

Sublette County Rural Health Care District
Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
March 18, 2020

Venue: County Commissioner's Room, Pinedale, WY

Trustees Present:

Wendy Boman, Chairman
Bill Johnson, Vice-Chairman
Tonia Hoffman, Secretary/Treasurer
Mike Pompy, Trustee
Marti Seipp, Trustee – BY PHONE

Call to Order:

Ms. Boman called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Set Agenda:

Tonia requested to add discussion for Marbleton Clinic under old business
Dave requested the addition of the audit under the New Business
Removal of approval of minutes

Mike Pompy moved to set the agenda, Tonia Hoffman seconded the motion, unanimous approval

Tonia Hoffman moved to go into executive session, Bill Johnson seconded the motion, unanimous approval

Executive Session: [Minutes taken by Tonia Hoffman]

Routine Business:

Administrative and Finance Report / Dave Doorn

We wanted to report that we are working with the County and Emergency Management systems and meeting almost daily. We have instituted a number of changes.

Vicky stated that they are taking temperatures twice daily of all staff. It is being done even in billing office, no one is exempt. If they have a temperature above 100 degrees or respiratory symptoms they are required to notify Vicky and they will go home and self isolate. She said we are also looking at changing the flow into the clinics, but we need to clarify with public health to see if we can disrupt their flow as well to allow staff to screen patients before they get out of their car and come into the clinic because then the clinic will be able to send them in whichever direction they need to go to get the care that they need.

Dave said that that is one of their biggest fears is that we have someone positive with Covid come into the clinic.

Wendy asked if there was an isolation room off of the ER.

Vicky clarified that it is not a negative pressure room and it is now used for ultrasounds.

Dave stated that the clinic is bringing in extra help where we can as well. It was spoken about briefly in executive session but they have talked to Jon and Mary Said and we are looking at two young gals that were scribes last summer and they are now back so we are using them. They are also working with public health, they have a volunteer system set up so the volunteers will be able to assist with traffic flow and other tasks. Dave wanted to talk about the criteria for testing, we are following the CDC guidelines.

Sharon stated that since we don't have hospitalized patients who are the highest priority we are moving down to the second stages of testing to any individuals with cough, shortness of breath, fever, and have been in contact with anybody as a known positive. We were supposed to be able to send everything to AARP through Jackson, but once AREP got it up and running they got overwhelmed and would not take anything anymore. Tests are now being sent back to the state, the clinic is low on supplies and the state is supposed to be sending us more supplies. We are doing flu testing first and on kids we are doing the RSV testing first as well as respiratory viruses as well.

Wendy asked how many do you think we have tested here?

Sharon said 4 that have met the criteria.

Wendy stated that there is 10 in the state of Wyoming

Vicky stated that University of Utah are not accepting any Covid patients or presumptive patients as well. And intermountain and Murray are accepting patients by ground transportation only. Intermountain is the only flight company that is accepting covid patients.

Sharon stated that Emily is contacting the University of Wyoming to reach out to their nursing students that would be able to come assist us while they are out of school. They just got a letter from the state stating that the governor changed the licensing requirements so some retired individuals can come back to work without getting additional licensing if we need help with that as well.

Dvae stated that our housekeepers are coming in earlier in the day to focus on high traffic areas like the lobby and bathrooms. We are thrying to think of everything we can possibly think of to keep our facilities safe.

Wendy asked when we tested people.

Vicky stated that one of the 4 that was tested last week and came back negative but the others we will not know for a few days.

Sharon stated that anyone tested needs to self isolate until we get the tests back.

Mike Pompy asked what precaurtions staff are taking in this situation.

Vicky stated that they are using standard droplet precautions that are required. An isolation gown, face shield, face mask, if you are doing any aerolised or sample collection you use an n-95 mask. We have show covers and hair nets as well.

All samples are being taken outside in vehicles so no one is entering the buildings.

Dave stated that they bought zoom accounts fro all providers and extra ones for nursing and so we can do telemedicine whenever possible. Sharon has also done a lot of work for people that come in for standard blood draws, and has coordinated them to have their blood drawn in the parking lots so they don't have to come into the building as well.

