



MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN NYE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

101 Radar Road, Tonopah, NV 89049

January 17, 2019

6:00 PM

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Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Secretary / Treasurer Justin Zimmerman
Trustee Roni Link
Trustee Karmin Greber
Trustee Don Kaminski

Assistant Nye County Manager Lorina Dellinger
Nye County Comptroller Savannah Rucker
Nye County Public Information Officer Arnold Knightly

Let the record show that Vice Chair Clifford was absent from this meeting.

Item #1, Pledge of Allegiance.

Led by Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman.

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

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman suggested the removal of item five. The agenda was accepted with that single alteration.

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 expressed her concerns with the shortage of healthcare in the community. She also thanked the parties in attendance at this meeting that were proposing advancing services.

Item #4, Announcements (first)

None.

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)

None.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Item #7, For Possible Action – Election of Chair.

Trustee Kaminski nominated Trustee Link and Trustee Greber seconded his nomination. Motion passed 4-0.

Item #8, For Possible Action – Election of Vice Chair.

Chairwoman Link nominated Trustee Greber and Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman seconded her nomination. Motion passed 4-0.

Item #9, For Possible Action – Election of Secretary / Treasurer.

Trustee Kaminski nominated Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman to retain his post and Trustee Greber offered her second. Motion passed 4-0.

Item #10, No Action – Update regarding the status of the audit for fiscal year 2017-2018 presented by Nye County Comptroller Savannah Rucker.

Savannah shared that the reason for the extension request had nothing to do with the Hospital District, and everything to do with the turnover in the Nye County Treasurer's Office. She stated that the situation there was being rectified. Savannah then said that as soon as she is in possession of a draft audit, she reviews and authorizes the audit to go out to the board members. The board members must have a draft audit in their hands by January 31, and the board must have approved the audit by February 15.

Item #11, No Action – 1) Presentation by Renown Health and Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority of their November 2018 reconciliation packages; and 2) update on the progress made regarding the implementation of services pursuant to the professional services agreements entered into on December 20th, 2017.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that he had been informed that there would be no representation from REMSA present at the meeting, but Renown was supposed to be represented and were not. He suggested moving on with the agenda and returning to this item if a Renown representative turned up late.

Chairwoman Link agreed.

Item #12, No Action – Update on USDA Grant, presented by Project Manager Dr. Russell Pillers and report on progress made regarding the professional services agreement entered into on October 25th, 2018.

Dr. Pillers said that the healthcare needs analysis, and that he is also working with JML Holdings to help establish their presence in the community.

He stated that he had a conversation with Dr. Scott Jones at the State Department of Health & Human Services who then facilitated a telephone call between himself and Tina Gerber Winn, the Agency Manager for Rural Clinics and Community Health Nursing with a focus on mental health. Russell said that both Scott and Tina have dug in and sent him some great information while giving the understanding that they are deeply invested in what we are doing here.

Dr. Pillers then detailed his recent work with JML Holdings. He said he has been helping them find available land and he thinks they have found a suitable piece. He also said that he has been researching off-

site manufactured medical buildings. He said these aren't modular units, they would sit on foundations and would come with things like oxygen lines already in the walls. This is ongoing research.

Dr. Pillers stated that before Mr. Eason had left the board he had put Russell in touch with Northern Nevada Medical Center based in Reno. They happen to be a subsidiary of Universal Health Services as is Valley Health System in Las Vegas and it looks like there is potential for an innovative relationship between JML Holdings, Northern Nevada Medical Center and Valley Health System that could result in the District being supported North and South which has been an issue to overcome in the past.

Dr, Pillers then shared some information on a project that Commissioner Wichman has been working on regarding Department of Defense and Department of Energy funding for healthcare in the District. Russell said that there is the potential that the money is sitting and waiting to be used all that is holding that up is the healthcare needs assessment and maybe the facility needs assessment as well. He said that the amount of money is significant enough that it could potentially pay for an entire new hospital. But, of course nothing is guaranteed, he referenced his past experience in trying to get funding from these agencies and expressed that no one should get their hopes too high just yet.

Dr. Pillers then said that he is still working on the Return to Home project with regard to bringing people home from Bishop once they've been transported. He said that the issue with crossing state lines isn't quite the issue we anticipated, more to come in the future.

With regard to the search for land for JML Holdings, Dr. Pillers said they are focused on the land in front of the Tonopah High School owned by the Elliot Family He said he's been in touch with them and they are motivated to sell. This land is desirable as it already has utilities nearby and is located on Main Street.

Dr. Pillers also met with Jerry Selig. Mr. Selig is currently working on the patient records project but is also willing to help in any other way that he can. Russell will continue conversations with Jerry as things progress.

