



Nassau University Medical Center  
A. Holly Patterson Extended Care Facility  
Family Health Centers\*

\* In partnership with LI Federally Qualified Health Centers, Inc.

## **FULL BOARD/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

January 16, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.  
NUMC – 19<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room

### **MINUTES**

#### Call to Order

*Chairman George J. Tsunis, Esq.*

Chairman George Tsunis noted that a quorum of the Board of Directors was present and the meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm. Chairman Tsunis welcomed everyone, including the CSEA Management and members who were present at the meeting.

Chairman Tsunis made a motion to open the meeting and Dr. Bobby Kalotee seconded.

#### Report of the General Counsel

Megan Ryan, Esq., General Counsel, noted that it was the Chairman's last meeting at NUMC and deferred her General Counsel report. She named some of his accomplishments at NUMC which included the breast cancer summit which Chairman Tsunis organized. Ms. Ryan also noted that Chairman Tsunis established the oncology boutique which was built by NUMC CSEA employees with donated materials and furniture. Wigs were donated by vendors and it will be operated by our nursing staff. Chairman Tsunis was an integral part in getting the boutique up and running. In his honor, the boutique will be named after him and a plaque was placed in the room.

The Board passed a resolution dedicating the room to Chairman Tsunis and his dedication to our patients.

Ms. Linda Reed donated six chemotherapy caps which she knit herself to the boutique. Dr. Kalotee stated that he will donate 2,000 – 3,000 scarves to the boutique. He then made a motion to make the boutique official. Ms. Reed seconded and it was unanimous.

Mr. Warren Zysman then made a motion that there be no executive session. All were in favor, except Mr. Ryan Cronin, Esq. who opposed.

The Board then commenced corporate action.

### Corporate Action

#### **1. Approval of Contracts**

Ms. Ryan made a motion for the Board of Directors to approve resolutions 001-20 through 017-20 as listed. Mr. Steven Cohn tabled Resolutions 003-20, 006-20, and 007-20, due to start dates of January 1, 2020. The Board discussed the resolutions and approved 001-20; 002-20; 004-20; and 005-20. The Board also approved 009-20 through 015-20 with two board members (Mr. Zysman and Dr. Russell Caprioli) recusing themselves. The Board then approved resolutions 016-20 and 017-20.

At this point, Mr. Zysman asked the Chairman if he could make a motion. He stated that the CEO was a revolving seat and made a motion for Anthony Boutin, MD, to be made Interim Chief Executive Officer and President for eighteen months under his current compensation. Chairman Tsunis asked for a vote. Chairman Tsunis and Mr. Cronin, Esq. opposed. The remaining members voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Mr. Zysman then made another motion for an independent national search firm to search for a candidate for the permanent position of Chief Executive Officer and President. He stated that the search committee should be made up of Dr. Anthony Boutin; Mr. John Maher; Megan Ryan, Esq.; Dr. Paul Mustacchia; and a CSEA representative chosen by Mr. Jerry Laricchiuta.

Dr. Kalotee objected to Mr. Maher being on the committee and pointed out that two people had already been selected by the Search Committee made up of Board Members and hospital executives. Mr. Zysman noted that the hospital has tremendous issues and financial problems and that board members should not be selecting a CEO and President.

Mr. Zysman struck the earlier motion. Then he presented a new motion that stated "A RFP be issued for an independent national search firm to hire a CEO and President for NHCC with a committee to be decided later". The motion was seconded by Ms. Reed and the vote was unanimously approved.

Ms. Reed made a motion to place on hold all the Northwell contracts that had been approved in the April 2019 meeting, including the 24 Statement of Works, and the strategic plan until further notice. Dr. Kalotee seconded the motion and Mr. Zysman and Dr. Caprioli recused themselves.

Chairman Tsunis asked to speak on this matter. He said it was complicated and that the Board should discuss it to find the right balance with Northwell. He stated that this was a matter that needs time and consideration, and suggested that the Board should sit with Northwell to discuss expectations. He also suggested that the Board sit with the Union to discuss their intentions, and advised against any quick decisions.

The Board left the motion open until after Public Comment.

After public comment, Ms. Reed amended her motion to place all Northwell contracts approved in April 2019 including the Statement of Works and strategic plan on hold until further notice. The motion was approved with two opposed and two recusals.

#### Public Comment

Chairman Tsunis then made a motion to go into public comment. Mr. Laricchiuta took the floor and observed that Northwell had been having strategic planning meetings without board members and union officials being involved. He pointed out that private companies co-mingling with public entities is not the best way for the hospital since private companies operate differently. He noted that he and Chairman Tsunis worked together to attempt to get the catheter lab up and running and that the mission of the hospital was to serve everyone.

Chairman Tsunis stated that more people have insurance, but that they are going to other hospitals. He noted that the Affordable Care Act cut the money going to hospitals including Nassau University Medical Center. He stated that the budget deficit for the hospital last year was \$24 million and that the budget for this year is expected to have a deficit of between \$28 million and \$82 million. Chairman Tsunis mentioned that it was a bittersweet day for him and that it was also emotional to be leaving NUMC.

