East Phillips County Hospital District board met Tuesday, Dec. 4. The meeting was moved from Tuesday, Nov. 27, as the Thanksgiving holiday kept most of the board away.

During last week's meeting, board members approved the 2013 budget. They also approved the 2013 mill levy resolution for certification. There was no mill levy change request this year.

The final budget reflects a net income of $324,127 for 2013. The hospital expects total revenues of $10.64 million. Total expenses are budgeted at $11 million.

MMH administrator John Ayoub noted looking at the net revenue and total expenses, one would be confused how the hospital could have a positive bottom line. The difference is no-operational revenue, which includes tax dollars, grant money and donations which make up the difference.

Ayoub said the hospital has had a positive bottom line the last eight or nine years and they are not expecting or looking to raise taxes this year or any time in the future.

Before calling the meeting to order last Tuesday, board members were introduced to newly hired doctor Patricia Coyman.

Ayoub said everyone is excited to have Coyman on board. "She's done a great job jumping right in and becoming a part of the community," Ayoub said. Coyman said she and her husband have purchased a home and plan to stay in Holyoke—something board members were excited to hear.

Also present at last week's meeting was consultant Mary Meek who has been in Holyoke for the past two months working with the medical records department and staff. She is from Washington state and is in Holyoke to help with the processes, conduct training with the staff and implementing policies and procedures.

“Mary has done an excellent job,” MMH CFO Greg Was said. “It’s been a wonderful experience.”

Administrator reports activity

Ayoub reported Dr. Coyman was scheduled to begin seeing patients Monday, Dec. 10. All of her insurance was finalized and she is gearing up, according to Ayoub.

The administrator also noted FNP Dixie Ishee has begun seeing patients and is doing a wonderful job. She had an extended orientation while they were waiting on some licensing and insurance to get finalized.

With regard to the speciality clinic, Ayoub said Dr. Theo Alkousakis has been doing great. Alkousakis is serving as a dermatologist and his first clinic was packed.

Dr. Sidney Adler, OBGYN will be adding a second half day to his clinic each month, according to Ayoub.

In terms of surgical services, Ayoub said they recently had a patient who wanted to stay in Holyoke for a procedure and Dr. Adler and Dr. James Schiefen collaborated and worked together in the operating room to perform a surgery.

“I think it’s really exciting to have that cross pollinization of our service lines and through our speciality clinic,” Ayoub said.

The administrator said he has participated in some collaboration meetings with Haxtun CEO

Don Burris, Regent Park administrator Julie Kotch and Colorado Health Connections.

Other business

In other business Dec. 4, board members:

—listened to a brief presentation of the newly implemented Electronic Medical Records at MMH by Director of IT David Bickford and Cindy Weed. Weed, a registered nurse, has become a super user of the EMRs and is working with staff to become familiar with the programs.

—held a 14-minute executive session for negotiations.

—appointed Gary Rahe to serve as vice president of the board. The position became vacant with the resignation of Steve Deaver earlier this year.

—noted the next board meeting will be held Thursday, Dec. 27 at 5:30 p.m. The date was changed due to Christmas falling on the original date.

December 14, 2012