Margo Teague of Impact Evaluation and Assessment shared an update with Dr. Pillers regarding the healthcare needs assessment. Russell said that he suggested that Margo allow for a catchment area in her assessment that would allow for data to be gathered from entities such as the Test Site that fall outside of our District footprint, but would potentially take advantage of healthcare available here.

Chairwoman Link asked how data would be collected in the healthcare needs assessment.

Dr. Pillers said that on the quantitative side of collection, Margo will be able to access insurance, data, state data and national data. On the qualitative side she will design her data acquisition process. She won't be contacting every person in the District. She said she will select a subset of citizens randomly and will have sit down interviews that are scientifically designed to produce the data that will be used to extrapolate the data we need.

Dr. Pillers then said that he needs to purchase a Verizon Hot Spot because personally he uses AT&T and there being no AT&T service in the District is inhibiting his ability to do work here. He said that if the board would consider the cost, he'll add it to his next invoice.

Vice-Chair Greber asked what was happening with the land Michael Lach mentioned donating to the District.

Dr. Pillers said that he and JML Holdings had walked both properties, and both have their advantages and disadvantages. But one major desire is a Main Street property, and of course neither of these are on Main Street. He also said that as with all business deals, the donation wasn't as straightforward of a gift to the District as it had originally sounded, but it hasn't been rejected in any way, it could still be a good avenue. There are also other viable pieces of land potentially available. As things progress, we'll begin eliminating

parcels.

Dr. Pillers then said that the USDA had asked that all entities receiving benefits from the grant have some skin in the game. As a result of this request, Tonopah Public Utilities has said that they will hookup utilities to whatever construction results from the grant, free of cost.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman has asked Russell to look into what the flow requirements were for the facility types being discussed so as to make sure that the utility system was capable of delivering the water required to the facility. Russell said he'd looked into this and inpatient healthcare facilities are the pinnacle of water usage in America. They use more water than any other industry in America. But, outpatient facilities are not quite as bad.

Vice-Chair Greber asked Assistant County Manager Dellinger about the appraisal that has been talked about for the hospital campus. She asked whether the appraisal had been scheduled.

Assistant County Manager Dellinger said that the appraisal will only be good for six months, so they are waiting for the facility assessment to be completed before they order the appraisal, but they have identified a party to do it.

Item #13, No Action – Discussion of Article III of the Northern Nye County Hospital District Bylaws, relating to the future role of the Board in healthcare in Northern Nye County, the current hospital campus and the development of a new medical complex.

Vice-Chair Greber said that she sponsored this item to hear from the Trustees what their opinions are of the function of the board.

Trustee Kaminski said that the board should be proactive in recruiting providers and seeing what it takes to bring them here.

Chairwoman Link also said that the board needed to be proactive.

Vice-Chair Greber asked what that board thought of the hospital campus.

Trustee Kaminski said that the board needed to determine if it could be used first.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that he agreed that the board should be proactive in recruiting providers. But, the primary goal is to determine whether the facility the board already has is viable. He said that we can recruit all the providers in the state, but right now there is no where for them to work. The process laid out with the USDA Grant has the board on the right track. It is his opinion that the board not put the cart before the horse.

Chairwoman Link said that the process regarding the facility is set in motion and is progressing well.

Vice-Chair Greber asked about the board establishing an equity position in the hospital campus. She also asked Assistant County Manager Dellinger about the board's options for acquiring said equity position.

Assistant County Manager Dellinger said that County has the option to deed the property to another government agency.

Vice-Chair Greber asked if that was a desirable situation for that board.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that if the County no longer owned the building they would no longer pay to maintain it and annual costs are in excess of \$100,000.00.

Trustee Kaminski said that would be a big burden for the District to undertake. It would be a different story

is the board had a provider ready to offer services and assume responsibility for the utilities.

Chairwoman Link said that she didn't feel the District had the ability to take the campus over and maintain it. She said that the board has projects in the works with the USDA Grant and suggested giving them time to develop. She also suggested letting JML Holdings come in and get established and we can keep working on the campus project in the interim.

Vice-Chair Greber expressed some concern over supporting a private entity coming in and establishing healthcare in conjunction with the USDA Grant project of assessing the existing hospital campus. She wondered what the Board would be left with when everything was settled. She said from the standpoint of the board, the board is supporting another operator coming into the District and assisting them in a search for land to develop, and also working on a route forward with the existing campus. She asked if there was an agreement that could be reached with the County whereby the District could receive the land and the County for continue to pay for its upkeep.

Assistant County Manager Dellinger said that it is something that can be discussed, but of course regardless of the ownership of the campus, the facility is in no condition to be occupied anytime soon.

