



**MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN NYE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**101 Radar Road, Tonopah, NV 89049**

**October 17, 2019**

**6:00 PM**

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Acting Chairman Greber called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Acting Chairman: Karmin Greber

Secretary / Treasurer: Justin Zimmerman

Trustee: Don Kaminski

Trustee: Tim Gamble

Trustee: Emily Hendrickson

**Item #1, Pledge of Allegiance.**

Led by Trustee Gamble.

**Item #2, Approval of the Agenda for October 17, 2019 (Non-action Item)**

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman suggested the removal of item 5 due to the fact it was not needed.

**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).**

Sarah Allen: She thanked the board for their work. She said she wanted to remind the board of their financial responsibility. She said she didn't have her computer in front of her and said that last fiscal year, June 1, 2018-2019, \$960,000 (roughly) was spent. She explained that she brought her daughter to the meeting to remind the board of their fiscal responsibility when they vote. She said she hopes there will be a facility to bring her daughter to as she grows up. She asked the board to continue to do good work and said that she hopes the board has a common goal in mind to bring providers to Tonopah. She said she brought her daughter to remind the board of the reason to bring care to Tonopah, not just for the elderly or critically ill.

Acting Chairman Greber asked if Ellie would like to say anything. Ellie stated her name and said that she see's Marie Peterson for medical care.

#### **Item #4, Announcements (first)**

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman introduced Tiffany Grigory as the administrative secretary for the hospital district. He said that her position would be helping with minutes, agenda items and everything else. He said he was happy to have her and that she was doing a good job so far.

Acting Chairman Greber asked how the office configuration was coming along.

Tiffany said it was coming along.

Acting Chairman Greber reminded the board that they had rented an office at the Mizpah Hotel for a very good price, on a month to month basis so that when we get the opportunity to move into the hospital we can.

Trustee Kaminski asked if Tiffany Grigory was the only applicant.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that she was the only complete applicant. He said there was some other interest, but she was the only applicant to go through the entire process.

Trustee Kaminski said he had an announcement. He said that he received an email today at 3:13pm addressed to the Town Board, from Matt Walker. He read the following email:

To whom it may concern,

My name is Matt Walker I'm the CEO of White Pine County Hospital (William Bee Ririe Hospital) in Ely, NV. I wanted to reach out and see what medical resources currently existed in Tonopah and have a discussion with someone on needs and if we could branch out and help in any way? I noticed that we are technically the closest healthcare facility to your location (not saying much since it's still 150+ miles). We have put two facilities in Eureka county over the past 2 years and have learned a lot, and have been able to bring more services than have ever existed there before (general surgery, orthopedic surgery, family practice, chiropractor, and soon to follow cardiology). We would like to see if a similar model would be possible or even necessary.

I don't want to seem intrusive or pushy so if you don't have any needs you can disregard this email, we just wanted to reach out and see if we could find a way to help support rural Nevada with additional medical services.

Thanks for your time,

Matt

Trustee Kaminski said that email was sent to the Town and the Town forwarded it to him, because he is the Chairman of the Town Board and to Karmin.

Trustee Hendrickson asked to take this opportunity to introduce herself. She introduced herself as the newest member of the board. She said she was just appointed this past Tuesday and has been doing a lot of reading to get caught up, so that she can support the board and the community. She said she has been in the area for about 2 years, but her family has been around for 10 years. She said she is very excited to be apart of the board and is happy to see the potential movement.

Acting Chairman Greber commented on Trustee Hendrickson's early application and that she was the first to apply.

Trustee Hendrickson said that her part of her job at Round Mountain Gold is to keep up with what is going on in the community, especially when it comes to healthcare. She said when she saw there was an opportunity to be a Trustee she thought it was a good fit.

Acting Chairman Greber said that Trustee Hendrickson's position at Round Mountain Gold was Corporate Responsibility.

Trustee Hendrickson said that she lives in Round Mountain and works at the mine.

#### **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)**

Acting Chair Greber said that she had a comment to bring forward for a future agenda. She read the following prepared statement:

Over the past three years the District has heard and considered many opportunities which we have hoped would be of benefit. Some have flourished, others not so much. But not for lack of effort. We are approaching a threshold at which we must consider a planned transition, from one partnership to embrace a new one.

As you know we have been approached by a medical group from Las Vegas with a highly dynamic approach to our situation. They are Central Nevada Regional Care, or CNRC. The time has come for the Trustees to come together and deliberate on these proposed services and the terms; I am calling for a special workshop for us to do so in advance of our regular meeting in November.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **Item #7, For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation to appoint a chairperson and other officers as required, pursuant to section 7 of the Bylaws.**

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that this item is to call for an official election of the Chair, following the resignation of the former Chair. He nominated Karmin Greber.

Trustee Kaminski nominated Emily Hendrickson, he said in the spirit of getting her feet wet.

Four votes were for Karmin Greber and one vote was for Emily.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman announced Karmin Greber as the new Chair.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that it was now time to elect the Vice Chair, and he nominated Don Kaminski.

Trustee Kaminski said that he could not, because he does not have the time. He then nominated Emily Hendrickson.

The vote was 5-0 for Emily Hendrickson as Vice Chair.

Chairman Greber announced the officers as Chairman: Karmin Greber, Vice Chair: Emily Hendrickson and Justin Zimmerman as Secretary/ Treasurer. She said this election is to carry through to the end of the year. She said in January, and every January, there will be a re-election of each office. She said that incidentally the same election time frame is for the supervisor of the admin staff. She said that Justin is currently the elected supervisor, but that will come up again January, if anyone else would like that job.

**Item #8, No Action- Presentation by Renown Health of their August 2019 reconciliation package and reports pursuant to the professional services agreement entered into on December 20th 2017.**

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said their report is in the back-up and that he received a text from Jessica stating that she would not be able to make the meeting. He told Vice Chair Hendrickson that he would get Jessica's contact information to her.

Chair Greber asked if Jessica offered any comments in lieu of a presentation.

Secretary / Treasurer Justin Zimmerman said that she only provided what was supplied in the back-up.

**Item #9, 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 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said REMSA also had no representation at tonight's meeting and their report is also in the back-up. He said he would supply their contact to Vice Chair Hendrickson as well.

Trustee Kaminski asked if there has been any word about the district receiving income from REMSA through Nye County, or are they still billing and keeping the money.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that was still the case.

Trustee Gamble asked if REMSA was billing.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that REMSA is not billing.

Trustee Kaminski explained that Nye County was billing for REMSA and keeping the revenue. He said the hospital district pays for REMSA and we do not getting anything out of that.

Trustee Gamble said he does not know we would get anything out of that anyway.

Trustee Kaminski asked why that was.

Trustee Gamble explained that as long as there was an advanced EMT on the truck, that they are billing at almost the same rate.

Trustee Kaminski said there was no advanced EMT here in town.

Trustee Gamble said there was, Dawn Gudmunson and John Burton, the town has two. He said the billing rate was at ALS I and that it would be the same. He said very few would be ALS II. He said he doesn't

think there would be very much difference from what the County was already billing. He said that it does save the patient from receiving two different bills, one from REMSA and one for the County.

Chairman Greber said this is a long standing question that the board has had.

Trustee Kaminski said that we pay for 100% of REMSA.

Trustee Gamble said that the board can speak to Chief Lewis, the director of Emergency Management, or Mike Cline, the EMS training guy. He said either one could speak on that topic.

Trustee Kaminski said that he would like to make a proposal that next year when they do the audit that they ask Nye County what the difference is and how many times they billed using REMSA. He said that would give the board an idea of the revenue they are missing out on.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said he has asked before and received pieces of that fund's audit, but not a complete picture.

