



MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN NYE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**101 Radar Road, Tonopah, NV 89049
February 12, 2019
6:00 PM**

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

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

Nye County Comptroller Savannah Rucker

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

Item #1, Pledge of Allegiance.

Led by Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman.

Item #2, Approval of the Agenda for February 12, 2019. (Non-action Item)

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman recommended the removal of item 5. Chairwoman Link accepted Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman's recommendation.

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

None.

Item #4, Announcements (first)

Vice Chair Greber said that she was provided a current list of State loan forgiveness programs. She offered copies to any professionals that wanted to take a look.

Item #5, For Possible Action – Emergency Items

Removed from agenda.

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

Trustee Link said that she wanted to have a workshop to go over the Board's financials.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman suggested the 21st of February.

Chairwoman Link offered 2:00PM in the Tonopah Library, but needed to check the availability of that venue before she could call the workshop.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Item #7, For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation to approve the audit of fiscal year 2017-2018 for the Northern Nye County Hospital District conducted by Daniel McArthur, Ltd.

Nye County Comptroller Rucker took the Board through the audit, she stated that there was no change to the budget the Board had approved for the fiscal year, revenues exceeded budget and expenditures were less than budget. She also summarized that the District has no capital assets and no debt. Savannah detailed the revenue collected. She stated that property taxes came in slightly underbudget, but net proceeds came in over budget, more than making up that difference. Investment income was -\$5,343.00, due to investments with bonds that took a hit in 2018, she stated that the county is hoping that bond market will turn around in 2019 and make that a positive number in future years. Total revenue for the fiscal year was \$1,150,064.00. Total expenditures were \$276,182.00, revenues were in excess of expenditures by \$873,882 creating a beginning fund balance of \$2.281 million for the current fiscal year.

Vice Chair Greber asked if the investment policy can change.

Nye County Comptroller Rucker said that it can change, and the County currently has a new Treasurer and expects his policy will be ready to go live after he does some housekeeping in his department.

Trustee Kaminski asked if there was a breakdown available of the investments from the prior fiscal year.

Savannah told the Board that the investments were summarized on page 22 and walked the Board through that summary. She said again, that she would expect this to change as soon as the new county Treasurer gets his investment policy approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

Comptroller Rucker then took that Board through the Auditor's Comments stating that there were no prior year or current year audit findings. She then called for questions, and there were none.

Trustee Kaminski motioned to approve the audit as presented, and Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman offered his second. Motion passed 4-0.

Item #8, No Action – 1) Presentation by Renown Health and Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority of their December 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 introduced Gary Beck and Kim Pearson representing Renown via videoconference. But they were experimenting some technical difficulty and were unable to communicate back to the Board.

Jessica Thompson provided an update on Renown's behalf. She stated that their visit totals were the highest to date. She also said that now that Lisa Logan is on site, they are expanding services. They are now able to order medications and perform limited IV services. She also announced that Heather Zimmerman was nominated and won the award for Top Talent of the Quarter.

Trustee Greber asked what kinds of medication they would have on hand, and whether or not they would need to be refrigerated.

Jessica said that they are carrying limited vaccines and suppositories that need to be refrigerated, but most do not. Those not requiring refrigeration include aspirin, Tylenol, liquids for children with fevers. She stressed that it is very limited, nothing like what a hospital would carry, but it is a step forward. She also said that they are limited to the time that Lisa is present in the clinic to give medications and provide IV infusions, but REMSA is able to act as backup for the IV infusions.

Kevin Romero provided the update from REMSA. He stated that there was an increase in the December invoice due to holiday bonuses and bonuses for working New Year's Day. He stated that they came in under the amount not to exceed in their contract for the year by \$110,000.00 primarily due to the fact that they weren't paying the community paramedics salaries for the entire year, they started servicing the area in April.

Kevin also said that their responses remained average, with a slight increase in hospital transports. He also said that he is watching utilization of the Nurse Health Line, there has been only a slight increase. He expected those numbers to increase as the flu season progresses; he'll continue to monitor and report its usage.

Kevin also reported great patient satisfaction and called for questions from the Board.

Trustee Link asked how the comments are gleaned on the patient satisfaction report.

Kevin stated that the cards are sent out to the patients, and delineate the services performed by the community paramedic and the Nye County EMTs. He said that they aren't getting as great of a percentage of return on these cards as they do in Reno, because there the cards are sent with the bills, and REMSA doesn't do any billing for the services they provide in the District.

Item #9, No Action – Presentation by Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority and Care Flight of their operational reviews for the first calendar year of operations under their professional services agreement.

Kevin Romero presented again on behalf of REMSA and Ron Walter, the executive director of Care Flight, presented on their behalf.

Kevin took the Board through an overview of the program for the prior year. He told the Board that there would be a new community paramedic rotating through the District in the next few months and announced that they have had a 0% turnover with the community paramedics so far.

