Melissa Memorial Hospital has announced a contract has been signed with a new doctor.

MMH administrator John Ayoub announced during the regular meeting of East Phillips County Hospital District Monday, Aug. 27 that Dr. Aaron Wilson has recently been hired. Wilson, a third-year resident, will graduate toward the end of June next year and is expected to begin next July.

Wilson and his young family will most likely move to Holyoke next year. Ayoub also mentioned Wilson's wife is a registered nurse and has been in contact with the nursing staff. Ayoub said a five-year contract has been signed with Wilson.

"It really is, I think, the kick start that we needed for our recruiting efforts," Ayoub said.

Ayoub also mentioned they had spoken with another provider earlier in the day as well. A good number of applications have also been received for a nurse practitioner, and Ayoub said he hopes to offer the job to one of those applicants soon.

As the recruiting effort continues, Ayoub showed board members the finished recruitment video, which features everything Holyoke has to offer. The video will be used to help draw physicians to the community.

Mike Woodhead appointed to vacant board seat

Having only received one inquiry about the vacant board seat, EPCHD board appointed Mike Woodhead to the position during last week's meeting.

Woodhead fills the seat left after the board accepted the resignation of Steve Deaver during the July meeting.

Administrator reports activity

Ayoub reported MMH is set to go live Tuesday, Sept. 11 with the new electronic medical records in the hospital. He noted a lot of work has been going on in the background.

Ayoub said there was a nice turnout for the employee picnic and barbecue toward the beginning of August.

During the Melissa Memorial Hospital Foundation report, Ayoub said MMHF raised right around $43,000 during this year's annual legacy event. In an effort to make good to their commitment of raising $100,000 over five years for the Grow Our Own Physician project, MMHF put away $20,000 for this year.

Of the remaining $23,000, $17,087.39 was given to the hospital to help pay for a bed monitoring system for the prep recovery rooms.

Other money went toward an endowment and the scholarship program offered by the foundation.

Other business

In other business Aug. 27, board members:

—approved credentialing for James Beckmann, Maurice Lyons, Randall Marsh, James Belville, Betsy Bronson, Jeffrey Chain, Randall Taylor, Stephen Zumbrun, David Ewing, Robert Scott Pace, James Swinehart, Shane Rowan and Arnold Pfahnl.

—approved a proclamation stating the intent to refinance the hospital building.

—held a 27-minute executive session for items pertaining to an ongoing investigation.

—noted the next board meeting will be held Tuesday, Sept. 25.

Holyoke Enterprise September 6, 2012