Trustee Kaminski said that he is grateful for REMSA and that they are great.

Chairman Greber asked Trustee Kaminski if he is recommending the board apply man-hours to this question. She asked if Trustee Kaminski or Trustee Gamble would want to sit down and figure it out.

Trustee Gamble said that he could look into it.

Trustee Kaminski said he would like to see how many times the County billed for advanced care using REMSA personnel and then compare that to what the basic care price would be.

Trustee Gamble clarified that Trustee Kaminski was asking what the difference would be between what REMSA would bill and what the County would bill without the use of REMSA. He said that he could look into it and that he will try to do it within the month, but that it might be two months based on other people's schedules.

Chairman Greber said it has been a loose end that has been nagging.

Public Comment from Dr. Russell Pillers: He said that several months back in a meeting with REMSA in Reno, REMSA brought the issue up. He said it was his general opinion that they felt bad. He said in the conversation REMSA said the County was billing for their services in the amount of about \$300,000 per year. He reiterated that REMSA is not a fan of that arrangement.

Trustee Gamble said that figure sounds inflated and that he would look into it.

**Item #10, 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 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018.**

Dr. Pillers reported that this month is mostly updating on items discussed at last month's meeting. He said that he gave two interviews that may appear in the press. He said the first one was for a publication called Nevada Independent out of Las Vegas. He said the article was focused on air transport around the issue of balanced billing. He said that term was new to him, so he had to educate himself on the topic. He said the

article was long and had a lot of detail. He said his part was one small paragraph. He said in the article they compared Elko with Tonopah. He said the article reported Elko was one of the best scenarios for rural healthcare across the country. He said for air transport specifically, Elko has at least two providers. He said the article asked one of the owners of one of the air transport companies about balanced billing. He said the article explained they don't want to see people bankrupted by an emergency trip to the hospital. He said in the section that talks about Tonopah the head line is "A dire situation in Tonopah". He said overall it was a pretty good article.

Dr. Pillers said a couple of days after that article in the Nevada Independent, he received a phone call from Alexander Tin, a CBS campaign reporter out of Washington, D.C. He said they spoke for about 2 and a half hours about rural healthcare in general. He said that Alexander's main focus was on rural healthcare. Dr. Pillers said he was happy with the conversation because he was able to talk to Mr. Tin about what we are facing here. He said Mr. Tin wanted to know about the Scoccia incident and the previous history and that he did his best to fill him in. He said it was a great interview and that he would follow-up and let the board know when and if it comes up in the media.

Trustee Gamble asked if Dr. Pillers had access to the article from the Nevada Independent.

Dr. Pillers said it is on the Nevada Independent website and that he could provide a link if Trustee Gamble had a problem finding it.

Dr. Pillers brought up the topic of the inventory/ appraisal and said that it is one of the hurdles in the transfer of ownership of the hospital compound. He said November 2nd, a Saturday, is the day the inventory will begin. He said that it needed to be done on a day that Renown was not open. He also said that he most likely would not be coming to Tonopah for the inventory/ appraisal. Dr. Pillers said that the Fidelity contractor told him he was going to try to get it done in one long day if possible and that he might need Sunday to finish up. Dr. Pillers said that timeline seemed mind-boggling to him, but that was what we were paying them for.

Chairman Greber asked how many personnel would be coming out to do the inventory/ appraisal.

Dr. Pillers said one person would be coming, but that it could be more, maybe like an assistant. He said that the contractor was currently in Oregon and that was why they could not come earlier.

Chairman Greber asked what the turn around was for the inventory/appraisal.

Dr. Pillers said that he expected it should not take longer than a week or a week and half for him to put it into report form for the District.

Dr. Pillers said that because the inventory/ appraisal is scheduled, the District needs to locate any hardware that may have made it out of the hospital. He said that the District has to either write it off as a loss or at the very least locate it.

Trustee Gamble asked if the inventory included an evaluation of the value.

Dr. Pillers said the original plan was just for an inventory, but that he would look into it to be sure.

Dr. Pillers said the barn is a lingering issue. He said that the County had been using it for storage and that they were supposed to clear it out.

Trustee Gamble said that he thought it had been cleared out already.

Dr. Pillers said that he was there with another contractor and that he saw a pile stuff in the back, floor to ceiling with County furniture, decorations, etc...

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said the board was told the barn had been cleared out. He said he spoke to Dawn and Lorina, and told them the inventory was happening next week and that everything needed to be out this week. He said he knows Dawn took everything that was EMS related and that Lorina had put in a work order with B&G to remove the County's belongings and that, to his knowledge, was only a washer and dryer.

Chairman Greber asked if it is known how many users of that facility there are.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that we do not.

Dr. Pillers said that when he was working with Fidelity to put the quote together, he was asked if he knew what was in the out buildings. He told him that he did not. He said that part of the cost built into the quote was the element of the unknown. He said the contractor the worried about opening a door and finding a ton of equipment.

Trustee Gamble brought up the issue of locked doors at the facility and that it was not known if there was even anything in them.

Dr. Pillers said yes, the pharmacy.

Trustee Gamble said that the pharmacy was one, but that there also a patient records room and he thought they found monitors in some of the nurse's offices.

Dr. Pillers said that the records project had eliminated anything that was older than 10 years old. He said that the project to notify people about the remaining records was underway. He said that at some point the remaining records were supposed to be destroyed.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that he had reached out to Mrs. Clifford because he was concerned. He said he thought the deadline was June 30th. He said he was not sure if that was when the documents were destroyed, but he knows that they are no longer on site. He said he had been concerned about exposing Fidelity to the liability of the documents and that is no longer an issue.

Chairman Greber said she had two questions. She said one was access. She wanted to know if the County would provide a locksmith to make sure we had access to all the rooms.

Trustee Gamble said that Lorina should have all the keys. He said that the County should have a huge set of keys and that we should have access to everything.

Chairman Greber said that Lorina told her she does not have the keys for some of the locked doors.

Dr. Pillers asked if there is a local locksmith.

Chairman Greber and Trustee Gamble both answered that there is.

Chairman Greber said her last question was if the Fidelity contractor named any show stoppers like

environmental concerns. She asked if he were to walk into a rats nest, would he continue.

Dr. Pillers said that did not come up in discussions.

Trustee Kaminski said that we do know there are asbestos concerns.

Chairman Greber said that we should make him aware of the environmental concerns, because she does not want to have to pay him to come again.

Trustee Kaminski said that Dr. Pillers had mentioned Fidelity would be looking for items that might be missing. He asked if they would be comparing their inventory to the one the County has already.

Dr. Pillers said that Fidelity would not know the difference. He said that we've heard rumors there is hardware around town. He said those items need to either be written off or located.

Trustee Kaminski asked how would we know what is missing without an inventory. He said he thought Lorina had an inventory.

Dr. Pillers said that particular inventory was very vague. He explained that in the world of inventory, you can choose to go as far as down to staplers. He said the original type of inventory we planned was for a very high level inventory of items valued at \$10,000 or more. He said that he asked Fidelity to put the lower valued items into categorized lots so we will know ,for example, how many desks and chairs the District has. Dr. Pillers said that he thinks the people that have oversight for the hardware at the facility should be asked if they have loaned out any equipment.

Vice Chair Hendrickson asked when that last inventory was completed.