Kevin said that when the program began there was a big emphasis on telehealth and suturing. When they arrived and saw what the needs really were, they realized that they needed to expand certain services. They saw extended transport times and replaced certain pieces of equipment that didn't work well with the obstacles experienced with the extended transport times. They also expanded their pain management protocols and hypertension crisis protocols based on the high number of patients with those needs.

Kevin said some services have been delayed, waiting for Renown to provide the on-site provider. Now that she is in place, they will begin working with her on integrating with telehealth and assisting with sutures. They did just get approval for the Tonopah Community Paramedics to work in the emergency room at St. Mary's in Reno, so they can become proficient in suturing.

Kevin told the board that since the launch of the program on April 16, 2018 the program has been operational 24 hours a day 7 days a week without interruption. REMSA's community paramedics have served as the second ambulance provider on the Nye County Emergency Medical Services ambulance 80% of the time. He said that it is important that we work toward having a BLS transport capability. Without this, we have had

instances where our ALS provider is out of the District on a BLS transport when the need for ALS treatment arises in the District.

Chairwoman Link asked about the low return on patient satisfaction reports. She asked if they had considered alternative approaches in an attempt to receive greater feedback.

Kevin said that in Washoe County, the cards are mailed with the bills, and they do see a greater return. But, he felt that the process of sending someone a bill to pay and also a patient satisfaction card at the same time didn't make a lot of sense to him. He said that sending the cards in the District the way they are, makes more sense. REMSA doesn't bill for any service they provide in the district, so the reviews coming back aren't clouded with dissatisfaction over having just been sent a bill.

Vice Chair Greber asked if he had considered having the community paramedics that treated the patients call the patients after treatment and solicit a review directly.

Kevin said that would be a very heavy lift and certainly not the national standard.

Trustee Kaminski asked about perhaps offering a discount if they return the survey.

Kevin reiterated that REMSA doesn't bill their patients.

Ron Walter presented the review for Care Flight. He said that the remote nature of the District has really been an unprecedented challenge for everyone, with the ultimate goal being to cut the time it takes to get advanced care to the citizens of the District. He detailed the daily operations of organizing and running efficient dispatch operations. Ron said that with the community paramedics here, Care Flight has created a procedure called early activation whereby they can cut down the time it takes to respond with an aircraft.

Ron then detailed the requests for aircraft versus completions. He said that they have about 42% of requests cancelled or turned over to other agencies. He said about 30% are cancelled by the caller. 19% are turned over to closer agencies and 6% are cancelled due to weather.

Vice Chair Greber asked if that was an acceptable threshold.

Ron said that it is slightly higher than normal, but because of the project here and the need for the service, yes, it is.

Chairwoman Link said that as an EMS provider, one of the things she likes about helicopter transports is the ability to easily change rendezvous locations.

Ron said that about 44% of the flights here are completed by fixed wing and about 56% are completed by rotor. There are a number of things that determine what type of aircraft is more suitable. Rotors are very good for scenes and making last minute changes. But rotors have weather and weight restrictions. Fixed wing aircraft have fewer restrictions, they can fly in marginal weather, carry more weight, and travel greater distances quicker. Average response time to the District with rotor aircraft is 77 minutes while fixed wing is 75 minutes. Ron said that while rotor can respond quicker, they don't travel as quickly as fixed wing aircraft. Fixed wing aircraft can travel faster, but they have to file flight plans and get clearance to depart which helicopters do not. Ron said that due this long response time, they will launch the aircraft based on the community paramedic's advisement, even if that means it will have to be cancelled later.

Ron told the Board that their average scene time, for both types of aircraft is also almost identical, 24 minutes from arrival to departure. He attributes this to coordinating equipment. He said the community paramedic is using the same equipment that the flight crew are using so it is a smooth and quick transition.

Patient destinations are primarily determined by the patient, but there are limitations such as weather. Ron

said that 72% of the patients have been transported north with 28% transported south. Chairwoman Link said she's been really happy with the flight crews.

Item #10, 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.

Russell said that he focused on supporting Margo Teague with her needs analysis and looking at land for JML to erect their urgent care center as quickly as possible. He also said that he is trying to get costs for the facility assessment.

Regarding the healthcare needs assessment, Russell reported that Margo is getting access to various databases that will provide her the necessary information for the quantitative side. This data will relate to the Hospital District service area and the catchment area as well. Russell said that Margo has filed a request with the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services for upwards of 50 data points. The State has told her that since the legislative session is now open, her requests will have to come secondary to any requests from the legislators, however she has heard back, and they are hoping to get her that data in the next couple weeks. Relating to the qualitative side of her data collection, she has been working on setting up teleconference and in person surveys.

Russell said that he is still working with Inyo County about the return to home issue.

