GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

Members' Present	Duffie Harrison, Chairman; William Zester, Vice-Chair; John Berry; Kristin Willis; Dolores Croom
Members Absent	Myrtice Wynn, Secretary; Patrick Conrad, MD
Staff Present	David Walker, CEO; Courtney Alford, Director of Nursing; Melanie Shiver, HR Coordinator; James O'Steen, EMS Director; Heather Dugger, Revenue Cycle Manager
Guests Present	David Bowling, CFO Alliant Management
Zoom Attendees	Michael Kozar, CEO Alliant Management ; Jason Prokopic, PharmD

CALL TO ORDER / VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

Duffie Harrison, Chair

- The meeting was called to order at 9:04 am. The quorum was confirmed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Duffie Harrison, Chair

- The August 28, 2025 minutes were presented for approval.

ACTION

A motion was made by Croom to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Willis. The motion was carried unanimously.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

David Walker, CEO

- Walker announced the October employee of the month, Gabriel Guidry. Gabriel was commended for his dedication and initiative in multiple hospital departments.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Duffie Harrison, Chair

- The Board discussed a significant shift in focus from customer service to compassionate care. Walker emphasized the importance of compassionate care across all hospital departments and interactions.

340B UPDATE

Jason Prokopic, PharmD-Blue & Co.

- Jason Prokopic gave a presentation of the 340B drug program. The program began in 1992 and is administered by HRSA's Office of Pharmacy Affairs. The program provides discounts on outpatient drugs to safety net providers, with funding coming from drug manufacturers rather than taxpayers. The hospital, as a critical access facility, has been eligible for the program since 2010 and can receive discounts of up to 60% on drugs for eligible outpatients, including those in the emergency room and clinics. The hospital had a successful audit in 2025 with no adverse findings, and the program generates significant savings for the hospital through both in-house and contract pharmacy arrangements.
- Prokopic discussed current challenges facing the 340B program, including pushbacks from drug manufacturers and federal policies, causing anxiety among providers. He emphasized the importance of supporting local and national efforts to protect the program and maintaining compliance measures. Jason also discussed the role of pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) in driving up drug prices and their unregulated status, highlighting the need for government intervention. The group discussed the 340B program's financial contributions to the hospital and the potential negative effects of a new pilot program proposed by CMS, which could shift the program from a discount model to a rebate model, potentially causing cash flow issues for hospitals. The conversation also touched on the difficulties faced by clinics in dealing with insurance companies like United, particularly regarding reimbursement and recognition of supervising physicians, and the need for advocacy and reform to address these issues.

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QUALITY
Medical Staff Report
Patrick Conrad, MD

- The Medical Staff Committee met on September 23, 2025. The following physicians were recommended for appointment / reappointment to the Medical Staff:

Provider	Group	Category
Dr. Nishant Gupta	Vesta Teleradiology	Consulting Privileges (initial)
Dr. Abieyuma Eweka	Vesta Teleradiology	Consulting Privileges (initial)
Dr. Farzaneh Kazimi	Vesta Teleradiology	Consulting Privileges (initial)
Dr. Joshua Dietzer	George E Weems Hospital	Active Privileges (reappointment)
Dr. Patrick Conrad	George E Weems Hospital	Active Privileges (reappointment)
Dr. Paul Hart	George E Weems Hospital	Active Privileges (reappointment)
Dr. Vincent Ivers	George E Weems Hospital	Active Privileges (reappointment)
Dr. Paul Motta	George E Weems Hospital	Courtesy Privileges (reappointment)

Willis expressed concerns, leading to a motion to approve the schedule as presented but hold an executive board meeting to discuss any individual concerns. The board agreed to this approach, allowing the privileges to be approved while addressing specific concerns in a separate session.

ACTION
Zester made a motion to approve the physicians' appointments to the medical staff but to schedule an executive session to discuss any issues that they have with the physicians. The motion was seconded by Croom. The motion was carried unanimously.

Clinical Services Report
Courtney Alford, RN, DON

- Alford provided an update on the OmniCell medication dispensing tower, explaining that while they have a grant for $200,000, they will wait until March 2026 for the new server model which offers better longevity until 2032, despite being $4,000 more expensive.
- Flu vaccines will be available for staff and patients soon.