Dr. Pillers said that it was before the bankruptcy transfer.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that the County was basing their assets list on the declared assets from Scoccia's personal property account. He said that personal property list was a joke. He reported that Jessica told him she had done a complete inventory during the bankruptcy because the bankruptcy court required it and that it was a very thorough inventory. He said he has never seen that inventory though. He said that Nye County finance had done a very high level audit and that he thinks it might have been done in the spring.

Dr. Pillers said that Fidelity is going to use that Finance audit to get a rough idea of what to expect.

Chairman Greber asked if that was just for the one building.

Dr. Pillers answered that it was.

Public Comment from Marie Peterson: She said in terms of people who might be able to identify the medical equipment that Jessica did an inventory and has a good understanding of what was there. She said that she too could provide some information if she was able to go room by room. She said in regards to large equipment, she would know what was there and would be able to identify what was missing.

Chairman Greber asked when Marie left the hospital.

Marie Peterson said at the end of October, 2011.



Trustee Gamble said that he heard the Sheriff's office did a walk through with a video camera. Chairman Greber said she had heard that too.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that Lorina told him about that too, but that she had never seen it.

Marie Peterson said who better to know than the people that worked with the equipment. She said there is a lot of good equipment in there.

Chairman Greber asked if it was being suggested to pursue that footage.

Trustee Gamble said that he thinks it would be something to look at. He said it is public record. He said that we could take a second video and compare the two.

Chairman Greber asked Dr. Pillers what he thought.

Dr. Pillers said that would be great data. He said that we would have to decide who would sit and compare the two. He said that he does not have a good sense of who has been authorized to move things around and that would create a challenge.

Marie Peterson said Quality Maintenance records might be a good place to check for equipment inventory. She said that Dave from QRS was in charge of those records and that she has a phone number for him.

Chairman Greber asked if the entire foot print would be included in the inventory, grounds and all.

Dr. Pillers said it would need to be arranged to have a representative of Renown present as they go through that building, to identify what is theirs, ours or the County's.

Dr. Pillers said in regards to the title search, that he did not understand practically any part of it. He said he happened to be passing Hawthorne and stopped in a Cow County office and had someone sit and explain it all to him. He said that he learned there are no financial aspects hanging onto the building's title, but that it is still not a clear title. He said through all his research he found out there was formerly a Nye County Hospital District, back in 1999. He said the Mina Medical Corporation had recorded the deeds for the hospital incorrectly. He said ultimately there are inconsistencies in the title chain that need to be fixed. He said now is the time to fix these things before the District takes ownership. He asked Cow County to put a proposal together and he said he expects that to be finished next week. He reminded the District that the County had offered to pay for the title search and recommended to have the County pay for the follow-on efforts instead. He said it appears that a lot of what has been left on the title is remnants of past actions of the County.

Chairman Greber asked if the County has agreed to pay the \$300 for the title search.

Dr. Pillers said no, that they had offered to pay but that the board said they would pay for it.

Chair Greber and Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman both said they do not remember it that way.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that he has already submitted the invoice from Cow County to the County for payment.

Dr. Pillers said that the board needs to decide if they were going to do the same for the follow-up project.

Chairman Greber said presumably yes. She said we cannot do anything with something that is not ours.

Dr. Pillers said his contact at Cow County gave him the indication that it would be a decent amount of work.

Trustee Gamble confirmed that none of the issues were too pressing and that they mostly had to do with the chain of custody. He asked if the property has any indefinite liens or anything like that.

Dr. Pillers said no there was not. He said there was one thing that had peaked his interest though. He said it was a \$90,000 issue and that it had something to do with Mina Medical Corporation. He said that it was not attached to the property though. He concluded that there is nothing financial hanging on to the building.

Chairman Greber asked if Dr. Pillers was told that the title issues would have to be solved with a court order.

Dr. Pillers said he was not. He said that it sounded more like paper work that needed to be filed.

Chairman Greber confirmed that the proposal would be coming next week.

Dr. Pillers said that it would be.

In regards to the barn renovation Dr. Pillers said that they had a site inspection on September 20, 2019 and that they are still working on the quote.

In regards to the Air Force Housing Dr. Pillers reported that Mr. Solomon is hopeful we will get the draft deeds tomorrow, Friday. He said once that happens, he knows he will have to start looking for funding to renovate those houses.

In regards to the Johnson house, Dr. Pillers asked if there was an update.

Chairman Greber said that the closing was completed last week and that the closing packet was mailed out this week.

Dr. Pillers asked if the title issue had been resolved.

Chairman Greber said that it has not. She said that it was considered to be part of the property and that it was not a contingency of sale. She said it has been investigated and was found to be a minor issue.

Dr. Pillers asked if the issue would prohibit the Board from using it.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that it will take a court action to get it cleared up. He said he has tasked Tiffany on getting quotes from real estate attorneys.

Chairman Greber said surveying, a court-order and then updating the deed. She said it is right on our timeline and will have zero impact. She said that she is happy to announce that the town had the property cleared. She explained that the town had used Forestry Conservation Labor to clear the weeds on the property next door and had added the Johnson house. She said she drove by and it is weed-free.

Dr. Pillers asked if it looked different from the last time she took pictures.

Chairman Greber confirmed it was now weed-free. She said that she spoke with Todd tonight and he had received his check and is ready to hand over the keys. She said she will be meeting him on Saturday at ten o'clock.

In regards to the CNRC contract, Dr. Pillers said there is currently a version that they are happy with. He said they got a little ahead of themselves and signed that version of the contract. He said obviously the board still needs to look at it, and the public needs to look at it. He said he will be broadcasting it to the board come Monday. He explained it will have all the regular restriction attached to it: don't talk about, it's for your own consumption. He reminded the board that feedback should be in the form of an email to him. He said that this will get the board primed for the special session. He said once the board is happy with the contract the next step would be to get it to Tom, the legal council, for him to review.

Dr. Pillers said that the only other dangling item is the transition agreement with Renown. He said that the board needs to speak with them. He said that needs to happen next. He said he wants to be upfront about that and talk about it. He explained that months ago he had a phone conversation with Gary Beck after Kirk had left and in that conversation Gary Beck said when and if Tonopah was ready and needed to take that step, they would be willing to consider the conversation to transition to a different provider. He said that he thinks we are there now. He said based on the current service agreement with Renown, both parties will need to agree. He said this cannot be a unilateral decision. He said based on the advice of the legal council, we have put everything into place such that when the conversation happens, we have someone willing and ready to step in behind them. He said this is where we are at. He explained that in the back of the contract with CNRC is the list of services they will be providing. He said that list of services, in his mind, is extremely impressive. He said the list of blood tests they are going to be able to do on-site is 25 pages long. He said they are ready to provide vastly expanded services on site.

Trustee Gamble asked if they will be bringing up their own lab and not shipping stuff to Pahrump every few hours.

Dr. Pillers said yes, they will have their own lab. He said he was educated by Queenie about CLIA blood tests. He said they will be able to provide any CLIA waived blood tests on site. He said they will bring whatever hardware they need to be able to do those tests. He said they have it worded in the contract that is where they are starting. He said that within the first 6 months they will look at expanding to even more advanced blood tests. He said that CNRC was concerned about requesting for a subsidy to help pay for equipment to provide advanced blood tests, and said they didn't want to scare the district away. Dr. Pillers explained his answer to CNRC was that the board's interest is when the time comes they may be willing to buy the equipment and it would be the board's asset. He said it was determined by CNRC that when that time came around they would submit a proposal for the board's consideration.

Trustee Gamble said that since he has not been here from the beginning, that he would like to see them come here in front of the district to answer questions for themselves.

Dr. Pillers said that the special session could be the time for that.