He also said that for JML, the land in front of the high school is off the table. The land owners have future plans for it. However, the land across the street from the Town Office is owned by the same people and they are willing to sell that piece. Russell said he's also been working with the Nye County Planning Director to get ahead of any zoning or code requirements JML will need to comply with. He said that Tonopah doesn't have strict requirements, so he has researched State requirements and would recommend that JML comply with those requirements, even though they don't technically have to. Russell said that JML has contacted several manufactures of custom medical facilities and are researching their options.

Russell said that JML is building a good relationship with Valley Health Systems in Las Vegas, Valley Health Systems is owned Northern Nevada Medical Center, which is a subsidiary of Universal Health Services, Inc. If we need to, we have a direct connection to the CEO of Universal Health Services, Inc. That could prove to be a valuable connection as we move forward with developing a tactical support of the District from both north and south. Northern Nevada Medical Center just broke ground on a freestanding emergency room in Reno. This type of facility is new and could be just what is needed in Tonopah.

Russell had no update on the DOE/DOD funding. The key element that that funding is waiting for is the facility assessment which will come after the needs assessment is complete. Russell did say that he has started to gather quotes for the facility assessment.

Russell then said that an issue has come up relating to the matching grants funds for the USDA grant. He said that the original plan included Nye County contributing \$20,000.00. Nye Communities Coalition contacted all of the entities receiving a benefit from the grant for a match, this includes Duckwater, the Town of Tonopah, Nye County and the Northern Nye County Hospital District. Russell said that the County has changed its commitment. He said that the County's position, now that the NNCHD has committed to funding the needs assessment for an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00, is only to contribute the difference between what the other entities commit and \$20,000.00. He said that he isn't sure how they came to this conclusion.

Russell went on to detail JML's future roll in healthcare for the District. He said that one main element is the fate of Nye Regional Medical Center. It isn't clear if JML will be able to do anything in that building or if they will have to order the modular units they are researching. Their development plans are tied to the processes taking place through the USDA grant relating to the future of that facility. JML is targeting this coming summer or fall to open their doors, and there are other ancillary services coming in as well. Affiliated

Physical Therapy will be opening in the coming month and there is another group called Multicultural Wellness West that is interested in offering mental health care and addiction services in Tonopah as well.

Russell went on to detail his deliverables and monthly invoice to the District. There is a new line item this month for a Verizon Hot Spot. He said the introductory fee is \$45.00 and then the regular monthly fee will be \$75.00.

Trustee Kaminski said that he was told that the Nye County Commissioners agreed to renegotiate the lease agreement with Renown and asked Russell if a date has been set to start that process.

Russell said that the challenge there is one of competition. Renown isn't interested in letting a direct competitor share space on that campus. So, until the services are pinned down, it isn't likely that that renegotiation will happen.

Item #11, For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation to approve, amend and approve or deny an amendment to the professional services agreement in place between the Northern Nye County Hospital District and Pillers Consulting, LLC DBA: Biowerx Consulting.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that Russell hadn't supplied an actual amendment for the Board to consider tonight, but that he did send an e-mail with his requested changes and asked Russell to present them to the Board.

Russell said that he doesn't need an amendment, a letter to file is sufficient. He said that the workers compensation requirement is fine as stated. But that he would like to see the requirement of commercial general liability coverage reduced to \$1,000,000 per person and \$2,000,000 per incident, as well as the business automobile coverage reduced to \$1,000,000 per person and \$1,000,000 per accident and also the professional liability coverage reduced to \$1,000,000 per person and \$2,000,000 per incident. He said he has researched, and these amounts are more in line with industry standard.

Chairwoman Link asked if she could table the item.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman told her that she could and also suggested getting a legal opinion as the District's lawyer drafted the original requirements. He also said that he had spoken to former Chairman Ken Eason about Russell's request, and Ken didn't see an issue with it.

Chairwoman Link tabled the item.

Item #12, No Action – Update regarding the proposed donation of five acres of land by Michael Lach to the Northern Nye County Hospital District for the provision of medical services.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that he had invited Michael to this meeting, but he was not in attendance. Justin went on to say that he and Vice Chair Greber had drafted a letter of intent to donate, which is what he said he had requested from Michael. He said that in his opinion, the District wasn't in the position to be acquiring land at this point. He said that the focus needs to be seeing the USDA grant through and that information gained there will determine whether or not the District needs to acquire land. He also said that he has talked with the Nye County Mapping Administrator and a surveyor from the Public Works Department, if the District were to accept the land from Michael, it should be a smooth transaction.

Vice Chair Greber asked Russell to weigh in. Russell said that he had spoken with Michael prior. He said that Michael had met with JML as well. The land in question requires water and sewer service, it was Russell's impression that Michael would benefit greatly from someone like JML coming in and establishing that connection to the utility system and taking on that financial burden. Russell agreed with Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman in that we don't know if land is even necessary at this time.

