

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE
WALKER COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT
August 12, 2026**

UNOFFICIAL

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF WALKER §

The Board of Managers of the Walker County Hospital District, Walker County, Texas, met in a special session, open to the public on August 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., in the Walker County Hospital District Conference room located at the First National Bank building.

Members of the Board present included:

Chairman, Anne Woodard
Vice Chairman, Joe Sapp
Secretary, Curtis Montgomery
Manager, Jerry Larrison
Manager, Stephen Antwi

Also, in attendance were WCHD Administrator; David Podlin, WCHD Administrative Assistant; Keli Molina and members of the public.

Agenda Item 1: Call meeting to order.

Chairman Anne Woodard called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Agenda Item 2: Consider approving the minutes for the Regular Meeting held on June 23, 2026.

Joe Sapp made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting held on June 23, 2026, Curtis Montgomery seconded. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 3: Comments from the public. If you wish to address the Board of Managers, please register prior to the meeting being called to order.

Shera Bowers, Donna Pinon, Gina Reaves, Bill Green, Tomalea Bench and Earl Carter signed up to speak.

Agenda Item 4: Comments and reports from Huntsville Community Hospital Corporation administration.

Terry Scoggins HMH CEO provided an update on several significant developments at Huntsville Memorial Hospital. Dr. Dennis Fernandez, a general surgeon, joined the hospital on August 1st. The Hospital leadership is excited to have him on staff, as his arrival allows Huntsville Memorial Hospital to provide general surgery call coverage 365 days a year. Dr. Fernandez's office is located in Dr. Deal's former office, and he has already begun seeing patients and performing surgeries.

The hospital also welcomed four new family medicine residents from Sam Houston State University in August. With these additions, there are now 12 family medicine residents serving at the hospital.

In addition, four new psychiatric residents joined the hospital through a partnership involving St. Houston, Tri-County, and a third hospital. The psychiatric residency program will now have 16 residents.

More than 30 medical students also began rotations during August, bringing a significant number of new students to both the hospital campus and the medical school campus.

In July, the hospital received several American Heart Association recognition awards related to stroke care. These included:

2026 Gold Plus designation for stroke

2026 Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite designation

2026 Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll designation

2026 Rural Stroke designation

Stroke care has a significant impact on smaller communities, and hospital leadership considers these recognitions an important achievement for Huntsville Memorial Hospital. The hospital's stroke program continues to be a strong component of its clinical services.

Also in July, Huntsville Memorial Hospital received the Leapfrog award. On August 1, Huntsville Partners Ambulatory Surgical Center opened near the hospital. The facility is a joint venture involving several physicians and will provide an additional location for outpatient surgical procedures.

Christy Atkins was appointed to the Huntsville Memorial Hospital Board of Directors last week.

Hospital utilization continued to grow during fiscal year 2026:

Inpatient admissions increased 7.8%

Acute bed utilization reached 82%

Imaging and radiology procedures increased 11.5%

Emergency department volume increased 4.9%

The emergency department is seeing as many as 62 patients per day.

Huntsville Memorial Hospital is also a Level IV Trauma Center, with the state scheduled to conduct its trauma designation review on September 14 and 15.

ICU Expansion Planning and the Hospital leadership have spent the past several months evaluating the facility to determine where additional intensive care capacity could be developed.

Based on the size of the community and anticipated growth, the hospital estimates that it will need approximately 10 to 12 additional ICU beds. The preliminary planning assumption is approximately 1,000 square feet per additional ICU bed, requiring roughly 10,000 to 12,000 square feet of space. A potential location has been identified in the hospital's administrative area. The plan would involve remodeling existing administrative offices and converting the space into an ICU. The proposed location is directly adjacent to the cardiac catheterization laboratory.

The next step is to begin developing detailed remodeling plans for the proposed ICU expansion.

Agenda Item 5: Approve Order Calling for the Walker County Hospital District Board of Managers' General Election to be held November 3, 2026, for two (2) Managers to serve four (4) year terms each; and also appoint election judges, designate polling places and detailing provisions related to early voting.

