

**McDonough District Hospital
Board of Directors Meeting
February 16, 2026**

The Board of Directors of McDonough District Hospital (MDH) met on Monday, February 16, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the Third Floor Board Room. The meeting was called to order by Dan O'Neill, Chairman, MDH Board of Directors. Roll call was taken, and the following Board members were present: Dr. Curt Farr, Jere Greuel, Seth Minter, Kathy Neumann, Dan O'Neill, JoEllen Pensinger, and Ryan Riggins.

Dave Garner listened in via remote connection but did not participate in any discussion or votes.
Excused: Wanda Foster

Also present: Bill Murdock, President/CEO
Dr. Mary Kathleen Lockard, MDH Medical Staff President
Sherri Hitchcock, VP/CFO
Wayne Laramie, VP and CNO
Gloria Bamforth, VP MDH Medical Group
Patrick Osterman, VP Business Strategy
Dr. Jeffrey Sparks, MDH Ear, Nose, and Throat
Brittany Moore, Director of MDH Foundation
Kim Thorman, Executive Assistant

Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

Medical Staff Recognition

Bill Murdock introduced Jeffrey Sparks, DO – MDH Ear, Nose, and Throat Clinic.

Dr. Sparks provided an overview of Otolaryngology and Facial Plastic Surgery services at MDH, including:

- Diagnosis/treatment of thyroid and neck masses, skin cancer excisions, sinus disease (traditional and balloon sinuplasty), and grafting procedures
- Cosmetic procedures such as eyelid lift, keloid treatment, airway/vocal cord surgery, and foreign body removal
- Clinic and surgical scheduling (2 surgery days, 2 clinic days weekly; sees average of 20 patients/day)
- Rural Health Clinic billing considerations
- The advantages of practicing in a rural setting and reliance on leased laser technology
- Challenges related to the EMR system and documentation volume

Dr. Sparks noted he has practiced locally for 13 years and continues to receive skin cancer referrals, though he feels community awareness could improve. He also shared that partnering with an NP allows him to focus on more complex surgical cases.

Dr. Sparks left the meeting at 6:00 pm

Board of Director Education-Bill Murdock

Bill Murdock shared a presentation on Board development, noting the value of ongoing training and feedback to ensure board members understand hospital board governance expectations.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda was reviewed by the board and there were no questions or discussions. It included:

- January 19, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes
- Board Resolution – Authorization of Check Signing for Dan O'Neill, Board Chairman, Bill Murdock, and Sherri Hitchcock
- Medical Staff Office Report
 - Applications for Initial Appointments and MDH Reappointments

A motion was made by Dr. Farr and seconded by JoEllen Pensinger to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Med Staff Office Report – Dr. Mary Kathleen Lockard, Med Staff President

Dr. Lockard reported on upcoming revisions to Internal Medicine clinical privilege forms and announced an evening MDH Medical Staff financial meeting scheduled for later that week to allow extended discussion among providers outside of the one-hour time constraints of noon meetings.

Committee Reports

- **Administrative Committee – Dan O’Neill**
 - No meeting was held in January

- **Employee Relations – Wanda Foster and Kathy Neumann** – Kathy reported for Wanda
 - No meeting was held in February
 - Next quarterly meeting scheduled for April

- **Finance Committee – Ryan Riggins**
Updates included:
 - Review of current financial status and days cash on hand
 - Continued monthly meetings with CEO and CFO
 - Consideration of mitigation strategies for financial performance
 - Invitation for an additional board member to join monthly updates

Old Business

No old business to discuss.

New Business

Referendum – Bill Murdock

- A general discussion was held regarding long-term financial planning and potential future funding mechanisms.
- The current contract for ambulance coverage, the increase in subsidy, and coverage/transfer capacity.
- The impact of the rising subsidy on the hospital finances, and long-term sustainability.
- Requests made to the County for support to fund the ambulance service.
- The operational tradeoffs if coverage levels were reduced due to lack of support, and the countywide benefit of EMS coverage.
- It was emphasized that all potential options should continue to be reviewed as part of long-term planning.
- MDH has not levied a tax since the 1980s, and if such an option were ever pursued, guidance on the referendum process is needed.
- The Board agreed that preliminary information should be gathered to better understand procedural steps.
- This was an informational discussion only; no decisions were made and no action was taken.

Partnerships and Collaborations – Bill Murdock

- To increase scale and strengthen organizational operations, a general discussion was held regarding collaborations and partnerships.
- Leadership noted potential advantages such as improved purchasing power, enhanced insurance contract leverage, shared technology, and opportunities to share operational resources and expenses.
- The uncertainty surrounding Critical Access Hospital payment models and pending legislation was discussed as a consideration in long-term planning.
- Existing partnerships and affiliations were discussed.
- The Board discussed the importance of tracking metrics to demonstrate the impact and value of affiliations and partnerships.

Executive Session

At 6:49 p.m., a motion was made by JoEllen Pensinger and seconded by Seth Minter to move to executive session for the purpose of, Open Meetings Act Exceptions, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1),(2), (5), (6), and (11). A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Farr	x		
Greuel	x		
Minter	x		
Neumann	x		
O'Neill	x		
Pensinger	x		
Riggins	x		

Reconvene

At 7:57 p.m., the meeting returned to regular session. A roll call vote was taken, and the following board members were present, Dr. Curt Farr, Jere Greuel, Seth Minter, Kathy Neumann, Dan O'Neill, JoEllen Pensinger, and Ryan Riggins. Also present: Kim Thorman.

Roundtable Discussion

The group signed the board pledge agreements and evaluated the meeting.

At 8:05 p.m., with no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Seth Minter and seconded by Jere Greuel to adjourn. Motion carried.

Ryan Riggins
Secretary / Treasurer MDH Board of Directors