Dr. Pillers said despite his initial lack of knowledge in contracts he thinks he has represented the District well. He said they have been pushing hard on the urgent care plus concept and that may be what comes out in the CBS interview. He said this is not the typically accepted structure. He said a medical provider is usually an urgent care or an emergency room. He said it has been difficult to do something in the middle. He said the CNRC has been investigating this concept at the legislative level. He said there is a caveat on the

behalf of CNRC saying they will not break the law.

Trustee Gamble said that he assumes they will be somewhere in the middle of JCAHO and the Nevada Division of Public Behavioral Health. He reiterated that as course of action for the public interest, he thinks it would be beneficial to hear it come from their mouths on record.

Dr. Pillers agreed. He said that he has confidence in them because he has been working with them and that it is now the Board's turn.

Public Comment from Marie Peterson: She asked if we are looking at this being an ER or an urgent care.

Dr. Pillers said that is the point he was trying to make earlier, that it is in the middle.

Marie Peterson said that when it comes to lab testing, CLIA waived vs. a full fledged lab, she believes there is still a full lab set up at the hospital. She said it would need a medical director to run it, but if you're bringing in a medical group, why limit yourselves to just CLIA waived tests. She said there are a lot of CLIA waived tests and that but she provides CLIA waived tests and so does Renown. She said this is not something we don't have access to. She said in terms of an urgent care or ER, why not use all the equipment that is already there.

Dr. Pillers answered that CNRC at this point does not know what is there. He said once they know, they can adapt to what the board wants.

Marie Peterson said that a lab director does not have to be onsite, just that one needs to be licensed to supervise the lab. She said they will need a team lead/ manager to run the lab.

Trustee Gamble asked if tests such as PTT, INR and maybe troponin I were all CLIA waived tests.

Marie Peterson answered that PTT and INR were but that she is not sure about the troponin's.

Trustee Gamble said that he knows the I-stat cartridges come with troponin 1s. He said that would be something to look into for an urgent care plus.

Chairman Greber wanted to confirm with Marie Peterson that she does CLIA waived testing and does not send them away.

Marie Peterson confirmed that she does them and that they do not need to be sent away, because they are table top.

Chairman Greber asked about Renown.

Marie Peterson said that Renown has some. She said she explored just today about a CBC. She said she called today about a CBC with a diff, and found that Renown could not do that.

Chairman Greber said that every time she has called about a blood test they have not had the ability.

Marie Peterson said she is really looking into that because in primary care, it is the difference between antibiotic and non-antibiotic treatment.

Trustee Gamble said that he believes the differential needs to be done in a lab.

Marie Peterson agreed.

Dr. Pillers asked if looking at the 25 page list of CNRC lab tests, should he be asking if they provide all CLIA waived tests.

Marie Peterson said she doesn't believe anyone could provide all CLIA waived testing, because you don't need every one and because each one has a cost. She said the problem is between the cost associated with the licensure for CLIA and each test, and the cost-effectiveness of it all. She said she has to look at what she is going to use the most and what is going to benefit her patients. She said she can almost guarantee they are not going to offer all of them, because there are a lot available. She said looking at utilization is important.

Trustee Gamble said the I-stat test for a CLIA table-top test is around \$250 per cartridge and they expire in 6-12 months. He said if they don't get used before they expire, they are done.

Marie Peterson Agreed.

Dr. Pillers said that at this point CNRC has committed in the contract to providing every CLIA waived test.

Marie Peterson said it would be nice to see them save money on the CLIA waived tests by utilizing the equipment that is there at the hospital. She said getting the equipment recalibrated and updated, would bring down the cost of the tests and make more tests available.

Trustee Gamble said this might be something to discuss with them face to face and see if there is an opportunity to transition from where they start.

Dr. Pillers said that when the Board sees the draft contract, they will notice it is constructed heavily on adapting; adapting to what the board will subsidize and to what they are capable of providing. He said it was constructed this way in order to start relatively easily and then grow. He said they will need time to get to know the patient load and repatriating patients locally. He said they are being very careful because they do not know what they are walking into.

Trustee Gamble asked Dr. Pillers to float the idea to CNRC that before we make the final approval for the contract, that they come before the board to answer questions.

Dr. Pillers said okay.

Marie Peterson said she would be more than happy to share with them what she does see here. She says you see things in Tonopah that you might not see in many other places. She said that was the advice she got from her predecessor, Dr. Peterson. She said practicing in rural is very different from practicing in the urban areas. She said you read about it in the urban areas and then you see it happen in Tonopah.

Trustee Kaminski asked Chairman Greber if this was something we could do as a workshop, since workshops are open to anybody. He said that way we could have knowledgeable people like Mrs. Peterson present.

Chairman Greber said her motivation for the workshop is to be able to break down the contract in an arena where everyone can deliberate and ask all their questions, in an open setting where the public can ask their questions. She commented on the funny look Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman was making.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that if the public wants them here and they have not appeared before every current board member, then the idea should be floated out to them. He explained it has been his experience that the medical people they have worked with so far do not have experience working with and answering to the public or a board. He said it is his concern that they will be off-putting and ultimately damage their own reputation.

Chairman Greber asked Dr. Pillers what he thought that potential would be. She asked if there was a representative of the company that could speak knowledgeably.

Dr. Pillers said that Queenie would be ideal and that he is not sure that Van would come. He said Queenie is the one that runs things on a day to day basis and she has the authority as well. She is the one that prematurely signed the contract. Russell said that he believes they would do fine. He explained that they are different in that they already have a passion for Tonopah. He said there have been dozens of instances in which they had conceded during negotiations. He said he thinks he can get them ready.

Chairman Greber said that it does not have to be the whole team.

Dr. Pillers said he would do what he can to facilitate that.

Trustee Kaminski asked if there was a provision in the contract to guarantee jobs to the local people like Jessica.

Dr. Pillers said there is not a guarantee, because they cannot. He said they have guaranteed they will look at all of those people first before looking at people from Las Vegas.

Public Comment from Sarah Allen: She asked to clarify if the guarantee was for local Renown employees or for local registered nurses, such as herself. She listed her credentials as a flight nurse, CEN and CFRN. She said she has many credentials but she works in Las Vegas currently. She said she would like to be clear on who they are looking at first.

Dr. Pillers said the clause currently just says local.

Chairman Greber said residents of Northern Nye County would be the focal point.

Dr. Pillers said that CNRC knows it would be in their financial best interest to find people locally and that locals are familiar with the local population.

Dr. Pillers said the last piece is to speak to Renown. He said it is public now, and they know the conversation is coming.

Trustee Gamble said he would want to be careful that we are not delving into that prematurely without being fully disclosed to the public, before having that conversation with Renown.

Dr. Pillers said he not against have legal council advise us on the pace. He said he wants to avoid driving into the mud.

Trustee Gamble said that the public should be well assured that their services are not diminishing.

Dr. Pillers said that he thinks that when it is right, he thinks we should publish the services list that will be

provided by CNRC, because it is impressive.

Trustee Gamble said that he looks forward to reading that as well when Russell gets it to the board members.

In regards to the cloud storage following the breach, Dr. Pillers said it is available to the board with a link.

Trustee Kaminski said that as far as they know it had not been determined that the cloud had been breached.

Dr. Pillers confirmed they do not know where the breach occurred.

Vice Chair Hendrickson asked if a separate link would be provided to each user to identify who has the link.

Dr. Pillers said it would not. He said it is just a link to access the mirror of his hard-drive, which is the cloud storage.

Trustee Kaminski asked if Dr. Pillers had presented on everything in his hard drive at the meetings.