Sharon stated that most of their patients are elderly and need to do fingersticks for their INR's because we have to do their dosing. The people that are at risk and on oxygen we ahave identified all of those people and we don't' want to expose them. She has called everyone in pinedale and will contact everyone in marbleton tomorrow regaurding the new protocol.

Sharon stated that the one thing that they are gtrying to put out to the employees is that it is always a work in project and things are changing by the day and the hour sometime.

Dave stated that Emily is working closely with Emergency management, info goes from us to the information management team and them comes back to us. We are trying to make sure that the same information that comes from them we are sharing as well to keep everything consistent.

Dave state dthat we had a nother good month. Expenses were down about \$600,000 and our revenue was close to budget, we are looking good as far as the budget goes here today. Nothing significant to report, a typical month. We have a good number on stats. Marbleton/BP activity was up 18%. Pinedale was up as well 11%, we were down in a few areas but our nursing appointments were up as well as our telehealth and CT scans.

Dave stated that Bill kluck is gone for a family emergency so he will be back next week.

EMS Report / Bill Kluck - absent

Public Relations Report/Emily Ray

She had a handout of quite a few events planned but she did have to cancel majority of them. A lot of them were at the libraries and senior centers. We are trying to do video ones with our Emergency Management and public health. Our two weeks ready event was recorded live and put on facebook. It had over 600 views. She has been working with the Emergency management, and public health on creating messaging and sharing it from one standard source and standard message.

A mammography van has been scheduled for April but there has not been a decision whether or not that will still be happening. Of the events that did go on, there was an excellent turn out. On average the audience has doubled compared to what was done in the past. Dr. Dorrity had 25 people in February, 15, in march and 35 on that march 11th event. She stated for newsletters there are more and more

people subscribing to these which is nice. 20 people from Marbleton have signed up in the last month as well as 120 people from Pinedale. We are above our industry average open rate as well which is 15%. Instagram has dropped because most of the Covid information is coming to Facebook and other social media. Our Facebook has increased significantly because of that.

March promotion was a focus on National Nutrition month. She had people share healthy recipes to help influence people toward a healthy lifestyle and then we have been partnering the recipes with the USDA food and diet recommendations. She has only had a handful of participants but she had more and more every day.

Dave did want to add that they suspended visiting providers temporarily to see how things go in the future.

Committee Reports

CAH Committee (Bill Johnson / Mike Pompy):

Bill Johnson started with the CAH report;

As a member of the CAH committee along with Mike, I am asking for a few minutes of time. When the 4 of us were elected 16 months ago to support Wendy our chairwoman We all looked at each other and the commissioners and said we can get this done. We are going to build a CAH, a local sublette County hospital. With great gusto we jumped into our task. Some key employees left and we hired Dave Doorn. Under his guidance we dropped 1.6 million dollar projected loss down to an acceptable loss of - \$200,00 in our first fiscal year. The second fiscal year we will probably turn a small profit. IN the meantime we got in touch with JD Dreyer of Davis Partnership and Charles Irvin with the Department of Agriculture asking for their help. JD is the lead architect and Charles could potentially help with financing of construction. Of course Lorraine Worner is the individual in charge of the 30 year USDA loan. I believe the present interest rate is 2.5% and will go much lower on April 1st. and that is a really good deal.

Wendy added that the interest rate is down to 0% and up to a ¼% now.

Bill exactly and went onto say we were trolling along at a pretty good speed when an informal offer was made to the Sublette Center. Why not try and join us? Your building is not so good and the commissioners will probably help you. If we build on the hill and attach your medical wing there will be an efficiency in management, billing, nutrition, laundry, the powerhouse staffing and etc. A doctor will only have to walk down the hall to visit your sick. That makes perfect sense right? Well not to all of them. At least two of them on the board and at least one of their attorneys saw red flags and insurmountable problems. They have managed to hold up the progress for several critical months. Now they want us to sign their MOU, after months of delays this could go either way. The commissioners in the mean time have approved 20 million dollars for the construction of the medical wing for a new Long term care facility. They have 3 conditions that were listed in the paper. #1. Their loan to the sublette center is pending a ballot initiative being passed by the voters in November 2020 which creates a new hospital district and does away with the Rural Health care board. He does not have a problem with the new hospital district necessarily but he does have a big problem with simultaneously asking to raise the tax payers mil levy. He will never ask for a tax increase. #2 The Big Piney/Marbleton Clinic and the Pinedale Clinic are deeded to the new hospital district with a reversion clause to be based on metrics to be determined at a latter date. Are they serious? They want us to apply for a loan on a hospital that is connected to their reversion clause clinic and the hospital will substantially sit on their 4.6 acres of deeded land. Boy that complicates thing. Oh Lorraine will go for us leasing the land