Councilwoman Dorothy Goosby from the Town of Hempstead who attended the meeting said she came because she was concerned about healthcare in her district and discontinuing services. She said that many do not have insurance and that she was very concerned about her constituents having access to pediatric, dental and emergency services. Councilwoman Goosby noted that there is no better health services than at NUMC.

The Chairman reported that he has expanded hours for the dental clinic so that the clinic is open late evenings and weekends. He also bought new chairs for it, hired more residents, and implemented a 50% discount for veterans. Further, CSEA members are now allowed to go to the clinic using the hospital insurance.

Chairman Tsunis also disclosed that he had hired doctors to treat mental health and addictive services and had increased the number of beds. About 78% of the patients are undocumented so many of the other hospitals do not take them.

Chairman Tsunis observed that NUMC is the only unaffiliated hospital on Long Island and that it services the most vulnerable people. He said the hospital does not have private payers so the Board has to find the funds needed to run the hospital.

Councilwoman Goosby interrupted at that point. She said she was concerned about Northwell coming in with the hospital. She noted that other providers were coming into the Town of Hempstead and making money and she wondered why NUMC was not doing so. Chairman Tsunis replied that the ambulatory care centers are LIFQHC and that the new Chairman was very qualified in ambulatory care. He stated that it was a matter of finding resources.

At this point, a discussion ensued between members of the CSEA and Board members. Some of the issues brought up by the CSEA members were transparency, building issues, and staffing issues. However, the most pressing question from the CSEA members was about downsizing and layoffs.

Mr. Cohn added that there are limited resources for the hospital to run on and that the meetings being held every month created a forum to try to find ways to keep the hospital afloat.

Chairman Tsunis noted that this institution is underfunded and under-resourced. He said that he had gone to Albany many times asking for funding. He stated that the hospital is operating on an annual deficit every year, and that by the time the hospital pays the payroll, health insurance, and pension for employees, there is not much funds left to do anything else.

Mr. Laricchiuta thanked Chairman Tsunis for negotiating a fair contract for the CSEA members. He said that Chairman Tsunis was the first person to keep his word when negotiating the CSEA contract. He noted that public safety officers, housekeepers and groundskeepers had all been upgraded.

Mr. Cohn stated that members were asking difficult questions regarding their jobs. He noted that the Board has not had any meeting on downsizing and that they do not anticipate any closings. He acknowledged that employees would have a job the next day but could not guarantee what would happen in two years. He explained that the Board was doing the best they could to keep the hospital up and running.

Chairman Tsunis observed that employees were not asking the right questions. He said that it was a question of getting rid of things that were not working. For example, the buildings that

were not being used. He noted that nothing runs without qualified hard-working people, but that obtaining funding from the government was difficult. He reminded everyone that the orthopedic department had been expanded, PCI lab was pending New York State Department of Health approval, and additional beds had been added to the psychiatric department under his leadership. Chairman Tsunis observed that the needs now are different, for example, the opioid epidemic was not an issue ten years ago. He explained that when he was first appointed, he held two town halls where he heard all the issues and addressed each of them. Chairman Tsunis then suggested that all questions should be directed to the new Chairman, who would be receptive.

Mr. Zysman noted that one of the messages from this meeting is that there is no communication between the union and the Board. He suggested that the union be invited to all public and administrative meetings. He asserted that the Board needs to be more transparent. It was noted that the Union delegate is invited to all Board meetings, the meetings are also publicly noticed, and the calendar of the meetings is set in December of the previous year.

At this time Dr. Kalotee made a motion to end public comment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Zysman and unanimously approved.

Chairman Tsunis took the floor to introduce the new Chairman. Warren Zysman interrupted and introduced the new Chairman, Mr. Robert Detor. Chairman Tsunis emphasized that the new Chairman was tough but fair, as well as open-minded. Chairman Tsunis stated that Mr. Detor was exactly the kind of person needed to run NHCC. He gave a summary of Mr. Detor's 19 years of healthcare experience, which included 12 years as CEO of South Oaks Community Hospital, Catholic Charities and Chairman of LIFQHC. He noted that the new Chairman has tremendous knowledge and many years of experience in mental health, and ambulatory care.

Mr. Detor stated that he appreciated the discussion that he had observed and asked Mr. Laricchiuta to call him to further discuss issues and problems.

Dr. Kalotee thanked Chairman Tsunis and said that the Chairman had tried his very best to turn the hospital around.

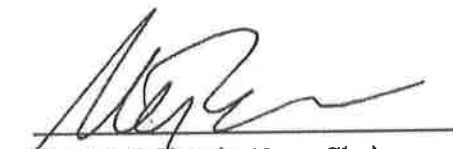
Chairman Tsunis asked for one more motion to be considered regarding Northwell before the end of the meeting. He then asked Ms. Reed if she had a motion.

Ms. Reed made a motion to place a hold on all Northwell contracts from April 2019, including strategic plan and the 24 Statement of Works.

The vote was seconded by Dr. Kalotee, and approved with two abstentions and two opposed with Chairman Tsunis calling the vote approved.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Tsunis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.



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George J. Tsunis, Esq., Chairman  
Board of Directors, NHCC