Chairman Greber answered no and said that some of that information is proprietary.

Trustee Gamble asked Dr. Pillers how IT savvy he is.

Dr. Pillers answered that he is a 10/10.

Trustee Gamble asked what it would take to set up some kind of VPN, where we could have a front webpage that would actually be the NNCHD webpage, where public emails could be directed and then have a back-end where it would be IP-address traceable and password protected instead of just an open link.

Dr. Pillers said it could be done. He said he could look into that.

Trustee Gamble said he would be more interested in having it password protected accessible and IP-traceable.

Dr. Pillers said that would just be a shift in directions. He said that it has just been the past event that has brought to light that we need to be more careful. He said he could look into a more secure way to manage this information.

Trustee Gamble said an open link is subject to anybody outside.

Dr. Pillers said that Google Drive itself is not that secure.

Trustee Gamble said that he thinks it would be beneficial to lock that information down a little better.

Dr. Pillers said he would not mind pursuing that.

Trustee Kaminski questioned the term proprietary. He asked if that meant strictly proprietary to the board and not to the public.

Chairman Greber said that was correct. She said she received an extensive quote from the County with greater description on the NRS that they themselves defer to. She said there is always an allowance to check and make sure a document is ready for dissemination.

Dr. Pillers said they run it by their lawyer. He said we could do that too for \$375 per hour too. Chairman Greber said she did send this information to the lawyer to look at. She said based on her interpretation of the NRS, that leading up to the moment it is presented to the Trustees for deliberation, so three days before the meeting, it is not subject to public dissemination. She gave the example that none of the contract has been made available on an agenda, she said the board cannot even discuss the contract amongst them selves, which makes it proprietary.

Trustee Kaminski said he did not understand why they could not talk to one another.

Chair Greber said all of this is OML. She said we can all push information to each other.

Dr. Pillers said it goes to the intent of the OML. He said anytime there is deliberation, the public needs to be apart of it. He said he thinks there will need to be a special session, because it will be a long deliberation in regards to the CNRC contract.

Trustee Kaminski said that is why he wanted to have access to the cloud, so that when he has time he could look at whats being done, and ask questions if he had them.

Dr. Pillers said that in percentages of what is on his hard-drive to what has been presented, it is 5%. He said the rest of that 95% is all his workings.

Chairman Greber said that it is available for audit purposes.

Dr. Pillers added that is because it is being paid for by public money.

Chairman Greber said that the control aspect is to insure that one board member's opinion and thought does not gain traction without the consolidated consent of the board. She said until the will of the board is ascertained it should not be out there, because it cannot be conclusive.

Dr. Pillers said that his strategy on the project is to bring everything as far as he could, then hand it to the board.

Chairman Greber brought up the point of Tiffany's position. She said Tiffany is at the board's disposal for inquires, but she ultimately cannot relate information between Trustees.

Trustee Kaminski said that she is bound by the same OML rules.

Chairman Greber said the exception is that she can speak to us individually.

Trustee Kaminski added that Tiffany cannot poll us for our ideas.

Dr. Pillers said she and I could talk up a storm.

Chairman Greber said that she could poll the board, just like she did for the nominations. She said that Tiffany can disseminate information, for information only.

Dr. Pillers said that in this forum, there are no restrictions and the board can talk about what they want.



Trustee Kaminski corrected him and said that they have to abide by the agenda. He brought workshops, and said that in the town they schedule workshops to discuss special items.

Chairman Greber reminded him that workshops are still agendaized. She said they are general but still agendaized. She said the workshop she is recommending would be specific to the concept of the CNRC contract.

Dr. Pillers asked if Chairman Greber was envisioning the workshop on a Saturday.

Chairman Greber said they would have to decide a date and time.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman added that the only real difference is that no action can be made at a workshop.

Chairman Greber said that is why she wanted a workshop prior to the next regular meeting.

Dr. Pillers said that if money was not a factor, he would like to have council present at the workshop.

Chairman Greber agreed.

Trustee Gamble said that he thinks if they show up with their lawyer then we should have ours as well.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that Tom is willing to be there.

Trustee Gamble said it will be the lawyers hashing out the language of the contract anyways.

Dr. Pillers said that at this point the CNRC's lawyer is happy with the contract as it stands.

Trustee Gamble said that it might save money in the end to have both lawyers present, since they will be in the same room.

Dr. Pillers said that was the end of his presentation.

Chairman Greber asked Russell to revisit Korte before he ended his presentation.

Dr. Pillers said it is the same status as last time. He said they waiting for the transfer to be complete before they put the RFPs together.

Chairman Greber asked Dr. Pillers to give a brief overview to Vice Chair Hendrickson.

Dr. Pillers said basically what they have to decide is whether it is more cost effective to bulldoze the hospital or remodel it. He said the way they do that is with a Facility Condition Assessment. He said it is an extensive process in which all the trades are organized by a contractor. He said he likes Korte because they have a medical background, but that their bid might come in too high. He said a company like Korte will orchestrate a proposal for what we have decided we need. He said he is pretty sure they will also give us a comparison of cost between remodeling and starting from scratch. He explained that if the assessment is done within the standards of the USDA, then the project could qualify for USDA funds to build the new hospital if that is the way things go. He said BEC will be doing the phase I survey to make sure everything is baselined before the property is accepted.

Chairman Greber said this something we need to make sure gets done before the transfer of the deed. She

said this is due to the type of grant funding that is available to us. She said the current owner cannot access the grant funds, which is the County. She said we can though, only before we own it. She said that is why we want to accomplish it before we pursue finalizing the transfer.

Dr. Pillers said that is the Brownfield's funding. He said on the same day he had the walk through with Mr. Shields about the barn, he saw that they were taking pictures all through the hospital to get ready for the Phase I.

Vice Chair Hendrickson asked how long this was anticipated to take.

Chairman Greber said she heard it was 30 day turn around.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said he thought it was 2 weeks.

Dr. Pillers asked if they've done it in this facility before.

Chairman Greber said that they have done two. She said she thinks this is a single phase follow up to the previous two. She said we do not have to do two of these. She said she doesn't know if it's a repeat due to the time elapsed.

Trustee Kaminski and Dr. Pillers agreed that it was.

Dr. Pillers said that next month will be his year-end summary. He said it is going to look different and he is going to try to summarize everything he has done up to this point.

Chairman Greber said that Dr. Pillers anniversary with us will be next Friday. She said there has been a lot accomplished in one year.

**Item #11, For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation to approve, amend and approve, or deny terms for occupancy of recently acquired residential property at 149 Central Street in Tonopah by full-time physical therapist with Affiliated Therapy of Las Vegas, Nevada at the Tonopah physical therapy clinic in accordance with the Community Support Program Policy & Procedure, section 8.2.**

Chairman Greber said that this was her agenda item and that it was a carry over from last meeting. She said there were four edits recommended altogether and they have been incorporated in the new agreement. She said the rent was a notable item, set at \$450. She said that every piece of the contract was at the landlord's discretion, which gives the board a lot of latitude.

Trustee Gamble said that he did not see the term of the contract.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said it was in section 7.

Chairman Greber read the term in section 7 as continuing on a year to year basis.

Trustee Gamble said his concern is in having a medical provider that we might need more than another provider. He said he is concerned that we are spreading our resources too thin. He said he wants to make sure we are providing an incentive to invest into the community by buying property.

Chairman Greber said that she spoke to the family moving into the Johnson property and they had expressed

to her their desire to put down roots and make this their hometown.