they say. Maybe so, maybe not. It makes the loan process that much more difficult. It shows the public that the county commissioners lack the confidence in the very hospital district they are trying to create let alone the rural health care district board you are facing tonight. #3 the last condition is that we have to complete the merger with the sublette center. We have already talked about that. You all know that the past 2-3 month si have been harping about not paying attention to the big picture. That means the economy, the corona virus as well as the possible civil unrest due to the upcoming November election. Now we can expect material shortages and medical supply disruptions. Think about this the commissioners have become undoubtedly more conservative as guardians of their approximate 175 million dollar stash. Governor Gordon will insist that Wyoming now spend out of the rainy day fund. Not a lot any way. The wild card is the federal government it has a 22 trillion dollar debt and is teetering on bankruptcy. Their tax collections will drop significantly and their expenditures, like they did today, in an attempt to save our economy will go sky high. They will be forced to suspend many gov't programs. This could turn into a perfect storm. I am afraid that our window of opportunity is but a tiny hole and still shrinking. The window could and in my mind will be gone by November. Our towns need a hospital to bring in new business, retirees, wealthy people and the spillovers from Jackson. We can offer them a safe place to be. The people need a hospital and a new long term facility, so we can be like Wendy says cradle to grave. My own wish is for a 19 million dollar hospital facility and another 4 million for everything else like equipment, furnishings, and finance charges for instance. 23 million for county 23, that sounds good to me. Any shortcoming will have to be covered by donations or else we may have to live without. If we get the dirt work done, the cement poured and the ssteel up most of our local contractors might have a good winter's job. And this small hospital might be their only possibility. There is a time for pondering and there is a time for action. My view is from this point forward we all need to be hustling along. That is the end.

Wendy asked if there were any comments?

Mike said that he has lots of thoughts and lots of concerns as Bill does. He said we have been held up not because of our own actions but waiting for other people to make up their own mind. This MOU was supposed to be a final agreement so we can work with the sublette center. He said he was very anxious about to work with the sublette center to be one entity as opposed to two separate entities. Once again we are given more hurtles every time we turn around from other entities, it is our responsisbilty to do the hospital and other people have been controlling the process instead of us. We have just been having to wait. Now it looks like the USDA will take no action until after the election.

Bill said that he doesn't think that that is true.

Wendy stated that Dave and herself are going to Casper on the 6th of April along with JD. She wanted to point out as well that he reversion clause might possibly go away. The commissioners will have to make an announcement or vote on that because she can't speak for them.

Marti thinks that she needs to take a vote to see if the board is committed to go ahead with the C A H. She thinks that we need to do that now.

Wendy said that she thinks that we are all pretty much in favor of it.

Marti said well we aren't doing anything, we havn'et been doing anything for way too long and we need to get this show on the road. We can start with a vote that everybody is in for it and we can start on the work. Right now what are we waiting for.

Wendy said now we have an MOU that is close to where we need it to be.

Marti said that do you think that that MOU is acceptable in any sense of the word?

Wendy said that with the amendments that we would like to make and she doesn't think that there will be any problems changing and that they are minor. They will give us the latitude to continue with our day to day operations without any issues.

Bill says the problem he has with the MOU is that we should be the ones drawing it up not them.

Marti agreed with Bill. They should not be telling us what to do and we should not be sitting here with our thumbs in our ear and wait. We are getting absolutely nowhere. People in sublette county wants this done and she thinks they are tired of putting up with this.

Wendy said that we wanted this done as well.

Marti thinks that they need to vote to get it going.

