



MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN NYE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

101 Radar Road, Tonopah, NV 89049

June 20, 2019

6:00 PM

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Chairwoman Link called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Chairwoman: Rhonda S. Link

Vice Chair: Karmin Greber

Secretary / Treasurer: Justin Zimmerman

Trustee: Don Kaminski

Trustee: Tim Gamble

Item #1, Pledge of Allegiance.

Led by Trustee Gamble.

Item #2, Approval of the Agenda for June 20, 2019. (Non-action Item)

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman suggested the removal of item 5. Chairwoman Link accepted his suggestion.

Item #3, GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (Three-minute time limit per person.) Action will not be taken on the matters considered during this period until specifically included on an agenda as an action item (first).

None.

Item #4, Announcements (first)

Chairwoman Link said that she has been working with Rachel Buck, an R.N. working to bring home healthcare to Tonopah. She will focus on patients with Alzheimer's and dementia. Rhonda said that Rachel has a great vision for the area. Rachel is currently looking for a space to rent.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that he is waiting to confirm the office space for the Board's administrative secretary before he runs the ad. He said that he appeared before the Tonopah Town Board and appealed to them for use of a building they are currently using as storage, he said it is looking favorable though, that Board opted to have the space appraised for fair market rent before agreeing to let the District use it. He also added that they seemingly agreed to not charge the District for use of the space, but still wanted it appraised before they'd consent to it being used.

Justin also said that Roni and Russell would be meeting with Todd Johnson and the title company to sign the purchase agreement the following Thursday, for the residential property on Central Street that the Board voted to purchase at the last meeting.

Item #5, For Possible Action – Emergency Items

Removed from the agenda.

Item #6, Trustees'/Liaison Comments (This item limited to topics/issues proposed for future workshops/agendas)

Vice Chair Greber said that the Board needs to develop a maintenance and management plan for the Board's newly acquired real estate. She wasn't sure which meeting it would come back to.

Trustee Kaminski asked if this would be a duty of the administrative secretary.

Chairwoman Link asked if it would include physical maintenance.

Karmin said that she'd be bringing a policy back for the staff member to refer to, and the conversation could happen at that time.

Trustee Gamble said that access to emergency care is a problem. He said he has been working on ways to help with this issue with the EMS Director and the Sheriff. He said he wants to see if there is any support that this Board can give them to make improvements.

Chairwoman Link said that once the Spillman program is incorporated into the ambulances, things will improve greatly.

Tim then said that the hang-up with that program is currently with the Sheriff's Office seeing a security issue.

Trustee Kaminski said that he had spoken to the Sheriff and she had told him that wasn't an issue because access can be limited in the program.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman reminded everyone that it could not be discussed at this time as it was not on the agenda. He said he would agendaize the topic for a future date.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Item #7, No Action – Presentation by Renown Health of their February, March, and April 2019 reconciliation packages and reports pursuant to the professional services agreement entered into on December 20th, 2017.

Jessica Thompson represented Renown. She said they saw another increase in their visit totals for the month. Their total visits were the highest so far this year for the month of May.

Jessica also announced that their current MA-PAR, Savannah, is leaving. She is moving to Las Vegas. But they have already hired her replacement. Jennifer Yeager has already begun her training.

Mrs. Thompson also provided an update regarding the telehealth patient satisfaction reports. She said they have begun to compile data. They have received 18 responses so far and they are positive. She said this will continue to evolve, and the Board will see more specific data in the future. She also said if the Board has any specific questions they'd like asked, the reports can be amended.

Jessica added that she is still working on the “in person” survey. She said the wheels are starting to turn slowly.

Vice Chair Greber asked if Jennifer was a CNA.

Jessica said that she will be an MA, and it also an EMT.

Item #8, No Action – Presentation by Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority of their April 2019 reconciliation package and reports pursuant to the professional services agreement entered into on December 20th, 2017.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that Kevin couldn’t appear before the Board tonight. He said that the Board had his presentation in the backup. Justin also said that Kevin is wonderfully responsive, and suggested that if the Board had any questions, they reach out directly to Kevin.

Item #9, No Action – Update on USDA grant, presented by project manager Dr. Russell Pillers; and 2) presentation of monthly report pursuant to the professional services agreement entered into on October 25th, 2018.