RHC Report
Susie Buskirk, Practice Manager

- The clinics are experiencing increased patient volume due to other providers dropping participation with prominent insurers. Solutions being explored include locum tenans providers, a floating nurse practitioner, and telemedicine services, particularly to support the Carabelle Clinic's need for evening and weekend hours.
- Flu vaccines are now available at the clinics.

EMS Report
James Osteen, EMS Director

- Osteen reported that EMS passed their state inspection with one minor deficiency, which has been corrected. He mentioned conducting CPR classes and providing football coverage, while also noting a decrease in 911 call volume from 177 in August last year to 146 this month.
- Osteen reported significant unbudgeted overtime of $22,997 over the last four weeks due to staffing vacancies, and discussed ongoing recruitment challenges, particularly for paramedics, with plans to promote an EMT to paramedic and interview a potential full-time paramedic candidate tomorrow.

FINANCIAL REPORT
David Bowling, CFO, Alliant Management
The following financial statements for the month ending 8/31/25 were presented for review:

- Income Statement & Balance Sheet
- Operating Statistics

  - Comparative Consolidated Monthly Income Statements
  - EMS Monthly Gross Margin
  - Consolidated Balance Sheet Accounts
  - Alliant Dashboard for 2024: Financial Indicators, Operating Indicators, Key Project Status Indicators
- Bowing reported that the hospital finished 11 months into the fiscal year with a positive $416,000 net income, exceeding the budgeted loss of $388,000. He highlighted that August's gross patient revenue was under budget by 10%, with inpatient revenues up 69% due to increased direct admits through the emergency room. The hospital's average daily census was in line with budget at just under 2, while outpatient revenues were down $174,000, partly due to lower ER visits. Franklin noted that the hospital's cash position improved to 72 days, with grant activities contributing to the positive financial performance.
- The Board discussed the transition of ER physicians from Southland to Weems. Walker presented a pro forma showing expected collections of $480,000 annually and net savings of $11,000 to $40,000. Adequate staffing will be ensured, and the schedule has already been developed through December. The Board approved moving forward with the transition, which will be presented to the County Commission next Wednesday.
- The fiscal year 2026 draft budget was presented. Key assumptions and projections were outlined, including a 55% increase in swing bed days, a 3% increase in emergency department visits, and a 4% increase in outpatient visits. The budget forecasted a net operating revenue of $10.5 million, with total operating expenses of $13.5 million, resulting in an operating net loss of $3 million. However, a non-operating component of $3.2 million is expected to offset this loss, leading to a projected net income of $190,000. The hospital board discussed the 4% staff salary increase. The group also touched on the need to address staffing challenges, particularly in the lab, and considered targeted pay adjustments for hard-to-fill positions.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

William Zester, Vice Chair

- Finance Committee minutes provided for review. All payments made in September were included in the minutes.

Break from 10:15am to 10:30am

CEO REPORT
David Walker, CEO

- Walker requested approval of the 2026 budget with the inclusion of a 4% wage increase for employees.

ACTION
Zester made a motion to approve the 2026 FYE Budget and the 4% raise for the Weems employees; seconded by Croom. The motion was carried unanimously.

- Breast cancer awareness initiatives for October were discussed, including a Pink Out event on October 10th and a photo opportunity at the next Board meeting.
- The new Teleradiology agreement is under review by Attorney Shuler. As soon as the review is done, it will be shared with the Hospital Board before seeking approval of the Board of County Commissioners.
- The Multiview agreement was presented to the Board for approval. The cost is $27,000 per year. Multiview has agreed to waive $94,000 implementation fee.

ACTION
Zester made a motion to approve the purchase of the Multiview system; seconded by Willis. The motion was carried unanimously.

- Walker, Osteen and Alford recently met with the Emergency Air Meds representative to discuss exclusive air medical transport provision. An agreement has been provided and is under review by Attorney Shuler.
- Walker, Osteen, Alford, and Buskirk recently gave a presentation to the local veterans group.
- IT executive session and an executive session to discuss the ED Physicians will be held after the next Board of Directors meeting. That meeting is on October 30, 2025.

FOUNDATION UPDATE

Bill Zester

- The annual Foundation fundraising event will be held 11/9/25. Tickets are on sale for $100. Volunteers and auction items are needed. QR codes are available online for people to purchase tickets.

ADJOURNMENT

Duffie Harrison, Chair

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm.