

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MARCH MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2010 12:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Harlan Rasmussen, Dixie See and Dr. Michael Strahan

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gary Miller, Ron Mischke, Randy Bomar and Bill Huppert

Others Present: Mike McCafferty, Ed Johlman, Susan Novak, Dr. Alzheimer, Chris Bilyeu and Ron Richter

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Harlan Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 12:10 noon. Mr. Rasmussen stated that the special Board Meeting would be limited to one business item; to consider the request for a capital equipment purchase.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Ed Johlman explained that the Special Board Meeting was held to review request for Digital Mammography equipment. Mr. Johlman explained that the cost of the equipment is \$231,308 and is a non-budgeted item. This equipment will be funded by the SMH Foundation, through many community benefits and private donations and will have no cash flow impact on the hospital. The Foundation will make a formal presentation of check at a future date. The purpose of the equipment will be to replace the current film mammography with digital technology. The value of the equipment is to detect cancers earlier. Digital mammography is better able to penetrate the dense areas of the breast to uncover the cancers that could go undetected with the older film technology. Financial benefits are that we anticipate increase patient volume as women prefer the digital technology to analog exams. Digital Mammography is state-of-the-art equipment and we need to be a leader in current technology that provides higher quality of care to our patients.

Mike McCafferty explained that the Hospital Foundation began working on raising funds for this project just under a year ago. Last fall a community group of people teamed up with the Foundation and organized the 1st annual Pink Link run/walk that raised over \$65,000. Since that time we have received several donations and along with the upcoming Foundation Benefit anticipate the final funds will be raised to complete the project. There has been a tremendous amount of support from the community and staff involved with this project. This equipment meets our mission by supporting our physicians with the best technology and to provide a service to our community without traveling.

Chris Bilyeu, Radiology Manager and Dr. Dan Alzheimer, Radiologist explained the specifics of the equipment. With the upgrade in technology, it will provide better images at a

reduced exposure to radiation and reduce call backs for patients. Physicians will be able to view the digital image of the mammogram in their office and is one step closer to being film less. The capability to scan prior images into the system in order to compare to older films or images from other locations will also be a benefit.

Board questions and discussion followed. Overall Trustees feel that this is a good program that is patient friendly and that patients won't have to travel to get digital mammography done. Dixie See asked how long before it would be available. Mr. Bilyeu explained that they need to replace current machine and he is hopeful that it is available to patients by mid-April. Harlan Rasmussen asked about the charges and Mr. Bilyeu acknowledged that as with any upgrade in technology, patient cost might be a bit higher; however, will strive to keep the price of the procedure lower than neighboring communities and that we will work with anyone with financial needs.

Mr. Rasmussen expressed his thanks to the Hospital Foundation for their assistance with this project and noted that the Department Managers also had stepped up with financial support and donations. It was with great pleasure that he entertained a motion for the purchase of the Digital Mammography equipment. Dr. Strahan moved to approve the purchase of the Digital Mammography with funds from the Foundation for \$231,208; Dixie See seconded the motion. Dr. Alzheimer read memos from Board Members Ron Mischke and Bill Huppert, who were unable to attend the special session, stating their votes for the purchase of the Digital Mammography Equipment. With five positive votes, motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Recorder,
Roxanne Araas
Dixie See, Secretary