East Phillips County Hospital District Board members looked at the preliminary draft of the 2013 budget during their regular meeting Tuesday, Oct. 23.

CFO Greg Was said the board will look at the final piece of work during next month's meeting.

Was said looking from the projected 2012 to the preliminary 2013 budget there is an expected increase in net revenue. Was said this is partially due to them looking forward and hoping to hire some new physicians.

With a new doctor beginning next July and hopefully one or two others, salaries and wages have taken a big jump in next year's budget.

Was also added there will be an increase in supplies due to inflationary increases as well as increase in volumes.

Purchase services is another increase largely due to NextGen fees.

"I know this is just a preliminary go-through of the budget, but we will have the final package and full presentation at our next budget meeting," Was said.

Board introduced to new practitioner

Family Nurse Practitioner Dixie Ishee, who was recently hired, was introduced to board members during last week's meeting.

“Happy to be in Holyoke and anxious to get started seeing patients,” Ishee said.

She has spent three weeks going through orientation and following the current providers around.

“I should be ready to go within the next week or so,” she added. “Very excited about it.”

“I’m certainly happy to have Dixie here,” MMH administrator John Ayoub said. “She’s a breath of fresh air and she’s a wonderful personality and excellent provider. I think she’s going to do really well here for our clinic and our community.”

Administrator reports activity

Ayoub reported Dr. Ted Lin’s last day will be Nov. 21 as he is going to be taking advantage of some other opportunities.

In addition, Dr. Jeremy Drechsler was in Holyoke for a four-day stint in October and was planning to be back out this week. Ayoub said he has interacted well with staff members and feels he will step in nicely to help fill Lin’s position.

Ayoub also noted he has been in some really good communication with a female physician and thought they were on the right track to hiring her as a full-time physician. As of last Tuesday’s meeting, nothing was set in stone but Ayoub felt if all went well, and the new physician would begin working Monday, Nov. 19.

“I am cautiously optimistic that things are going to go well and we should have a provider by the next board meeting,” Ayoub added.

Ayoub also updated board members on some specialty clinic providers and said things seem to be moving well.

The administrator said Next-Gen seems to be the biggest thing the hospital is working with. He noted they have a top 20 list of things they are working on. “For the most part, things are going well from what I’ve heard and what I’ve seen,” Ayoub said. “I certainly don’t want to try and fool you and say that it’s all hunky-dory.” He added any time an organization implements something of this magnitude, there are going to be issues.

He also noted there have not been any incidents that have affected patient care and there is a good team working on the implementation.

Ayoub said the annual flu clinic was successful. Flu shots were given at a reduced price over four days. A total of over 300 vaccinations were given. He also noted 87 percent of the hospital employees had been vaccinated and they were still working on finishing them up.

After a successful year of working with LPN students from Northeastern Junior College last year, MMH will again partner to bring students to Holyoke to gain experience.

Ayoub said of the 34 rotations performed last year, MMH hired three of them following their graduation.

The administrator said MMH is planning to hold a first responder class for those interested in joining the Holyoke Emergency Medical Services. The class begins Nov. 26 and there were 12 people signed up as of last Tuesday.

Ayoub also praised the HHS volleyball team for their contribution following their annual pink out

game. The money will help provide mammograms to those women who may not be able to afford it.

Some recent power outages also caused some issues with the hospital's CT scanner. Ayoub said they were hoping to have it back up and running last Wednesday morning. When the power was tripped, the time between the outage and the time the hospital's generator started up was too much for the scanner.

Other business

In other business Oct. 23, board members:

—approved credentialing for Peter Webb, Byron Barksdale, Alvin Armstrong, Lorin Brandon, Scott Hayden, Cecilia Hirsch, Mark Howshar, Paul Hurst, Brian S. Lyle, David Reed, James Wolach and Gary Rath.

—reviewed results of the 2012 employee engagement and pride survey.

—held a 24-minute executive session for negotiations.

—noted the next board meeting will be held Tuesday, Dec. 4 at 4 p.m. The date was changed due to some board members not being able to attend on Nov. 27.

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