
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Benton PUD Conference Room

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Schroeder called the meeting to order at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners:

John Schroeder, Patricia O'Brien, Timothy Straub, Dorothy Walton-Luglan and Brenda Robinson

Hospital Staff:

Jim Tavary, Howard Saxton, Dawn Koch

Public

Mike Schreiner, Emergency Medical Services Manager; Jason Jones, Community Relations Manager; Susan Flory, Risk/Quality/Employee Health Manager.

II. MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Walton-Luglan, seconded by Commissioner O'Brien and passed by the Board to approve minutes of the June 26, 2008 Board Meeting as corrected.

III. REPORTS

A. MEDICAL STAFF

There was not a Medical Staff report given.

B. FINANCE

Bad Debt / Charity Care / Vouchers / Personal Expense Claims

Motion was made by Commissioner Robinson, seconded by Commissioner Walton-Luglan, and passed by the Board to approve 220 bad debt accounts totaling \$156,189, and 58 charity care accounts totaling \$25,723.

Voucher Lists

Motion was made by Commissioner Robinson, seconded by Commissioner Straub, and passed by the Board to approve payroll vouchers 37011 through 37178 and A/P vouchers 63210 through 63767, sum of the two types totaling \$1,773,569.64.

Personal Expense Claims

Motion was made by Commissioner Robinson, seconded by Commissioner Walton-Luglan, and passed by the Board to pay 17 pre-approved, budgeted travel personal expense claims in the amount of \$2,555.64.

B. CEO REPORT

Jim Tavary gave the CEO Report via PowerPoint. A facility update was discussed first, followed by a recruitment update for both staff and physicians. He then discussed some operational projects and strategic initiatives. The presentation ended with special acknowledgements of employees who have pitched in to help out throughout the hospital.

Commissioner Straub questioned the need for a pediatric ENT and if that was part of the recruitment initiative. Mr. Tavary said that it is being addressed.

C. PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT -

Commissioner Schroeder reported on the meeting. Many of the items discussed were covered by Mr. Tavary during his CEO report. The Employee Retention Committee came before the committee to report on their progress. They have distributed a survey to the employee team and will update the Board again in August.

D. CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE – JIM TAVARY

As of March of 2008, about \$360,000 in pledged funds has been raised so far; there is a meeting scheduled at the Princess Theatre soon. Commissioner Schroeder reminded everyone that July 12th, will be the Wayne Hogue golf tournament.

E. QUALITY AND PATIENT SAFETY REPORT

There was not a report given.

F. T<C PROJECT STATUS REPORT – JIM TAVARY

A mailing went out to all residents on June 5th and this was followed by a meeting on the 11th with Eagle Healthcare. A negotiating committee will be put in place in the next couple of weeks; the team will include members from Administration and the Board. The Board is requesting that the Transitional and Long Term Care Committee be reconvened to re-evaluate the items reviewed before. Commissioner O'Brien asked if other members from the community will be added, Commissioner Schroeder replied that names of volunteers will be collected by Dawn Koch. However, those who served on the committee originally will be offered positions first and then it will be determined how many others would be required.

Commissioner Robinson requested to head a committee with other members of the public to work on new ideas. Commissioner Schroeder said that there would not be a need for a second committee to work in conjunction of the original committee.

Administration will schedule the committee meeting. The committee will work in conjunction with Administration as they move forward with the negotiations with Eagle Healthcare. Commissioner Walton-Luglan said that she had met informally with the president of Tonasket facility as well as three of their Board members. Information is being sent to her from them on their experiences around LTC.

Mr. Tavary visited the Grandview Healthcare Facility with a member of the concerned citizens group. He was impressed with the state of the facility, cleanliness, room conditions, and that there was no odor at all.

Commissioner Schroeder read an article about how Grandfather clauses can be changed by the government both federal and state. This has happened and can happen at any time.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business presented.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. COMMISSIONER COMPENSATION – DAWN KOCH

The Washington State Register announced that commissioner compensation will increase on July 5th from \$90 to \$104 per day of business on behalf of the District. This amount is not to exceed \$9,984 in one year's time. The compensation and annual limit will not change again until July 2013.

Due to a change in the law that went into effect on June 12, district commissioners are no longer required to pass a resolution in order to receive this increase. If a commissioner does not want to accept this increase, RCW 70.44.050 sets out the procedure for doing so.

