

Sublette County Rural Health Care District  
Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting  
December 16, 2020

**Venue:** Marbleton Town Hall, Marbleton WY

**Trustees Present:**

Mike Pompy, Chairman  
Sam Bixler, Vice-Chairman  
Marti Seipp, Secretary  
Lynn Bernard, Treasurer  
Vacant Seat

**Call to Order:**

Mr. Pompy called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Set Agenda:**

**Executive Session:** 5:00 pm – 5:20 pm

-Legal - Wyo. Stat. 16-4-405(a)(iii)

-Personnel - Wyo. Stat. 16-4-405(a)(ii) / Wyo. Stat. 16-4-405(a)(x)

**Routine Business**

- Administrative and Finance Report/Dave Doorn
- EMS Report/Bill Kluck
- Public Relations Report / Emily Ray
- Committee Reports
  - CAH Committee (Mike Pompy)
  - Compensation Committee (Marty Seipp) – Employee Bonus
  - Joint Planning Committee Update (Mike Pompy)

**New Business –**

**Vacant Board Position Appointment**

**Public Comments**

**Old Business:**

**Routine Business**

-Approval of Payroll and Bills

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Mike Pompy called the meeting to order at 5 pm.

### **Pledge of allegiance**

**Set Agenda** – Marti Seipp wanted to add north county service under new business, after the addition Marti made a motion to set the agenda, Mike Seconded the motion, unanimous approval.

### **Executive Session: Minutes taken by Marti Seipp**

Mike stated that there were no decisions made in Executive Session. Issues have popped up; we will start discussions and have some new ones to take care of what was discussed in executive session. We will continue with the agenda for now.

### **Routine Business:**

#### **Administrative and Finance Report / Dave Doorn**

Financials – We had another slow month, basically due to COVID-19. Once Covid ramps up, our business and revenue go down. We turned off our collection agency policy at the beginning of Covid. We turned that back on in November so you will see higher than normal write offs. We are right on budget for the year and our gross profit after the mill. We did get our big payment in November, so that puts us right on budget so our gross profit is \$103,000 right now. All departments are within budget but we did spend a lot of money on the capital side. Of that \$300,000 we will be reimbursed through the SLIB board. It was the motion we made last month regarding the purchasing of the equipment for the isolation units if the SLIB Board turned us down. The SLIB Board did not turn us down so we will be reimbursed for those purchases. The other thing added this month is our PPP loan was forgiven but since we took that loan out in last fiscal year that money will officially show up in last fiscal year.

Covid expenses, we spent about \$90,000 last month in Covid expenses. This includes personnel supplies and anything Covid related. Those expenses are already included in the expenses section. November did look big on the expenses side of things as well because we had 3 payrolls as well.

On the stats he wanted to mention that lab volume is up, which is Covid related and they both had record numbers. EMS was extremely busy as well, this month they had 150 runs compared to 113 a year ago.

He mentioned vaccines, the first dose was given in Cheyenne today, we are due in the next week or so. We are going to get a Moderna vaccine with about 200 doses. We don't know much about that and we are guaranteed more to match those initial doses. The Pfizer is probably not going to come to us, it is going to mostly nursing homes. Healthcare workers and emergency responders are one of the first, then nursing homes and then the senior population.

Dave mentioned that the Hospital board resolution was made by the commissioners yesterday and it passed unanimously. We are one step closer; Rachel has been working on the paper work and she stated she submitted it to the Department of Revenue.

He went on to say that we are continuing to work on plans for the hospital, we had good meeting with the Sublette Center. We are now complete with our Preliminary Architectural Review so we can move onto individual departments and working from there. The RFP meetings have been reset for the middle of January. Afton, EIRMC and St. Johns will be coming. They will each be spending all day at our facilities and they will have the opportunity to have smaller group settings with a variety of department heads.

We have received our UV robots. We went through the training and we are able to put it into a patient room and it disinfects everything in the room.

Isolation units - Marbleton is set, they are all hooked up to utilities. There are a few things that we have to deal with but we have an oxygen issue. They started cutting concrete in Pinedale today and their goal is to install it on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December.

Sharon is absent but we have increased staffing and increased hours in testing. We have people from both ends of the county from 8 am to 1 pm.

Covid has slowed down a little bit this week. Our numbers are getting smaller but we are unsure what to think right now. Dr. Fitzsimmons added that the positivity rate has declined as well which is good to see. It doesn't mean that lack of testing is attributing to the low case numbers, they are actually going down a little bit.

