

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

**Call to Order:**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Set Agenda:**

**Executive Session:** [Minutes taken by Tonia Hoffman]

**Routine Business:**

**Administrative and Finance Report / Dave Doorn**

Dave stated it was a weak revenue month, peak volume was in June as Covid ramped up again. Revenues went down in July and August but September is looking much better. We were down \$148,000 after the tax adjustment. Expenses were in line, basically underbudget but it is a revenue thing right now. Statistics; clinic visits we were down 16% on our scheduled appointments, we are down 19% in Pinedale. EMS was down a little bit as well 5% in 911 calls, and 22% in transfers and 5 flights. Our lab stats went up significantly and that is due to Covid. He wanted to give a shout out to Sharon, our lab crew and our nurses. They have been working hard and doing a lot of tests.

Bill asked that do you feel that the several months it could be more of the same

Dave said yes, it can be up and down obviously dependent on cases as well, we are up to about 65 total cases in the county.

Expenses we had another \$58,000 in Covid expenses last month. We have to stay ready with supplies, greeters, Covid providers as well. We have a decline in revenue but our expenses are staying consistent.

Bill Johnson asked how long can we go on without changing something.

Dave said we did get the PPP loan. That will probably be forgiven so that will be cash received to pay for these additional expenses. The Commissioners approved our additional expenses for the last few months as well which is around \$200,000 through the county Covid money. We also talked about

CARES funding with the county commissioners on Tuesday. The county had \$4.2 million on cares to spend on Covid related expenses and has to be spent by the end of December and we have to receive that equipment except for supplies. The 2 Covid isolation units are part of the request. Vicky has a UV Light robot that can go into rooms. Vicky added that the equipment to go into the containers would be on the list, an update of our ventilators as well. Bill went through and priced out another ambulance that would be able to transfer a Covid positive patient on a ventilator. It added up to about 1.3 million dollars. Matt Gaffney at the county is sending everything to the SLIB board yesterday. We will then know what we are getting paid for at the beginning of October. A big number on this list that is large as well is testing. We submitted the cost for Strep Flu and Covid testing for those 18 & under, we made an educated guess on the cost for that as well. The commissioners did back up that request. In case the SLIB board turned that down the county would pick up the bill, at about \$192,000.

Visiting providers are down a little bit as well. He thinks that their volume is down too.

School District agreements were put together with both school districts so we can be the back-up nursing if the RN at the school gets sick.

The jail contract was finalized today as well the providers will come 1x/week for visits and the nurses will have to come 1x/day so he is really happy that we are doing it. It is the right thing to do, we took a lot of calls for the inmates anyway.

RFPs that were sent out for the Joint Planning Committee. They have been sent out to St. Johns, EIRMC, Afton ,and Sweetwater County. It has been confirmed that Idaho Falls and St. Johns are interested and will respond to our request. He did not hear back from Sweetwater and Afton yet. He will reach out again to see if they want to respond.

Labarge got their SLIB funding on their own. Vicky and Dave helped with cost info for what it would take to transition the building on the highway to an urgent care clinic. But they did get the funding so they can upgrade the building and get it ready for the clinics.

Mike Pompy asked where we stood as far as getting testing done in Big Piney. Testing is daily in Pinedale is from 8am – 12pm and Marbleton/Big Piney from 1 pm – 5 pm. They have to call and make an appointment. Also, if they are asymptomatic, they need a doctor's order for a procedure or public health has to approve it. But anyone symptomatic we are testing

#### EMS Report / Bill Kluck

Bill stated that we are continuing the classes, interesting thing on the training. He had a good time teaching a CPR class for first time doctors at the box R Ranch. Safety, keep your vest on the roads, and still following CDC guidelines for masks and PPE. IT is getting a little cold so bring your warm clothes. Events – We assisted Jackson Hole fire and ems with a bike race. The 200-mile bike race at the high school was manned by our EMS last weekend. There were a lot of people, not a lot of action though.

The new ambulance is on schedule for December. It should be coming in before December 31.

Safety record is still good as well.

#### PR Report/Emily Ray

Emily stated that they have been coordinating a lot of events, since the last board meeting we have been doing 11. We have been running around with signs, flyers and answering questions by community members so she has been keeping busy with that.

We did donate gear to the SAFV golf tournament. They had 90 participants this year which is a great turnout and fundraiser for them. She has coordinated coordination and communication for the Public Health Essential Worker Random Sampling for the clinics as well as coordination for meetings for the Joint Planning Committee. She did get professional photos done for all the new providers. The up front boards and websites will be updated with that as well.

She is also as always taking feedback, complaints and making sure that everything is on the up and up for anyone with issues or concerns.

Social media has declined. We have reached about 700 people compared to the 1,000 – 2,000 the special hospital district page that we manage has really ramped up. There has been a lot planned for the next month as well.

