

SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD**Minutes of the proceedings of the Special Meeting of the South Western Area Health Board held in the Board Room, Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare on Friday, 15th August, 2003, at 2.00 p.m.***Present*

Mr. P. Aspell
Ms. A. Harris
Cllr. C. McGrath
Ald. M. Mooney
Cllr. J. Reilly

Cllr. J. Daly
Ms. M. Hoban
Cllr. M. Miley
Cllr. F. O'Loughlin
Cllr. D. Tipping

Non-Voting Members

Ms. N. Harvey

Cllr. G. McGuire

Apologies

Dr. S. Barry
Dr. B. Murphy

Dr. K. Harkin

In the Chair

Ald. M. Mooney

Officers in Attendance

Mr. P. Donnelly, Chief Executive Officer
Mr. B. Burke, A/Assistant Chief Executive
Mr. D. Delaney, Director of Communications
Ms. M. Gorry, A/Director of Human Resources
Ms. M. Glynn, Financial Accountant
Mr. M. Knowles, General Manager, Naas General Hospital
Mr. R. Kavanagh, Senior Manager, Operations
Mr. R. Healy, Board Secretary
Ms. P. Dempsey, Administrative Support, C.E.O.'s Office
Ms. A. Farrell, Administrative Support, C.E.O.'s Office

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NAAS GENERAL HOSPITAL

At the outset, the Chairman thanked members for their attendance at the meeting at short notice.

At this point, Cllr. J. Reilly took issue with the fact that the meeting was being held in committee and that no media were present, following which he left the meeting in protest. In response, the C.E.O. explained why the meeting was being held in this format and expressed regret that Cllr. Reilly had left.

Ms. M. Hoban indicated that she had brought a letter with her for the Board from the staff in the Accident & Emergency (A&E) Department of Naas General Hospital which she then read out to members.

Following some points raised by Cllr. D. Tipping, the Chairman advised members that, following the meeting, the members could decide on the best way to highlight/progress the issues raised. She then invited the C.E.O. to address the meeting.

The C.E.O. outlined, in conjunction with briefing material circulated at the meeting [copy attached to official minute], the current situation regarding the shortfall in revenue funding to enable the transfer of certain services, including A&E, pharmacy and pathology, amongst others, to the new Naas Hospital development.

A lengthy discussion followed to which Cllr. C. McGrath, Cllr. M. Miley, Ms. M. Hoban, Ms. N. Harvey, Cllr. D. Tipping, Cllr. F. O'Loughlin, Cllr. G. McGuire, Mr. P. Aspell, Cllr. J. Daly, and Ald. M. Mooney contributed and to which the C.E.O. responded. Throughout the discussion members paid tribute to the staff in Naas Hospital, and particularly the staff in the A&E Department, and acknowledged their patience in working under such difficult conditions.

After the above discussion, the following motion which was put forward by Cllr. D. Tipping was noted.

"In the event of the Eastern Regional Health Authority not being in a position to come forward with the necessary funding for Naas Hospital developments, and at the expiration of 7 working days from today (15th August), the South Western Area Health Board, at its Special Meeting today, calls on the Ministers for Finance and Health and their departments to supply the necessary funding for Naas Hospital to complete this much-needed improved hospital facility for the people of Kildare and West Wicklow. The funding required is estimated at €1.8m. immediately and an ongoing commitment for €9.5m."

Members then discussed a number of possible options re how best to proceed with this matter. Various suggestions were put forward, following which the Chairman adjourned the meeting for five minutes.

On resuming the meeting, it was agreed by all the members present that the C.E.O. should continue discussions with E.R.H.A. over the next few days but that, in the meantime, the Chairman of E.R.H.A. be requested to hold a Special Meeting of the Eastern Regional Health Authority on Monday, 25th August, 2003, to discuss funding for Naas General Hospital, by which time information should be available to indicate if funding is likely to be forthcoming. This request, with the required number of signatories, to be forwarded to the E.R.H.A. Chairman following the meeting.

**CORRECT: P. DONNELLY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

CHAIRMAN