Dave did meet with the irrigation district to discuss the ditch by the ball fields. We went back to the district and proposed to move the ditch to the east side of the property. They are in favor of it and we are working on an agreement with them to finalize the work for the USDA loan application.

He said we have a few things left to do for the USDA application. We are finishing up the environmental report, the agreement with the irrigation district and it is pretty much ready to go when the hospital district board is ready to go.

Vicky's report – ER education on 11/20, Dr. Demetriou lectured about C Spine Clearance we continue to work on emergency plans, we are working on a telemedicine project with St. Johns. Most of the equipment approved by the SLIB is in house. We are preparing for the vaccines as well.

Sam stated kudos to Vicky and Sharon. They worked hard to get the SLIB grant.

Wendy asked if the second round of the Covid stimulus allow us to apply for another round of PPP loans?

Dave assumed so. He heard that they are getting close to another plan that will be structured similarly. We will be aggressive and watching it.

Sam Bixler mentioned that local state governments are possibly looking at cutting PPP loans out and the first round will be PPE for small businesses, not governments.

#### EMS Report/Bill Kluck

Training – We are continuing our ACLS and BCLS training as well as our ER Education training which has been getting excellent turnout. This really shows the teamwork that is happening.

Safety – watch for changing road conditions. We are continuing to stay with our CDC guidelines and meeting our mask mandate orders. He wanted to tell everyone to start bringing your winter clothes with you.

Events – Blood drive this coming Monday in Pinedale and Tuesday in Big Piney. He was currently full (53 slots) for the Pinedale Drive, and 16 spots were filled in Big Piney. General – Our new ambulance is on its way in Quebec. It should be arriving soon, they will start putting the graphics on, the radio and the front bumper on in SLC and should arrive by the end of the month. Also, all three ambulances that broke down last month are repaired and back on the road.

Mike Pompy stated that it is difficult but in light of recent events that occurred, tragic events, we will be discussing options to see what can be done to improve things and try not to get in the same situation as before. We are very sorry; it was a perfect storm with emergencies at both ends of the county and we are looking at staffing changes and other options. We can discuss it in public comments as well.

#### PR Report/ Emily Ray

We have been busy coordinating all of the meetings and participants for the PAR and RFP. WE are advertising for all of our new equipment received and we have been getting great feedback from the community. Statistics – Facebook reached 4,000 people, Instagram reached 300, and our website reached about 900 for the month. Our promotion last month were diabetes awareness month. About 50 individuals participated for a chance to win a \$100 SCRHCD gift certificate. This month we are focusing on giving the gift of health. WE did a giving drive to push for our families in need fund who we keep track of through our business department and we can allocate money to them. We have been pushing for that and giving the gift of health as well where individuals can purchase gift certificates to give to family members. Last year it didn't go over as well but we are hoping that this year we can get a better turn out. For January we are focusing on healthy resolutions for the new year.

#### Committee Reports

##### CAH/Joint Planning Committee Update/Mike Pompy

Mike offered the current boards support and assistance to the hospital district board if there is anything that they might need help with. Mike addressed the Marbleton Big piney upgrade efforts. He has been working with the state architect Matt Davis and as far as the design changes that need to be made to the marbleton clinic to create a free-standing emergency center. JD has gone back to review the extra designs that will be required by the state. Frankly the big issue with the state is that they don't have any documentation, regulation, anything for a free-standing emergency center. They are supposed to be working on that. They are swamped with Covid at the same time, so it is a slow process but if they come up with these regulations, we will be the first and only facility that will be using these requirements. There were discussions in our meeting that the state thought that we have a waiting room in the emergency area and a reception area in the ER area as well. Personally, he finds it excessive, but we will see if we can get our situation grandfathered in.

Dr Fitzsimmons asked if it was still the case that we didn't have to comply with those regulations by 2025.

Mike confirmed that that is correct but he would like to get it done and out of the way. He is going to have some serious discussions with the state.

##### Compensation Committee/Marti Seipp

Employee bonus - Dave said Michelle went to work and the 2% bonus would be roughly \$65,000 to give the 2% bonus. If we went to 3% it would be in the \$90,000 range. Dave mentioned that the bonus could be given on the next paycheck as soon as the board approves it, he will try to get it done before the end of the year.

Sam Bixler asked about staff – if it included administration.

Dave stated that she did include it but it can be negotiated.