Dr. Pillers said that the contract he has been working on with CNRC is looking good. He said that they did use the Board’s draft as their template and are making minimal changes to it. Their lawyer hasn’t reviewed it. Russell said that he last reported the urgent care plus model the Board had requested wasn’t going to work. He said that with some of the changed that CMS has made, it is now looking more feasible.

Chairwoman Link asked if there was an update on the property they were planning on purchasing.

Dr. Pillers said the negotiations are ongoing. The ball is in his court.

Russell then provided an update regarding the facility needs assessment. He said that he shared the healthcare needs assessment and some pictures of the facility with KORTE. He said that the effort really depends on the property being transferred from the County to the District. That has not been agendized for a BoCC meeting yet.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that the item is tentatively scheduled for the BoCC’s July second meeting.

Dr. Pillers said that the Johnson property is being finalized. He then touched on the Air Force housing project. He said that he and Justin were notified of some deficiencies in the packages. Russell said they seemed minimal and that he felt he’d be able to sort them out in no time.

Chairwoman Link asked what the deficiencies were.

Russell said that one was letters of recommendation. He said that he talked to the Town of Tonopah, REMSA, and Affiliated and all of them seem to be willing to supply letters.

Rhonda also suggested Marie Peterson.

Russell agreed that was a great idea and said he’d reach out to her. He then said that the other deficiency stated was regarding experience. He said they want to know how the Board will address any gaps in the experience needed to successfully tackle the project.

The final deficiency was to do with environmental questionnaire. He said he reviewed it today, and it doesn’t look like an issue either.

Vice Chair Greber said that McSherry's environmental specialist pitched in for the reasonable estimate she had sought for the property, so it has been evaluated, at least preliminarily.

Russell also said that he had heard that Rippie Realty does property management and felt there might be something worth exploring there. Though, he doubted they'd be able to manage a hospital property.

Chairwoman Link said the Board might have to create that management service themselves.

Trustee Gamble said that that is exactly what a lot of smaller hospitals do.

Russell said the Board will have to facilitate this while it's an empty building, so it's in place before there are services offered.

Dr. Pillers then said that he has some calls back from a few people with the Sheriff's office regarding the healthcare needs related to the ICE housing. He said that he sees potential funding coming from this project that would decrease a potential subsidy from the Board to who ever gets that contract, if the Board chose to partner with them as well.

Russell asked Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman if he would know for sure when the item regarding the transfer of the hospital campus was on the BoCC's agenda. Justin said yes, he'd let Russell know when it was agendized.

Trustee Kaminski asked if he can have access to the cloud storage drive that Russell created for the Board.

Russell said yes, and that he would send him a link.

Trustee Gamble asked if there was some effort in the long-term to move the iCloud drive and all of the District's data in virtual network, or some larger existence than an iCloud drive.

Russell said yes. He is currently collecting all of the District's data, but however the District wants to move forward, that is up to the Board.

Chairwoman Link asked Russell if he had seen a room full of IT equipment in the hospital.

Russell said yes, there are a few. He wasn't sure how much of it was useful.

Rhonda said she was concerned with what employee records might be contained on that old hardware.

Trustee Gamble said much of it would likely need to be destroyed.

Dr. Pillers asked Trustee Gamble if he had gotten any info regarding the locked pharmacy. Tim had speculated that the Board might be dealing with a room full of medications that would need to be disposed of.

Trustee Gamble said that the pharmacist had stopped visiting several months prior to the hospital's closure.

Jessica Thompson said that was incorrect.

Trustee Gamble said that there were several violations listed by Jaco due to the pharmacist stopping his visits.

Jessica that again said that was incorrect because they were not Jaco accredited at that time.

Trustee Gamble said that it may not have been Jaco, but he had found several violations.

Jessica said there were violations in the clinic with the practicing physician.

Tim said that he had seen those violations as well.

Jessica again said that the violations were not with their pharmacist, and he was there until they closed. She said that he came and took an inventory and then took possession of the medications before they closed, because that was his responsibility. She said there are no meds left.

Chairwoman Link said that made sense because there is a shelf life on all that medicine.