Trustee Gamble said that he wants to make sure this will support providers with the issue of housing. Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said he agrees with Chairman Greber that the family will not want to stay in the house if they are putting roots down here. He said he feels both sides. He said that we want it available as an incentive, but in the case that we do not have anybody that requires housing, he thinks it is better than having it sitting vacant.

Chairman Greber said in terms of the Air Force housing, the concept of converting two of the units into duplexes specifically for commuters, instead of having housing for just five full families. She said that way we are trying to maximize what we have.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that he likes the form now and he likes that it will be the standard for housing. He said that he is not on board with offering the Johnson house to Affiliated. He said that back in May or June when we gave them their initial start-up money, the motion was for \$20,000 in start-up costs, pending evidence of start-up costs which they provided, and \$6,000 in a one time off-set to their housing costs. He said when they provided the evidence of their start-up cost they also provided evidence of their lease agreement at Sierra Vista. He said their lease agreement was for \$380/month, to which \$6,000 is almost 16 months of rent. He said at that time he specifically that it was one or the other, that we will provide them rent or housing, but that it had to be one or the other. He said he was not interested in giving them both.

Chairman Greber said that Affiliated is housing two professionals right now, not just one. She also clarified that Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman's comment was his comment, and not part of the motion.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman agreed it was just his comment.

Chairman Greber asked if Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman was suggesting to keep the property vacant.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that he was not. He said that we have not offered it to anyone else.

Chairman Greber said there was no one else.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that Renown is paying to keep their PA in an apartment in Sierra Vista. He said there is also REMSA community paramedics who are not liking the County facility and they might prefer this to that facility while we are working on the barn.

Trustee Gamble said the County facility is not available to other County employees who the County is bringing in. He said the County refuses to house males and females at the same time.

Chairman Greber said they did not actually refuse; she said that only came out after the fact.

Trustee Gamble said it has always been either male or female for the last 3 or four years.

Chairman Greber said it wasn't last year. She said they stuffed them all in and that was what caused the problem.

Trustee Gamble said that was not his experience with the EMTs coming out of Bishop.

Chairman Greber said that naturally Affiliated holds a strong place in the community because of the services

they are currently providing. She said because they are a private company and not existing solely on subsidy. She said they are the first to open a practice here. She said they have hired a full-time therapist and she has a flyer for their grand opening on Oct. 24th. She said she thinks its in good spirit to offer the house to this young family who has come here to provide service to the community full-time. She said that Affiliated has proven their tenacity and that they were pursuing Tonopah back with Dr. Scoccia. She said a year later they showed their interest to Renown and got no response. She said they only needed help from the District to get a location. She said they offer occupational medicine, they are augmenting Marie's practice in home health, and Renown refers to them. She said that she knows they offer full Workman's Comp benefits. She said she feels it is suitable to offer this family a family home, rather than holding a partial contribution equal to rent over their head.

Trustee Gamble asked who they are housing now.

Chairman Greber said that Jessica is her name. She said they brought her here in April.

Trustee Gamble asked what she does.

Chairman Greber said she is the Physical Therapy assistant. Chairman Greber said that she commutes and lives here Wednesday through Saturday. She said that she has not met the new family who is at the apartments. She said she is very much in favor of offering this property to that young family to service our community.

Public Comment from Sarah Allen: She said she appreciates that Tim is looking at the length of the contract for the housing of providers. She said she is completely in favor of anyone looking to provide medical service to our community. She agrees that we should not lock ourselves into an extended contract, in case someone else wants to come to provide service. She said she mentioned the housing the District is providing to a critical care flight paramedic who has a wife that is a doctor of physical therapy. She cited a study that proved that in order to get medical care to a community you have to appease the spouse as well. She said she would like to see the ability to provide housing for other people that come. She said that Marie has a 30 minute drive home, and that she has offered her a room in her home on the nights she's working late taking care of a very sick patients. She said she was very thankful for Tim's mentioning of the term.

Chairman Greber said that along those lines the intention was to flip the five Air Force houses simultaneously. She said the goal is to make them available all at the same time. She said there are clearly providers interested. She said we are doing our best to fill this housing. She said it is still somewhat first come-first serve. She agreed it is hard to know what they will bring and that is why there are the provisions to the housing contract.

Public Comment from Marie Peterson: She said she wanted to give her support to the physical therapist that is here. She said she has seen him in her office asking what he can do to provide help twice since he has been here in 2 weeks. She said he is definitely intent on providing service. She said she would be very happy to see them get an incentive for whatever time period they need. She said she does not see the family staying in the house too long either. She said Affiliated brings us to the next step in home health. She said having a physical therapist here 5 days a week is perfect for our community. She said so many patients are going to be able to come back and get the services they need here in their community.

Trustee Kaminski asked that if, while the house is occupied, we are approached by someone else do we have the means to put them up in an apartment.

Chairman Greber said that we do. She said that we can apply any methods we want, up to 35% of our general budget. She said we have a great deal of latitude.

Trustee Kaminski said in that case he agrees with Chairman Greber that it would be a waste not to utilize the house now.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that our community support policy is 35% of annual revenue. He said this year's estimated annual revenue is \$1,138,591 of which 35% is almost \$400,000. He said we do not have this completely available in the budget with Renown and REMSA's caps.

Trustee Gamble said that we are talking about soft-costs, that these are not really costs to us. He said we have already out laid the money.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that it becomes a real cost when we put another provider up in an apartment.

Chairman Greber said it is a real cost to the tune of \$500 per month or a portion of it. She said she thinks that we would be able to craft a support that is suitable in that situation.

Trustee Gamble asked if the subsidy to Renown and REMSA were apart of that \$400,000.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said they were not, but that he would caution subtracting those annual recurring obligations out of the revenue before factoring that 35% or we will burn our cushion.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said his point is that the provider is here and that we have given them \$26,000 start-up that nobody else has gotten. He said that this is a double-dip.

Chairman Greber said that they are not the only ones who have gotten support and they are the third that have asked for housing. She said she has not heard anything that justifies withholding this home from this full-time provider at this time. She said the budgetary concerns and the what-if of a provider suddenly showing up and needing a home can be mitigated in a financially sound manner. She said that she thinks that we are safe in occupying this home under the terms of an annual revision. She asked if there is any action that would make him feel more comfortable.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that nothing comes to mind. He said that those were his thoughts and it's just a difference in opinion.

Trustee Gamble said this is the first time that we are dealing with this particular situation and that we are going to learn as we go along.

Trustee Kaminski said he would rather see someone who is providing something to us in that house vs. leaving the house vacant.

Vice Chair Hendrickson said that she thinks they have proven they are committed to working in the community and with the local providers. She said she knows first hand how hard it is to move an entire family. She said she agrees that she does not want to set a precedent that everyone gets free housing and free rent. She said that she is in support because they have proven they are committed to the community.

Trustee Kaminski made a motion that we approve the terms occupancy of recently acquired residential

property at 149 Central Street in Tonopah by full-time physical therapist with Affiliated Therapy of Las Vegas, Nevada at the Tonopah physical therapy clinic in accordance with the Community Support Program Policy & Procedure, section 8.2.

Vice Chair Hendrickson offered her second.

The motion passed 4-1; Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman opposed the motion.

**Item #12, For Possible Action - Discussion and deliberation regarding Beatty Town's interest in two mobile homes formerly belonging to Prime-care Nevada.**

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that these are two of the five mobile homes that were Primecare's assets in the bankruptcy and now the District has an interest in. He said these trailers have been discussed before. He said they are still in Primecare's name, and manufactured housing is requiring a court-order from the bankruptcy court to allow any sort of change. He said the County has been unable to get that court order. He said we will have to deal with the three trailers that are here already. He said that since Beatty Town has expressed interest in the two trailers in Beatty to providing housing to sheriffs and other County staff, he is inclined to let them have them.

