

## MINUTES

**South Arkansas College  
Board of Trustees Special Called Meeting  
Virtual - Zoom  
October 12, 2023 1:00 p.m.**

**Trustees Present:** Steve Cousins, chair; Gary Griffis; Crystal Yeager; Melissa Jerry; José Covas

**Trustees Absent:** Courtney Kelley; Kerri Brown; Wayne Gibson

**SouthArk Staff Present:** Dr. Stephanie Tully-Dartez; Dr. Tim Kirk; Ann Southall; Gabe Schroeder; Cynthia Reyna; Jennifer Schroeder

**Others Present:**

- I. Call to Order – 1:08 p.m.
  - a. Due to Mr. Cousins suffering connection issues, he requested that Mr. Griffis, vice-chair, chair the meeting in his place. Mr. Cousins would remain in attendance.
  
- II. Insurance Contribution Increase
  - a. Ms. Jerry informed the Board that the Budget/Finance Committee met to review the proposal, and recommended that the Board approve that the college increase its contribution for the basic, employee only health insurance plan by \$15 to maintain no additional cost being placed on SouthArk employees on this plan.
  
  - b. Dr. Tully-Dartez informed the Board that the proposal also included a \$10 increase in contribution for all other health insurance plans to allow the college and employees to split the increased cost. – **Approved. Roll call vote: Cousins – aye, Yeager – aye, Covas – aye, Jerry – aye, Griffis – aye.**
  
- III. Destruction of Property
  - a. Dr. Tully-Dartez presented to the Board a proposal to tear down two buildings on campus. These include the old Red Cross building at 404 South West Avenue, and the apartment building at 311 W. Cedar St. Both buildings have structural damage and are unusable, even for something such as storage. The cost associated with fixing the buildings would be more than it is worth in both cases, even when factoring in the revenue that could be generated from rentals in the apartment building. Dr. Tully-Dartez requested that the Board approve the removal of both buildings to increase safety on campus.
    - i. Mr. Covas requested information on when the last tenants occupied the apartment building. Dr. Tully-Dartez informed the Board that the last tenant had moved out in the month of October, and before that it had been almost 6 months since the tenant before them had moved out.
    - ii. Mr. Covas also noted that, to his memory, the Board had not received information about the structural state of these buildings. He continued, asking how these buildings had fallen into disrepair. Dr. Tully-Dartez informed the Board that 404 South West Avenue had been damaged in an ice storm, there was an insurance claim filed, and some patchwork was done to the building, but it was not enough to preserve the building's structural integrity. As for 311 W. Cedar St, SouthArk purchased the building in poor condition and had not committed substantial efforts to repair the building.
    - iii. Ms. Jerry asked when the buildings could be taken down if the Board approved, to which Dr Tully-Dartez stated that she would like to have both buildings down by January 1, 2024.
  
  - b. **Motion to approve destruction of property per quotes provided to the Board and an understanding that the City of El Dorado would commit the time and labor to the demolition. Covas/ Jerry. Roll call vote: Cousins – aye, Yeager – aye, Covas – aye, Jerry – aye, Griffis – aye.**
  
- IV. Adjournment – 1:20 p.m. Griffis/ Covas