Dr. Pillers asked if there was anything behind the locked door in the pharmacy.

Jessica said there were some files and empty vials, but no pharmaceuticals. With regard to the computers, she said that former Nye County IT Director Milan came through and moved all of the IT equipment into locked rooms. She doesn't know if any data on those computers was accessed or destroyed. She doubted it but didn't know.

Item #10, For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation of proposal by Impact Evaluation and Assessment Services to enter into a professional services agreement to develop a Community Health Improvement Plan, or “CHIP”.

Dr. Pillers said he talked with Margo, she was unable to be in town, but she is available by phone if the Board has questions.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that this seemed like the logical next step on the path toward providing healthcare, subsequent to Margo's healthcare needs assessment. He asked Dr. Pillers if this is something that would help him as this project ultimately rests on his shoulders.

Dr. Pillers responded that without a doubt this would help him. He said that this is the route that Elko County took, and it really is the link between the needs assessment and causing actual change on the ground in the community. Russell said that Margo's approach would be to locate all of the available resources in the community and develop a plan to put them to their best use and then identify other deficiencies needing to be filled to make a positive impact on a specific area, like the community's overall diabetes statistics. These would be small area specific changes that could happen while the Board is focused on the larger issue of the emergency facility.

Chairwoman Link asked for a specific situation in which this would be beneficial.

Dr. Pillers said that hypothetically during scheduling the meetings that Margo suggests, anyone she has identified as a resource to assist in dealing with the specific issue identified would be invited to attend along with one or two Board members, and a plan would be developed to capitalize on the available resources and take action to affect change. He said this is the perfect strategy to deal with each of those smaller issues while he and the Board focus on the larger issues.

Vice Chair Greber asked if the coordination and marketing would all be Margo's tasks.

Russell confirmed.

Chairwoman Link said the charges seem high.

Dr. Pillers said that the work this would entail for Margo was being understated. There was quite a lot to do and Margo was being conservative in her pricing.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said again that he liked it.

Trustee Gamble agreed that it was next logical step.

Vice Chair Greber said that she would get behind the two-trip plan to maximize the benefits. She asked if October was her actual timeline.

Russell said he thought that was just an illustrative timeline.

Vice Chair Greber asked if the result from this effort would be another plan that would need to put into action to help the community.

Russell confirmed. He said her first assessment delivered the Board the facts. This plan will deliver the Board an action plan. This takes the broad data of the assessment down to the specifics.

Trustee Kaminski said it sounded like Russell was on board. He asked if Dr. Pillers thought it was worth the money.

Dr. Pillers said that he cannot do this type of lifting on his own, and that he could not overstate his joy that they are at this point.

Vice Chair Greber asked if there was a draft services agreement.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said no. He said that Margo had suggested this item and if it was the pleasure of the Board to move forward with the CHIP, then she would provide an agreement and Justin would bring it back to the next meeting.

Chairwoman Link said she has some healthy skepticism. But she sees where it could be beneficial.

Trustee Kaminski motioned to move forward with Impact Evaluation and Assessment Services to negotiate a professional services agreement to develop a community health improvement plan.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman offered his second.

Trustee Kaminski amended his motion that the agreement include the two-day option in Margo's proposal.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman amended his second. The motion passed 5-0.

Item #11, For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation of the minutes from the April 18, 2019 regular meeting, and the May 28, 2019 regular meeting.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that the minutes from the May 28th meeting aren't ready yet.

Chairwoman Link said that she had sent some corrections to Justin earlier.

Justin said that he had received her changes and brought a corrected copy tonight.

Trustee Gamble made a motion to approve the minutes.

Vice Chair Greber asked him to include the corrections that had already been made.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that he could read them into record, and asked Tim to withdraw his motion.

Trustee Gamble withdrew his motion.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman then made a motion to approve the minutes with the corrections being to capitalize Chairwoman Link's last name on page 6, and to spell the word 'Board' correctly on pages 4 and 6.

Trustee Kaminski offered his second, and the motion passed 5-0.