Trustee Gamble questioned how this comes to us.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman explained the trailers are still technically property of the County. He said the County is checking if we have an interest and if the district has a care if they give Beatty Town the two in Beatty. He said he believes it will cost the District more to move them here than we can sell them for.

Chairman Greber said they have not been converted to Real Property so they are still private property.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said they are sitting on private property and the County has been told to move them.

Vice Chair Hendrickson said that if we are interested in them, then we would assume that responsibility as well.

Chairman Greber clarified that the action is to decide if we are interested or not.

Public Comment from Marie Peterson: She spoke about the contents of the trailers. She said the trailers here in Tonopah are in rough shape and have not had a lot done with them but the ones in Beatty have been turned into small clinics. She said they are quite narrow and there is not a lot of space, so they could be a small office with a touch of medical on the inside.

Trustee Gamble asked if there was a chance of any left over medical equipment in the trailers.

Marie Peterson said there could be. She knows there was a time when Dr. Scoccia was looking to have one of those units be used for Radiology exams and the other to be used for clinical exams.

Trustee Kaminski asked if those trailers are included in the upcoming inventory.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that they are not in the footprint of the inventory.

Chairman Greber said they were never transferred formally to the County. She said they are a loose end of

the bankruptcy court and it needs a court order to to get them transferred to the County.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said the County sees that as an impossible task. He said as an alternate option it has been recommended that they go through the trust/property process via delinquent taxes. He said this option is plausible, but the property is under the County, so it is not generating taxes. He said if we were to take them, they would still not generate taxes.

Marie Peterson suggested a walk-through to see what we are saying yay or nay to, before deciding.

Chairman Greber said that based on the assessed value it may not be worth the District's time.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that he has no interest in them.

Trustee Gamble said that he would hate to lose anything that might be inside them, especially that Beatty Town is not going to use. He said his concern is for anything that might be medical grade.

Chairman Greber asked if there was a time frame the County had in mind for a decision.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said they did not give him one.

Chairman Greber asked if anyone was interested in driving to Beatty to look inside the trailers.

Trustee Gamble offered to take a look, he said he will be down there next week on his way to Pahrump. He said he has no problem taking a look to see if there is anything that might be of use to the District.

Trustee Kaminski asked if there were keys available.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that we would have to work with Lorina to get access.

Trustee Gamble made the motion to declare no interest in the two single-wide mobile homes, 1991 and 1988, in Beatty, in regards to the structure itself; in regards to any of the contents, that decision is pending a walk-through when he makes it to Beatty.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman offered his second.

The Motion passed 5-0.

Chairman Greber asked Trustee Gamble to coordinate that effort with Tiffany.

**Item #13, For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation of the minutes from the September 19, 2019 regular meeting.**

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said this was Tiffany's first set of minutes and he was very happy not to have to do them and then made a motion to approve them.

Trustee Gamble offered his second.

The Motion passed 5-0.

**Item #14, For Possible Action – Approval of invoices for payment.**

Trustee Kaminski said he has a comment on the invoices. He read aloud his prepared statement:

“Madam Chair I have a problem with paying the bill from Hoy Chrissinger Kimmel Vallas PC (they are our attorneys) in the amount of \$4,312.50 on the basis that had nothing to do with providing medical services to the taxpayers of the Northern Nye County Hospital District and they should not be made to pay using their tax dollars. It was used for an investigation on an alleged matter that occurred between the Northern Nye County Hospital District trustees in which I feel could have been resolved by calling a special meeting of the board and giving all members the opportunity to answer any allegations against them. Last I heard this is still the United States of America and everyone is considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Chairman Greber clarified that the comment was addressed to her.

Trustee Kaminski said that it was to the board, because he does not want to pay that particular bill.

Chairman Greber said that the bill was incurred in protection of the board. She said it was a potential legal matter, in which they had no way to adjudicate themselves. She said they were in the midst of a breach, that not only exposed the board to risk and misrepresentation, but also another party. She said that third party was not consulted or privy to the release of that information. She said in order to determine liability and course of action in a legal manner, and within the open meeting laws in which we cannot discuss this amongst ourselves. She said as a board we needed to know the lawyers perspective and he needed to be apprised of everything in order to advise the board in how to move forward. She said that was the justification for the initial communication with the lawyer. She said there was no other way to bring sound advice that was objective under the law, with out involving our lawyer. She said that was why we contract with our lawyer, so that we have that top cover to insure we can handle these issues that are out of our expertise.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that he agrees and that it was terribly unfortunate that the board was put into that position. He referenced his statement from the last meeting stating that the value of the board’s word and integrity were jeopardized, and that we needed to handle that situation legally and efficiently. He said it is unfortunate that cost was incurred, but he is so happy to have had the advice of the lawyer.

Chairman Greber said that anything less than a legal opinion would have been subjective. She said in a forum where the members cannot collaborate without a public meeting. She said there are avenues within open meeting laws in which private sessions can be held when it comes to misconduct. She said she did not know what our potential partner was going to do, so we needed to know what we could expect and how to be prepared to protect ourselves.

Trustee Gamble said that he agrees with Trustee Kaminski to an extent. He said he understands the need for it, but that he’s not sure that was the most cost effective way to go about it. He said even in the open meeting laws there are ways to discuss discipline of personnel issues. He said that he does not see us getting out of paying this bill. He said that in the future he would like to look into a more cost-effective route other than racking up a \$5,000 bill for one issue. He said he echoes Trustee Kaminski’s concern, but that he does not see how we can get out of paying it.

Chairman Greber said for the record, we did not come to a conclusion on part of the breach. She said not everyone completed a declaration as was asked, so we did not actually get the ground truth. She said it was



on Tom's advice that we be satisfied with that and move forward and to learn from it. She said Tom's advice was that further action was going to become very costly and invasive and that we call it to a halt.

Trustee Gamble said he wishes there was a better way to do this, but that he doesn't see a way to get out of paying that bill. Trustee Gamble said because of that he is making a motion that we pay the invoices as presented.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman offered his second.

Public Comment from Sarah Allen: She made a comment about Renown and REMSA's invoices. She said she is not an accountant, but that she can see a vast difference between last month and this month. She said last month Renown's invoice was \$52,800 and the hospital district paid them \$34,101. She said this year the operating costs for this month is \$75,000 compared to \$52,000 last year. She is wondering where the difference is. She said in regards to the REMSA invoice, she feels like there is a page missing. She said all they have from REMSA is a bill that says activity with a grey bar across it and the balance due is \$44,992. She said finally when looking at Russell's invoice for Biowerx, she is thankful for his presentation and for him at least showing the board where the money has gone.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman explained that the financial breakdowns are there, but they are pretty vague.

Chairman Greber said that the difference for Renown from last year to this year might be the addition of Lisa.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman agreed.

Chairman Greber reminded the board that we had a motion and a second to approve the payment of the invoices and called for a vote.

The Motion passed 4-1; Trustee Kaminski opposed the motion.

**Item #15, No Action – Update on the current status of the fiscal year 2019-2020 budget.**

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman noted that the forms are the same from before, that they have just been updated with today's invoices and that Renown and REMSAs periodicals are updated with their most up to date invoices.

Trustee Kaminski asked Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman if he was familiar with the budget.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that he was.

Trustee Kaminski asked what our current income was.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that this year's revenue is estimated at \$1.13 million.