Stephen Antwi made a motion to approve the Order Calling for the Walker County Hospital District Board of Managers' General Election to be held November 3, 2026, Jerry Larrison seconded. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 6: Authorize Joint Election Agreement between the County of Walker, City of New Waverly, City of Riverside, Huntsville Independent School District, New Waverly Independent School District, Richards Independent School District, the Walker County Hospital District, and Walker County Appraisal District shall hold their respective general elections on Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

Stephen Antwi made a motion to approve the Joint Election Agreement between the County of Walker, City of New Waverly, City of Riverside, Huntsville Independent School District, New Waverly Independent School District, Richards Independent School District, the Walker County Hospital District, and Walker County Appraisal District shall hold their respective general elections on Tuesday, November 3, 2026. Curtis Montgomery seconded. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 7: Discussion regarding the HUD Proposal. Authorization for 2 board members to work with Chris Janning from Hilltop Securities on submitting an FHA pre-application package.

Joe Sapp made a motion to approve the authorization for 2 board members to work with Chris Janning from Hilltop Securities on submitting an FHA pre-application package., Curtis Montgomery seconded. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 8: Review and consider approving the monthly financial reports.

Jerry Larrison made a motion to approve the monthly financials, Curtis Montgomery seconded. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 9: Review and consider approving the monthly bills.

Curtis Montgomery made a motion to approve the monthly bills, Jerry Larrison seconded. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 10: Report from Chairman Anne Woodard.

Chairman Anne Woodard stated I want to give a report, as I promised, to update you on where things stand. After I finish, we will adjourn, and if anyone has additional questions, we would be happy to hear them. If there is anything you did not get to ask tonight, please feel free to come up and ask.

Terry has already shared some information about the ICU, so he stole a little of my thunder, but I did promise to provide an update as well.

As we discussed last month, we identified a very critical need for additional ICU beds. Dr. Antwi spoke about that need as well. We have been meeting with Terry and his group to determine how we can address it.

As I explained last month, pursuing the HUD option would take approximately three to four years before we could have a hospital here. We cannot wait that long to address the need for additional ICU beds.

Therefore, we are looking at expanding and renovating part of the existing hospital.

The first questions we needed to answer were how many additional ICU beds the community needs and where those beds could be located. We know they cannot be added upstairs where the existing six beds are because there is not enough room.

After meeting with Terry and his group, we have determined that we need 10 to 12 additional ICU beds, in addition to the six we currently have. The final number will depend on the square footage available.

We may be able to fit 12, but we may ultimately be limited to 10.

The location has also been determined. The expansion and renovation will take place in the area currently occupied by administration. Administration can move upstairs, allowing that space to be expanded and converted for the additional ICU beds.

This location also makes sense if a new facility is eventually built in that area. The improvements would be able to be incorporated into a future facility, so the investment in the existing hospital would not necessarily be wasted.

This will be considered Phase One: enlarging and renovating that portion of the hospital so that we can add approximately 10, and potentially up to 12, ICU beds.

We do not yet have the financial projections, but we expect to have them within the next couple of weeks. Once we have those projections, we will determine the next steps.

As Terry and I have said, we are looking at every possible option. We are going to keep working to improve healthcare here and provide the additional ICU capacity the community needs.

Now that we have determined the approximate number of beds and the location for the renovation, the architects need to evaluate the existing infrastructure. They will need to determine what is underneath the floors and where the infrastructure required for the ICU beds can be installed.

We also need to consider the equipment that will be required, not just the physical renovation. This will be a significant investment, but we have already begun working on it.

I want to keep everyone informed as we move forward. This is what we know at this point, and our goal is to provide more ICU beds for people in this community.

We will continue to provide an update every month, including the financial projections once they are available and information about how we plan to proceed. We are moving forward with the project, and I hope you are pleased with that progress.

I also want to mention the upcoming budget and tax rate. In September, we will begin working on next year's budget and tax rate. Based on our financial picture this week and what we have reviewed for next year, we are not anticipating a tax increase at this point.

Agenda Item 11: Adjourn meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Anne Woodard, WCHD Chairman

Curtis Montgomery, WCHD Secretary