B. CAPITAL EQUIPMENT REQUEST – MIKE SCHREINER

Mike Schreiner, EMS Manager, came before the Board to ask for a new ambulance that was budgeted. The department attempted to run on a fleet of four vehicles and found that it was a tremendous strain. The total cost will be \$123,438.51. This is over the budgeted amount however, the amount budgeted was from FY 2006. The request has been moved forward for two years in order to manage budget.

Motion was made by Commissioner Walton-Luglan, seconded by Commissioner Straub. Commissioner O'Brien inquired if there would be services in Benton County in 2009 that would support another ambulance. Commissioner Schroeder replied that they do have the support of the city and Benton County. Commissioner Straub asked what items would be sacrificed because this item is over budget. Mr. Tavery stated that there would be no sacrifices. There are dollars in reserve to cover the extra expense. The motion was then passed by the Board to accept the purchase of the Braun Northwest Ambulance for \$123,438.51 as presented.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no Other Business presented.

VII. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Commissioner Schroeder reminded the public that of the sign-up sheet that should be filled out in order to speak to the Board. Any discussions regarding patient care of ones self or others should be discussed with the hospital risk manager and could be a HIPPA violation if it is brought before the Board as per RCW 70.02 & 70.02.010. Commissioner Schroeder read a letter from the editor of the Prosser Record Bulletin stating they will no longer publish letters to the editor which are slanderous in nature to any individuals. the Board condones this and appreciates this movement made by the Prosser Record Bulletin and Grandview Herald. He also read the Rotary four-points which include: 1) Is it the truth? 2) Is it fair to all concerned? 3) Will it build good will and better friendships? And 4) Will it be beneficial to all concerned? Commissioner Schroeder asked that those who speak please keep these in mind.

Shelly Pontin came before the Board and asked about the make up of the committee which will investigate the LTC issue. She asked what process one would have to do to get on the committee; Commissioner Schroeder replied to contact Dawn Koch. Shelly also requested that the information go to the papers earlier than the day before the meeting. Dawn Koch replied that the Board agenda goes to the press the Friday before every meeting, which gives the paper ample time to get it in the paper.

Andy Howe volunteered to be on the committee, and thanked the Board for allowing the public to speak. He stated that he sees this as an opportunity for the public and the Board

an to work together. He asked that the Board wait until the new facility which is the same prototype as what is proposed here to be built in Sunnyside and see what it will look like. Commissioner Schroeder replied that nothing is set in stone and is just negotiations; he feels that everyone is on the same page and would like to see all the same things. Mr. Howe acknowledged that there needs to be a change and just would like to say that he feels Eagle is the wrong choice.

Robert Buchholtz requested that there be more or different public present on the next committee and volunteered to serve on the committee. He was upset that Commissioner Robinson was denied being on the new committee. Commissioner Schroeder replied that Commissioner Robinson was not denied, but that there were three Board Members already serving on the committee and the right thing to do would be to offer the positions to those three first; more than three Commissioners are unable serve on any committee due to quorum issues.

Dorain L. Dexter questioned how long the process would be, appreciated that Mr. Tavary went to Grandview, and said that it is the second good report. However, there are so many more that have had bad experiences. Commissioner Luglan reminded the public that the Grandview facility has invited the public to stop by anytime.

Patricia O'Brien stated that the public must be proud of the PMH facility. It is the newest facility, there is nothing to be ashamed of, and the care is the best. Commissioner Schroeder added that the Board looks ten years out as part of strategic planning to see what can be done to change or enhance facilities.

Frank Randolph wished to compliment the Board on beginning the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and keeping Under God as part of the statement.

Andy Howe said that he appreciates that the Board is looking out for the city of Prosser and has everyone's best interest at heart.

Commissioner Schroeder stated that the Board would like to move past the petitions, and work together to fix this. He wished to address the petition requesting that Jim Tavary step down; the Board supports Jim Tavary and his activities and wishes him to stay in his position as CEO. Commissioner Schroeder also said that he will remain president of the Board until the next election of officers in January and will maintain his position on the Board until his term is up in another five years.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board adjourned to executive session at 9:11 to discuss legal updates and personnel issue. RCW 42.30.110(1)(i).

The Board returned to regular session at 10:10 pm.

After reconvening to regular session, the Board took no action:

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 pm.

X. FUTURE MEETING DATES

July 31, 2008

August 28, 2008

John Schroeder, Commissioner
President of the Board

Charles Potter, Commissioner
Secretary of the Board