Trustee Kaminski asked what we have currently in obligations.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that our year-to-date encumbrances are \$590,375.14. He said that is everything known, that we have not already spent.

Trustee Kaminski explained that he is worried about the contracts with Renown, REMSA and Biowerx cap out around \$1 million.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that is where his concern lies too.

Trustee Kaminski said that we are already there, we have already spent our money. He said we are hoping we will not have to pay the whole \$500,000 to Renown because they do have revenue. He said that we know we will end up paying all of it to REMSA.

Trustee Gamble asked where REMSA is at in their budget right now.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that to-date they've spent \$299,299.44 on Renown. He said for the current contract year they have \$200,700 remaining. Last year they closed the contract with approximately \$167,000 remaining. He said when looking at REMSA's annualization they are going to be over budget.

Trustee Gamble asked about the revisit to the REMSA contract. He said he knows they were looking at redlines but he does not remember finalizing it. He asked when REMSA's contract was up.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that it is on the same timeline as Renown, so it will run through 2020.

Chairman Greber said that she thought the red line was in the report last time. She said she doesn't think we received their responses.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said he would have to look, but that he does not think so.

Trustee Gamble said that we are not ready to sign next year's contract yet.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that there is no need to, the contract is signed. He said both contracts have an annual provision if parties would like to renegotiate and come to terms.

Trustee Gamble asked if there was any way to put that contract out for bid.

Chairman Greber said there is a path if we want to.

Trustee Gamble asked if there is another interested provider. He said when we first signed the contract there was an emergency scenario. He said that he thinks it would be in the public's interest to look into bidding the contract.

Trustee Kaminski asked if someone else were to come in, would they be required to work with Renown.

Trustee Gamble said no.

Chairman Greber said they would be a private emergency services.

Public Comment from Dr. Pillers: He said that he had some information pertaining to this subject. He said that in his time working with CNRC on the contract, he was told by CNRC that there are several EMS companies in Las Vegas that would like to bid on a contract here in Tonopah. He said that REMSA does not call themselves first responders. He said they are not providing classic EMS services. He said they are providing community paramedicine. He said that he thinks it would be premature and irresponsible to change that right now. He said we need the community paramedicine right. He said that as things mature, we might be able to roll back to classic EMS services and have an outside entity provide that.

Trustee Gamble said that the problem with that is that the County is already providing that. He said that we are talking about needing to provide service with fair representation for locations like Gabbs, Round Mountain, Duck Water, and Manhattan. He said all those places are pitching tax dollars into the same bucket. He said right now REMSA is not really available outside of Tonopah. He said that he knows we are not going to find anything that provides as much at that cost. He said that as a course of least regret, so that we can feel that we did something fair with the public money, that looking at a bid would show some sort of competitive process.

Chairman Greber asked if private emergency services is not a reality. She asked do they ever get the revenue from their own services, or is it always government subsidized.

Trustee Gamble said yes and no. He said as a stand-alone service, there is not the call volume in this area to support an independent EMS. He said the personnel alone would be upwards of \$300,000 - \$400,000 per year. He said REMSA is providing a lot of other stuff that we could not get otherwise.

Trustee Kaminski said that was why he asked about the District being able to recoup the billed income from REMSA's services. He said if it was \$300,000 like Dr. Pillers said, then that would bring a lot back from this contract.

Chairman Greber said that both contracts were supposed decrease the subsidy once their revenue increased.

Both Trustee Kaminski and Trustee Gamble said that REMSA has no revenue.

Trustee Gamble said that we should look at that, in the interest of public concern.

Public Comment from Sarah Allen: She said that she wanted to comment on Dr. Pillers comment about other agencies wanting to provide service here in Tonopah. She said she does work in EMS in med-evac. She said that Optimum Medicine in Las Vegas expressed interest personally to her about one year ago. She said that she forwarded the contact to Roni or Karmin. She said she can re-forward that information. She said that in addition to the ambulance companies in Elko and Winnemucca, that we should give them the opportunity to show us what they can provide. She said that she thinks we will have to subsidize. She said that she worked for a company that did not charge the public and they were not able to sustain. She said that she wants us to know there are options out there.

Chairman Greber asked if it is misplaced that the District is sponsoring the paramedic when the revenues are going to the County. She said perhaps the County should be providing the subsidy. She said they are the ones that have the dispatch and the EMS. She said she does not believe there will be a time when the district will be able to provide dispatch, 911 and EMS.

Trustee Gamble said that he hates to split hairs, but that we do not provide a community paramedic. He said we have people with the title and education, but that their protocols are not at that level yet. He said they do not have that permission from the state yet. He said it has everything to do with the turn-over at the state level. He said what we are really providing is a first responder paramedic. He said that is what they are doing with the bulk of their time. He said he is not sure that will be making a big difference, but he will be looking into all that in the next couple of weeks.

Trustee Kaminski said in regards to something to discuss for the future, the Town was approached when the new emergency manager took over.

Trustee Gamble confirmed that was Mr. Lewis.

Trustee Kaminski said that he asked whether the town would be interested in taking over the ambulance service. He said that his response was that they had to look at the numbers involved. He said if the

Hospital Board were to do something like that, then we would be able to do the billing and get the revenue.

Trustee Gamble said that was correct. He said that model is very similar to Humboldt General Hospital. He said we would have to consider taking it over for the entire district. He said if we had a hospital with an actual emergency room, then the cost would be relatively minimal at that point. He said there are people in Humboldt County who would be willing to speak to anyone about their set up.

Chairman Greber asked which town was in Humboldt County.

Trustee Gamble said it was Winnemucca. He said in their model the hospital district oversees the operation of the entire hospital.

**Item #16, No Action – Open Meeting Law review.**

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that he thinks we covered that in Dr. Russell Piller's presentation.

Chairman Greber said that we have a new trustee that needs to take the OML training. She asked if a date had been set yet.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said it has not. He said there is also someone new on the Town Board, so there will something.

Trustee Kaminski said that was Mr. Grigory.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said he would follow up on that.

Chair Greber asked if she had 90 days to complete the training.

Trustee Gamble said that sounds reasonable.

**Item #17, For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation to set the next meeting location, time, and date.**

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that the next third Thursday is the 21st of November.

Trustee Gamble said that was correct and that he has no objections with that date.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman motioned to set the next meeting location, time and date as here in the chambers at 6:00pm on November 21st.

Trustee Gamble offered his second.

The motion passed 5-0.

Chairman Greber said as an aside about the special workshop that she thinks the board will have to coordinate offline with Tiffany and Dr. Pillers regarding the panel.

Trustee Gamble said that he thinks we only need three business days.

Vice Chair Hendrickson said that we would want to give the public as much notice as possible.

**Item #18 General Public Comment (second)**

Sarah Allen: She said wants to sincerely thank the board again and thank Marie Peterson for the care she provides to the community. She said she is going to the same school that Marie went to. She said she is extremely envious of the work she has done to get where she is. She said she does not want the board or another company to forget the care Marie is providing. She said she is concerned about possibly cutting her throat by bringing in another provider. She said she encourages bringing in another provider, but she hopes they will supplement the care Marie is providing. She said that she continues to bring her whole family to Marie's practice. She said she sent a text to Devon from Optimum Medicine and has received a reply from him saying "We are very interested in being of assistance to the Tonopah residents".

**Item #19, Announcements (second)**

None.

**Item #20, Adjourn.**

Meeting adjourned.

Approved this 21<sup>st</sup> day of November 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Greber", written over a horizontal line.

Chairman Greber