Item #12, No Action – Update on the current status of the fiscal year 2018-2019 budget.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that there was good news to share. He instructed the Board to look at the final page of the revenue detail report formatted by period. He said that data shows that the Board has collected \$82,405.57 more in revenue this fiscal year than was budgeted for. He said that at this moment the Board is in excess of budgeted revenue by more than 3%. He said this is what they want to see. Justin also added that revenue collections tend to keep trickling in through August, so he would keep updating the Board if anything changes.

Item #13, For Possible Action – Approval of invoices for payment.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman made the recommendation that Renown's April bill be increased by a \$1.00. He said that if the Board did the math down the column of the reconciliation report Renown had provided, they would see that it was off by \$1.00. He then said that if the Board would look at the corresponding invoice, there is an arbitrary \$1.00 credit shown on the invoice, making the two documents balance each other. He suggested the Board not make use of that credit and pay the additional dollar.

The second recommendation Justin made was to the Renown invoice number 10408. He said that this invoice shows a credit for Renown's business personal property taxes which the Board had suspected were being charged to the District, in clear breach of contract. Justin said that Renown had been sent a notice of this suspicion and asked to provide evidence that this was not the case. Renown did not provide the evidence requested, and on a conference call admitted to charging the District inadvertently. They had agreed to allow for a credit on the next invoice. They did allow for a credit of the 18-19 taxes, but not the 17-18 taxes which were also identified on that notice, nor did they provide any evidence that those taxes also hadn't been charged to the District, so he recommended withholding that amount from the invoice as well as the additional 6%.

Vice Chair Greber asked if this was in lieu of the prescribed remedial steps contained in the notice.

Justin confirmed.

Karmin asked if that was suitable.

Justin said he felt that it was.

Chairwoman Link said she supported this remedy.

Justin said that the fiscal year 17-18 business personal property taxes were \$1,256.51, and that 6% of that is \$75.39 so the total deduction he was recommending was \$1,331.90 reducing the amount due to \$40,794.44.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman motioned to approve the invoices with those two corrections.

Trustee Kaminski offered his second and the motion passed 5-0.

Item #14, No Action – Open Meeting Law review.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that this was a recurring item when the Board was newly formed. It was eventually retired. But Vice Chair Greber had asked that it be returned.

Vice Chair Greber asked about the Google Cloud and the process by which public requests for information are vetted before it is ready for public dissemination. She said the County certainly has a process. She said she'd like to have the Board or Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman research what issues to be alert to for Board members accessing data outside of the public arena. She said she understood in these situations, there wouldn't be deliberation, but didn't know how best to handle the situation.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that to mediate these situations, the County had hired a public information officer, whose full-time job it was to deal with these issues. He suggested inviting Arnold to a future meeting for a discussion.

Vice Chair Greber said that she would welcome that.

Trustee Gamble said that the question should be put to counsel as well. It was his feeling that the District's lawyer was the person to talk to overall.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman agreed that a legal opinion would be best but said that in the past when talking to Tom about the Open Meeting Law, Tom has stressed that that is not his area of expertise.

Vice Chair Greber suggested that perhaps there was someone in his firm or that he could recommend otherwise.

Item #15, For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation to set the next meeting location, time, and date.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that the next third Thursday was July 18th. He then made a motion to set the next meeting, location, time, and date as July 18th, at 6:00PM in the chambers as usual.

Trustee Kaminski offered his second, and the motion passed 5-0.

Item #16, General Public Comment (second)

Jessica Popelka, the physical therapist's assistant at Affiliated Therapy, offered public comment. She said that they opened in March and are open Wednesday through Friday currently. She also said that there are three candidates to get the full-time physical therapist position, and once that position is filled they will be open Monday through Friday. Once that person is hired they'll have a grand opening. She said they're getting busy, so they need the position filled.

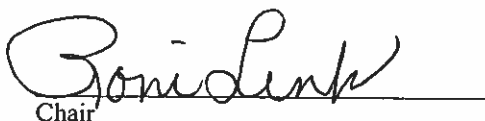
Item #17, Announcements (second)

Chairwoman Link said the NNCHD had won an excellence in EMS integration award. The award will be presented in Florida in July. Roni will be attending in person. The award is being resented at an EMS conference and since she is involved with the EMS she thought that would work out perfectly. She has already registered to attend the conference.

Item #18, Adjourn.

Meeting adjourned.

Approved this 18th day of July 2019.


Chair