Vice-Chair Greber said she understood the condition of the existing facility. She had just experienced some hardship since it is practically the only medical facility in Tonopah, and when it comes time to show potential providers around, there isn't much to show, and she doesn't feel that the board has a voice when it comes to the existing facility.

Item #14, No Action – Introduction to Affiliated Physical Therapy of Las Vegas, Nevada who will bring physical therapy services to Northern Nye County at their new clinic in Tonopah in early 2019.

Steve Jolley the owner of Affiliated Physical Therapy said that he had looked at the facility in Tonopah several years ago and things just didn't work out at that time. He said that for the a while they are looking at opening a facility here for maybe one day per week and seeing what the patient population is and what the insurance situation is. He said that he'd like to occupy the existing physical therapy space in the hospital campus but wasn't sure how viable of an option that was.

Assistant County Manager Dellinger said that she couldn't put a timeframe on that space, but she would work diligently with Renown if it was their desire to use the campus, but the condition of the facility is also an issue.

Steve said that as far as rents go, they are reasonable in Tonopah and the old DMV building would suit them just fine.

Steve said that at their facility in Pahrump they offer wound care, acute care, home health, typical physical therapy, so they'll have a base of physical therapists to draw from depending what services are needed here. He also said he hoped to receive funding from the District to offset getting a provider in Tonopah. He stated that in Pahrump or Las Vegas they typically pay about an \$80,000 annual salary, but in Tonopah he is estimating that salary would need to be around \$120,000.00 or maybe some other type of incentive like loan repayment would be necessary to entice someone to coming to Tonopah. He said that initially, they would rotate staff through so no one gets burned out.

Vice-Chair Greber asked what accommodation would be necessary to come to Tonopah once a week.

Steve said that at the location selected, they've discussed outing living quarters in the facility they occupy.

Chairwoman Link asked about their ability to accept the wide array of insurances in the community.

Steve said that they were looking at creating a separate legal company for the Tonopah endeavor so as to be able to receive higher payment from insurance companies given the remote location. The new company would have to be credentialed with the insurance companies so there was already an opportunity on the horizon to investigate that.

Steve also asked if the equipment in the hospital campus formerly used for physical therapy could be leased or auctioned off.

Assistant County Manager Dellinger said that they were working toward excessing the property and making it available for auction as is. She expressed that the condition of the equipment is unknown, and the sale would be as is.

Steve asked for a timeframe.

Lorina said she is looking at trying to get that approved by the Commissioners by February 5th. Then the list for auction would be published and then within the next month the equipment would be available.

Vice-Chair Greber asked if a month to month lease could be allowed to assist Steve in opening the facility.

Lorina responded no, there are NRS requirements that must be followed.

Steve said that they have garages full of equipment sufficient to get them started.

Vice-Chair Greber asked what the timeline for offering services was.

Steve said that they were initially hoping for February but it has been pushed back to March.

Vice-Chair Greber asked if they would be able to provide speech therapy.

Steve said they'd like to provide that service and are currently recruiting speech therapists, but don't have any on staff right now.

Vice-Chair Greber asked if there was occupational therapy that also engaged with pediatrics and would of assistance with children and education.

Steve said that they do have a pediatrics clinic in Las Vegas where occupational therapy takes the primary roll. He said that they just had their first pediatric specialist therapist come in and treat patients in Pahrump. He said they would offer that service with the caveat that they can only do so much. He said for children to really benefit from physical therapy it takes a special facility geared towards children.

Item #15, No Action – Update by representatives of JML Holdings of Las Vegas, Nevada concerning their role in the advancement of medical services to Tonopah and other areas of population in Northern Nye County.

Van Le expressed that he hoped his presentations given this morning were beneficial. It was his belief that better healthcare could be delivered here, and he was eager to deliver it. He said this is a multi-party endeavor, and we all need to come to the table and see what we can do.

Chairwoman Link said that once the healthcare needs assessment is done, that should provide a wealth of information in setting the path forward.

Van said that he wanted to have an urgent care plus available in the community by the end of this summer. He said he wants to have physical bodies in town treating patients and answering questions. Van said that the urgent care plus would offer family care, prenatal care, blood pressure control, simple infections and respiratory infections could be treated there, and in cases where critical care is necessary they would be able to stabilize the patient at the facility, so the patient could be transferred directly to Reno or Las Vegas without layovers for stabilization in Bishop or Hawthorn.

Van said one key goal of his is to win the confidence of our patient base back. He said they need to know that they can receive treatment here and not spend healthcare dollars in the Bishop and Hawthorne markets.