Mike stated that everyone has been working excessively hard and it should be included for all.

Lynn asked for a recommendation from the business administrator for the percentage of the bonus.

Dave was glad to make a recommendation. The staff is deserving and has all worked very hard. No one has walked away from a bad situation. It would be a great x-mas present this year and he is recommending the 2%.

Marti made a motion to approve the 2% bonus to all staff, Lynn seconded the motion, unanimous approval.

### **New Business**

Vacant Board Position Appointment – Mike stated that we have two applicants and he asked each board member to express their opinion about the person they are interested in and we can hear some reasons for that. Mike started stating that the two applicants are Kari DeWitt and Diana Watkins who both have excellent qualities and backgrounds. Mike recommended that Kari DeWitt is the one accepted for the position. She has been extremely hard working and effective prior to the election and getting the PAC going and getting funding brought in all over the county.

Marti stated that she will vote for Kari.

Lynn stated that he felt like we had two excellent and highly regarded applicants for the position. He is grateful to have the choice that we have. They each bring different qualities to the table. He would like to utilize both of them instead of just one. He recommended that Kari help promote the CAH and Diana participate on the RHCD board.

Mike stated that the only thing on the agenda was the vacant board position. He would like to have both individuals participate as well but as far as the promotion is concerned it is up to the hospital district to decide whether or not they need assistance.

Sam Bixler recommended Kari DeWitt. It was a tough decision for him, they both have tremendous resumes and skills. It came down to what this board needs. If we were building a hospital Diana would have been his first choice but he sees the greatest need for this board is public image and Kari would be a great addition to support us in this mission.

The vote is 3-1 for Kari. Sam Bixler made a motion to accept Kari as our board replacement, Marti seconded the motion, unanimous approval.

North County Service – Marti stated that North County doesn't get much service. She lives in Bondurant and we are 45 miles from Pinedale and 60 miles from big piney. She was hoping we could possibly work out an arrangement with possibly Jackson for assistance with ambulance services.

Bill Kluck stated that Jackson has 2 full time staffed ambulances. One is stationed in downtown Jackson and one is located in Wilson. The Hoback fire station is all based off of volunteers so it is not always staffed. But where you are up there, you are closer to Pinedale. The ambulance service is almost by the hospital in Jackson so it is almost 6's. It is longer to come through the canyon from the Jackson side as well through the construction and Hoback turn. Now if we are past you anything in the canyon from the elkhorn on we do call Teton dispatch for an ambulance in those situations.

He stated that if we are out by Bondurant and you are serious, we will come back to the clinic to get you stable to probably fly you out. If you are stable when we get there we will take you right to Jackson. If you are coming back to Pinedale and in serious shape air transport is usually almost there by the time you get there.

Marti is not seeing a way for people in Bondurant to have a better chance to survive if they have a heart attack or some type of emergency.

Dr. Fitzsimmons mentioned that the crew is excellent at making decisions as to where they should go on the fly. For example, that accident we had the summer before last, the air ambulance landed right there at the scene in Bondurant.

Bill stated that he can call Teton Fire and EMS chief to see what they are doing but he is aware that they are strapped for personnel at the point. He stated they are running one in Jackson and one in Wilson. They have to cover or call-in volunteers. Bill was wondering if there was a group of people that would be interested in a first responders' class? He said that there is some way we can coordinate to train all of them.

Marti stated that she will also reach out to Pat Burrows the neighborhood nurse and we can readdress the issue at a later date.

**Public Comments:**

Louanne Heydt started the conversation stating that she had been planning for the last several weeks to make a request that we return to having a consistent/mandatory 3<sup>rd</sup> crew member that is intermediate or higher for our ambulance crew for Big Piney.

The issue that arose earlier in the week she stated that she understood that it was a perfect storm, but it was a sad and frustrating situation and she requested that actions by the board be taken as soon as possible.

After a long discussion, it was decided amongst the individuals in attendance not to rush a decision and to coordinate a meeting with two RHCD board members and two Hospital District board members along with Dave and Bill to find the most logical solution as soon as possible.

**Old Business**

No business

**Routine Business**

-Approval of Payroll and Bills

Lynn made a motion to approve payroll and bills in the amount of \$1,126,138.03. Marti seconded the motion, unanimous approval

**Adjournment:**

Mike made a motion to adjourn, Sam seconded the motion, unanimous approval.

Minutes taken by Emily Ray

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Mike Pompy, Chairman

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Dave Doorn, Administrative Director