Item #13, No Action – Update from the subcommittee assigned to handle the review and negotiation of the annual cap on the two professional service agreements in place between the Northern Nye County Hospital District and Renown Health and Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority respectively.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that he and Vice Chair Greber had had two very productive meetings with REMSA, but much of what they were asking of REMSA was tied to Renown and Karmin and Justin had tried but hadn't been able to meet with Renown yet. He said that he was hoping to meet with them in the next week.

Vice Chair Greber said that the effort has been very beneficial and praised REMSA for their willingness to come to the table. She said that she and Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman had agreed to close their assessment on March 4th. She then called for questions from the Board. There were none.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said the workshop Chairwoman Link was going to be calling would be the perfect time to really dig into this.

Item #14, For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation of the minutes from the January 17th, 2019 regular meeting.

Chairwoman Link said that on item 15, in the fourth paragraph, Hawthorne had been misspelled.

Vice Chair Greber motioned to approve the minutes pending Chairwoman Link's correction. Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman offered his second. Motion passed 4-0.

Item #15, No Action – Update on the current status of the fiscal year 2018-2019 budget.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that the reports this month might look a little different because he wasn't able to run the proper reports. He said that the numbers all tie back but for some reason he could only run the usual reports for the Town of Pahrump. He said that he'd emailed the Finance Department for help but hadn't heard back.

Nye County Comptroller Savannah Rucker said that there is a user saving templates when they run reports, and she has talked with them before and will talk with them again about discontinuing the practice.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman asked the Board if they had any questions. There were none.

Item #16, For Possible Action – Approval of invoices for payment.

Trustee Kaminski asked about the legal invoice. The invoice contained amounts due for Renown speaking to the District's lawyer. The Board felt that this was not an acceptable charge.

Russell said that he was shocked to see that meeting on the bill. Russell said he had gotten in touch with Jerry Seelig as he was interested in helping the District in any way that he could. In setting up the meeting with Jerry, the lawyer's office was chosen as the meeting venue. Russell said that his not thinking that this would be billed to the District was naïve. Russell then said that the meeting between the District's lawyer and Kirk Gillis and Gary Beck of Renown, was at his own behest. He suggested Tom talk to Renown to get a sense of what their perspective was on a few issues. He said that he had talked to Vice Chair Greber before arranging that meeting. He said that the level of decisions being made now require legal opinions.

Chairwoman Link said that she and Russell had talked at length about this and will work toward mitigating these situations in the future.

Vice Chair Greber said that the dates on the bill were prior to the District electing a new chairperson. She wasn't sure how to get Russell the legal opinions he needed without a chairperson in place to talk to the lawyer.

Trustee Kaminski asked if the Board should amend the agreement with the lawyer to allow for him to speak with the chairperson and Russell on the District's behalf.

Vice Chair Greber said that she didn't know if an amendment was necessary, and that she didn't think the Board needed to challenge the invoice either. She then asked Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman to weigh in.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that he had since facilitated the introduction between Tom and Roni, so he knows who to contact going forward. He also said that he didn't feel the need to challenge the invoice as he could see that the District had received some benefit and Tom was acting in good faith.

Trustee Kaminski motioned to approve the invoices and Vice Chair Greber offered her second. Motion passed 4-0.

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

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman motioned to set the next meeting location, time and date as the Commissioner's Chambers at 101 Radar Rd in Tonopah at 6:00PM on March 21st. Vice Chair Greber offered her second and the motion passed 4-0.

Item #18, General Public Comment (second)

Horace Carlyle said that he wasn't sure if the Hospital Board was aware that the Chairman of the BoCC had taken the lead with Nye County's primary BDR for the possible establishment of a fire district. Horace said that this issue goes back to the meeting of the Tonopah Town held in July of 2016. At that meeting the head of Nye County Emergency Services and Commissioner Lorinda Wichman educated the Town on the non-liability in funding for Nye County Emergency Service and medical. He said that if you review those minutes, the only way to allow Nye County to do anything would be to change the NRS. He said that Mr. Koenig was nice and professional enough to take the lead on this and persuade the County Board to support this and now we have a BDR before the state legislature. He said the issue now is publicity and support. Horace said that he felt this was critical since currently the County has no obligation to furnish us any support what so ever. He said that no one outside of Pahrump has any real or consistent funding. He said that this supports our mission. He encouraged the Board members to contact Chairman Koenig. He expressed that this was a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Item #19, Announcement (second)

Russell said that he had heard through the grapevine that Kirk Gillis is no longer with Renown and wondered if they could confirm that tonight. Jessica Thompson confirmed his departure. Russell applauded Kirk's previous efforts on behalf of the District.

Item #20, Adjourn.

Meeting adjourned.

Approved this 21st day of March 2019.



Chair