairman, Mr. Dysart, cast his vote as **YEA**.

And the motion was declared **adopted** on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2009.

**#7**

On motion of Mr. DiFatta, seconded by Mr. Chapman, it was moved to table naming members to the Finance and Construction committees.

The above and foregoing having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereupon resulted as follows:

**YEAS:** Chapman, DiFatta.

**NAYS:** None.

**ABSENT:** None.

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The Chairman, Mr. Dysart, cast his vote as **YEA**.

And the motion was declared **tabled** on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2009.

**#8**

On motion of Mr. DiFatta, seconded by Mr. Chapman, it was moved to task the Financial Committee to find funding for the Medical Office Building.

The above and foregoing having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereupon resulted as follows:

**YEAS:** Chapman, DiFatta.

**NAYS:** None.

**ABSENT:** None.

The Chairman, Mr. Dysart, cast his vote as **YEA**.

And the motion was declared **adopted** on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2009.

**#9**

Item #9 a motion to discuss appointments to the HSD board was removed from the agenda.

**#10**

Item #10 a motion to appoint a single HSD member to negotiate land acquisition was removed from the agenda.

Mr. Chapman stated that this is not needed because the chairman is doing this already. Mr. Dysart asked if this is a formal request for a reason. Mr. Landry stated that he just wanted to have things be consistent. Mr. Dysart stated that he had been handling this since the original discussions and that there are no real dealings lately. Mr. Landry stated that he just wants one person to funnel the information so there are no miscommunications.

**#11**

On motion of Mr. Chapman, seconded by Mr. DiFatta, it was moved to discuss a resolution to the HRQL committee.

Mr. Landry stated that he felt the board should send a resolution to the HRQL committee to continue plans for the Village Square properties and the possible hospital site.

**#12**

On motion of Mr. Chapman, seconded by Mr. DiFatta, it was moved to discuss the HSD bylaws.

Mr. Chapman stated that he received a copy of St. Tammany's HSD bylaws and forwarded them to the board members and Mr. Landry for review and discussion at the next meeting.

**#13**

On motion of Mr. DiFatta, seconded by Mr. Chapman, it was moved to table the election of a Vice-Chairman for the HSD.

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The above and foregoing having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereupon resulted as follows:

**YEAS:** Chapman, DiFatta.

**NAYS:** None.

**ABSENT:** None.

The Chairman, Mr. Dysart, cast his vote as **YEA**.

And the motion was declared **tabled** on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2009.

**#14**

On motion of Mr. DiFatta, seconded by Mr. Chapman, it was moved to discuss the appointment of an interim secretary to the HSD.

Mr. Dysart stated that the current secretary was on loan from the Council. Mr. Landry stated that they could possibly supply someone in the interim. Mr. DiFatta stated that we need to ask for volunteers since this is a non-paid position.

**#15**

On motion of Mr. DiFatta, seconded by Mr. Chapman, it was moved to table the discussion of various committees to be formed, the number of members, and any appointments to said committees.

The above and foregoing having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereupon resulted as follows:

**YEAS:** Chapman, DiFatta.

**NAYS:** None.

**ABSENT:** None.

The Chairman, Mr. Dysart, cast his vote as **YEA**.

And the motion was declared **tabled** on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2009.

**#16**

On motion of Mr. DiFatta, seconded by Mr. Chapman, it was moved to table the appointments of Dr. Verrette and Dr. Bertucci as official advisors to the HSD per the resolution request of the St. Bernard Parish Council.

The above and foregoing having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereupon resulted as follows:

**YEAS:** Chapman, DiFatta.

**NAYS:** None.

**ABSENT:** None.

The Chairman, Mr. Dysart, cast his vote as **YEA**.

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And the motion was declared **tabled** on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2009.

**#17**

On motion of Mr. DiFatta, seconded by Mr. Chapman, it was move to discuss the withdrawal of the USDA hospital construction application.

Mr. Landry stated that the hang-up for future funding is the old application. Mr. DiFatta stated that the DC office received correspondence from Sen. Vitter, Sen. Landrieu, and Cong. Melancon regarding the waiver of the census. Under the Obama Administration we may be able to receive the waiver within 2 weeks. The existing application is null and void but we have to officially request its removal. Mr. Chapman stated that he would hope to see the State give the money that they are committed to give and that the USDA funds don't get taken off the table. Mr. DiFatta stated the original application is null and void now because the hospital is fully funded. Mr. Chapman asked if there was a change in the need for a hospital manager to apply for the USDA funding. Mr. DiFatta stated that the USDA will want to see how the hospital will be managed.

On motion of Mr. DiFatta, seconded by Mr. Chapman, it was moved to adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION HSD #36-09**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Bernard Parish Hospital Service District hereby withdraws its original application to the USDA for a hospital project in the Parish of St. Bernard, State of Louisiana.

The above and foregoing having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereupon resulted as follows:

**YEAS:** Chapman, DiFatta.

**NAYS:** None.

**ABSENT:** None.

The Chairman, Mr. Dysart, cast his vote as **YEA**.

And the motion was declared **adopted** on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2009.

**#18**

On motion of Mr. DiFatta, seconded by Mr. Chapman, it was moved to approve the writing of a narrative and request of census waiver to the USDA for the Medical Office Building.

The above and foregoing having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereupon resulted as follows:

**YEAS:** Chapman, DiFatta.

**NAYS:** None.

**ABSENT:** None.

The Chairman, Mr. Dysart, cast his vote as **YEA**.

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And the motion was declared **adopted** on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2009.

Mr. Landry stated that today was legislative day in Baton Rouge and that he met with Gov. Jindal regarding the Capital Outlay funds. He said that Gov. Jindal stated that the project has his absolute support and that we have his commitment to the promised funds. Mr. Landry received a call from Mark Gates from the State and said that the \$17 million is in good position. Mr. Landry will invite the governor when the ceremonial groundbreaking is done. The USDA can approve funding without an Act of Congress now. Mr. DiFatta stated that they are here to help now. Mr. Landry said he will review the narrative and have it complete by tomorrow. Mr. Dysart asked that Hammes look at it too. Mr. Landry said he does not want to wait until next week.

**#19**

There was no old business to discuss.

**#20**

Mr. DiFatta stated that in 2008 Rep. Hutter and Rep. Henderson applied for a line item appropriation of \$75,000. The board received a \$75,000 grant minus 5% reduction with a check being received today in the amount of \$68,135.07. The board would like to thank the representatives for allocating those funds to the HSD. These funds will be deposited into the HSD bank account.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2009.

Joanna Ragas  
Recording Secretary

Daniel Dysart  
Chairman