Van also said that he does about two million dollars' worth of business annually with Valley Hospital in Las Vegas. He said that this relationship gives him leverage in the transferring of critically ill patients from Tonopah to the new facility they are building in the Reno/Sparks area. In the meantime, while that facility

is under construction, they can transfer to Valley Hospital in Las Vegas.

Van also stated that he ultimate goal is to recruit from the local talent base. He said no one knows better than the locals what will work in their locations.

Chairwoman Link asked if there was the possibility for integration between JML Holdings and the local EMS.

Mr. Le said of course. He would look at education opportunities and scholarships because it is more cost effective to recruit locals as well.

Vice-Chair Greber asked if the urgent care plus model would be able to receive emergency transports.

Van said yes, that is a primary need. The first thing he wants to be able to do is receive EMS transport and stabilize them and determine if they need to be transported out of town or if they can be kept here. The offsite built medical units Russell mentioned earlier would include two overnight observation rooms.

Vice-Chair Greber asked about pharmacy services, as ours are currently very limited as well, onsite labs and insurances they would accept.

Van said they are currently negotiating with insurance companies because they are also opening a facility in Mesquite. So, in those negotiations he will also work on getting the Tonopah facility accepted.

Item #16, For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation of the minutes from the December 20th, 2018 regular meeting.

Vice-Chair Greber motioned to approve, Trustee Kaminski offered his second. Motion passed 4-0.

Item #17, No Action – Update on the current status of the fiscal year 2018-2019 budget.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman took the board through the backup he had put together. He also said that the annual cap on the Renown and REMSA contracts was up for reevaluation and he had already started dialogue with both entities regarding this issue.

Vice-Chair Greber asked if the last 12 months deliverables and new deliverables could be addressed in a workshop.

Chairwoman Link said she'd like to have a workshop and asked the board for their availability.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman suggested notifying REMSA and Renown of this proposed idea and getting their availability as well.

Vice-Chair Greber wanted it scheduled within the next thirty days.

Chairwoman Link said she'd like to assign a committee to work on this. She then asked Vice-Chair Greber to head the committee and also asked Trustee Kaminski to assist her.

Trustee Kaminski asked if Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman could serve on the committee as well since he'd already begun working on the project.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that he could not assist as a committee could not be made up of a majority of members, and the Chairwoman had already assigned it to Vice-Chair Greber and Trustee Kaminski in spite of his initiating the conversation with the contractors.

Trustee Kaminski asked if Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman would be interested in serving on the

committee in his stead. Justin said that he would.

Chairperson Link said that Trustee Greber and Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman could serve on the committee.

Item #18, For Possible Action – Approval of invoices for payment.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that there was nothing out of the ordinary here and motioned to approve. Trustee Kaminski offered his second and the motion passed 4-0.

Item #19, For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation to set the next meeting location, time and date.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that board needed to meet before the 15th of February. He suggested moving the regular meeting up one week to the 14th and killing two birds with one stone.

Vice-Chair Greber said that meeting on Valentines Day was not to her liking and asked about Wednesday the 13th.

Trustee Kaminski and Chairwoman Link said the 13th was the night of a Town Board meeting and was a conflict.

Vice-Chair Greber asked about Tuesday the 12th and or Friday the 15th.

Chairwoman Link asked if the fifteenth was too late to approve the audit.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said it was not too late, it was last possible day to approve it and suggested the 12th.

There was a general acceptance from that board that the 12th would work, so Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman motioned to set the meeting location, time and date as Tuesday the 12th of February at 6:00PM in the chambers at 101 Radar Road in Tonopah. Trustee Kaminski offered his second and the motion passes 4-0.

Item #20, General Public Comment (second)

Sarah Allen said that she would like to let the providers tonight from JML Holdings and Affiliated Physical Therapy know that in Tonopah, when it comes to building a facility, we are different than anywhere in the Country. If the cost of building a facility becomes an issue, this town will rally behind them. She also wanted them to know that they didn't need to worry about the facility being on Main Street, wherever it is built, people will make use of it. She also wanted to make sure that Marie Peterson and Beth Ennis received recognition from the board and the town for the care they have provided to the townspeople. Sarah also shared that she is currently in school and for her graduate study research paper in her theory class on attracting a rural healthcare provider to an area like Tonopah and in her research, she couldn't find an area like Tonopah. She stressed the importance of hiring local talent and having someone physically present.

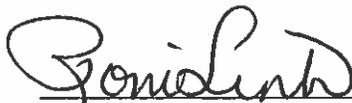
Item #21, Announcements (second)

Vice-Chair Greber said that according to her research last year with Scott Jones at the State Department of Health and Human Services, loan repayment programs are available to any medical professional employed full time.

Item #22, Adjourn.

Meeting adjourned.

Approved this 12th day of February 2019.


Chair