Tonia said without being inflammatory Bill in regards to your statement, when we were voted into these positions it was at a really difficult time and many of us ran specifically for the fact that we weren't in favor of the CAH. SO she has to disagree with his part of the statement saying that we were moving forward with gusto. She was very clear from the beginning of this that she was only in favor of moving ahead with the CAH if we would be able to come to some sort of agreement with the Sublette center. There have been so many severed relationships and things that needed to be fixed. She has been very clear about that from the beginning when we began working on that. She feels like we put in a lot of time and right on the precipice of making this happen and bringing good things because this is not about any of us sitting up here and what we want. It's about what is doing best for the community. We are so close to having this happen, that to say things like bill is saying in his comment tonight, it makes us really difficult for us to come together.

Bill said that we have been trying to make this work form months to come together. We have invited them up on our hill. Maybe they need to find their own hill, I don't know.

Tonia stated that they have 9 people on their board, they had 3 people that didn't agree and those 6 have come together and worked with us to make this happen.

Bill said they are waiting for us to sign their MOU.

Wendy interjected and stated that we have worked together with them on this MOU and have made changes that have agreed upon. There are a few things needing to be changed but for the most part we are getting what we asked for.

Tonia asked to make a motion to go ahead with the MOU with minor adjustments that we have talked about to get this finalized so we can move on in a positive direction.

Bill made a comment " does anybody really think that the sublettecenter will not be built if we go ahead now with our loan? To me they are not a part of the same animal. We can go ahead and get started on our loan and our deal. They can get their 20 million from the commissioners any time they

want to. Why would we possibly put our hospital in danger to wait another 6-8 months. You don't even know what is going to happen this summer. If we talk about waiting until November you talk about building next summer."

Tonia stated it was a very positive thing to the commissioners that we do this together and one of the reasons why they wouldn't go with it last time

Bill stated if we wait until November then it will be next summer

Tonia stated then it will show public support.

Bill said it could be too late, you really want to take that chance? He thinks we are letting down our community. To even start right now to get it finished would be questionable.

Tonia thinks that if we gain public support then that is what we need done.

Mike asked that if we should have this motion presented under new business instead of during the CAH committee report.

Wendy suspended the discussion until under the Sublette Center MOU.

Dave commented that the way forward is with the sublette center adnt he county. He knows that it is testing all of our patience but he thinks that the right answer for the community is to have a combined resource.

Bill agrees but thinks that if we get our loan NOW and do what we can this summer and then they do whatever they want to do in this election, whatever happens, fine then we are already going. They want to string us along and it never ends, we have already killed a lot of time.

Wendy says that she feels that they are very close and to change directions now.

Wendy Moved onto Ballfield purchase.

Miek stated that hey can't do anything with that until they get the okay from the USDA to spend money on this and according to this MOU we can't apply or get approval until after the election.

Tonia stated that we have enough in reserves to apy for the ballfields.

Bill said do you know that they are already talking about medical equipment being short, building materials s upply chains too, why do we want to wait.

Wendy said okay we will contintue this under the MOU.

Building Committee (Mike Pompy):

Mike stated that we still need information from JD as to what the Requirements are going to be for the marbleton clinic for what we have right now. We have reports from the previous board stating that we

needed to do ventilation, firewall and some electrical work. The biggest issue was ventilation and the firewall. Now there is a good possibility that we can get a waiver on ventilation because the ventilation that we have right now is isolated as far as the patient rooms are concerned. We don't know that yet and need to find that information out. If that can be done that all we need to do is a firewall. We need to find out what the guidelines are.

Dave stated that we can have him come up and just to let him know when.

Mike said as soon as he can get here and tell us.

Wendy said that we needed to get the bids out.

Mike is anxious to get that started as well as anybody and have the authority to go ahead and do it but we have to have the information.

Wendy agrees the sooner we know the sooner we can get it done.

Mike said again he feels that the issue is the ventilation issue

Wendy mentioned that there was a delay on the requirements because the stated didn't even know what the requirements were so hopefully that has been determined.

41:46

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Compensation Committee (Marti Seipp):

New Business:

Public Comments:

Old Business:

Routine Business:

Approval of Payroll and Bills

Adjournment:

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Minutes taken by

Wendy Boman, Chairman

Dave Doorn, Administrative Director