There is a wide variety of events going on throughout the county and there have been decent turnouts to most.

### Committee Reports

CAH Committee (Bill Johnson / Mike Pompy):

About 10 days ago Bill handled a lady from the USDA wanted to check our site to see if it is toxic. So she wanted to go to the old dump which is up by Fremont lake which is 1.5 miles away from our place. She took samples from a few of the 4 wells that were drilled out there for testing. She also wanted to see the power plant to see if it is a toxic spot for the site on the hill. Eventually we made it to the building site. There is an old dump on the soccer field on the NE corner of the NE side where the water drains. The rodeo grounds used to be up there too. But most of the dump was picked up when they built the soccer fields. He thinks that she is convinced that it is a good spot and she is just going her job.

Building Committee (Mike Pompy):

Mike met with JD and Pat Davis with Cheyenne on what is needed to move forward with the Marbleton project and JD is going to work on the PAR, which will take about 30 days. Pat Davis indicated with the state that they are extremely busy with Covid related inspections so another 30 days for the state to respond.

Dave stated the cost to get everything ready would be about \$25,000. Once we get the approvals in about 60 days then we can go ahead and bid on the project. We do not have any estimates so we are unaware about the overall cost.

Compensation Committee (Marti Seipp):

Marti said that we are still mid-range with all of our pay. We will review everything next budget season as well.

Joint Planning Committee (Tonia and mike)

We have been on the run bouncing around trying to get our message out and getting all the information added into. Everyone has been working really hard.

Mike added that we are looking at forming a Political Action Committee to get funds to pay the bills for the campaign because neither board can pay for political campaigns. Mike and Marilyn met with Kari Dewitt and Darren Hull at the Chamber of Commerce. They have the PAC formed and ready to go. They named the PAC the Hospital District PAC. It will be necessary to change the paid for by statements on all of our information.

Rachel said it has to say Paid for by the PAC. Rachel did more research into the 501-C3's cannot support candidates. It does not make any mention that they cannot support any ballot initiatives, but she will look further into it.

### **New Business:**

Union fiber agreement – there are a few terms that Rachel wanted to bring to the board attention before the contract was signed. She understands why we are signing this contract. She wanted to state when entering a contract with ah large company you are playing by their rules. She picked the biggest ones that could impact the district. There are lot of specific time lines of notice that vary greatly so that is one thing to keep track of. There is a clause in confidentiality. She wanted them to reference the public records act. They chose not to do that. Just to point out that if you get a request for a public records request that that is something that we would need to talk about. If it is required under the Wyoming Public Records Acts then we have to disclose it so we can work with union in that regard.

She then moved to Page 8 – non-disclosure agreement – that section doesn't apply if you don't enter one of those, which is her suggestion.

Rachel did not see the sovereign immunity act, which they stated that they were going to add but not yet. Sovereign immunity is extremely important because case law indicates if you don't include it specifically you may waive it. And we want that in there, it is beneficial. She is also really uncomfortable about the no warranty clause. Union makes no representation or warranties etc. etc. etc. which is very concerning. their response was that we can't change this. It is common in these types of contracts but just know we are at a disadvantage because we are the little guy and we are playing by their rules. Rachel did try to make changes but they refused. The wording is extremely favorable to them.

Indemnification was unable to be changed. Rachel attempted to revise that but was unable to.

We are waiving a jury trail and we are entering into binding arbitration which is non appealable so that would be the end decision.

She worries about this contract and their good faith efforts. Rachel stated what if things go wrong? The district would then be in a sticky spot. She will reach out to them again but there are some glaring issues that need to be taken into consideration.

Dave said he thinks we have a good chance for negotiation. We are in no big hurry because we have our CenturyTel in place.

Rachel stated that this is not atypical for most contracts for these large companies.

Sherri and Dave – Green River Valley Health Foundation

Sherri – Executive director who joined in 2016, stated they changed their name from the Rural Health

Foundation of Sublette County, and in 2018 they became the Green River Valley Health Foundation. She thought it would be important to come and discuss what the foundation is, their vision, past achievements and future goals.

She stated, we originated to help with advancing health and wellness in the county. they have raised over \$400,000 just for the purchase for equipment for the clinics, EMS, Sublette Center, and families in need. The GRVHF funding comes from private donors, grants, fundraising and we have reoccurring donations that come from Domain Energy, Marathon, and we have received a donation from Ultra and of course we support getting a CAH put in place. We have been working toward a CAH since the process began a couple years ago. The foundation hired on Path Finder to work with us on a capital campaign and a strategic planning. We interviewed local residents, foundations, and regional hospitals. What was found out during that process what there are a lot of individuals that want to support our facility here in Sublette County. But the two things that came from that interview process was that, one, the individuals wanted to pledge funding they wanted a management team that would assist with the formation of the CAH the other was that individuals didn't know that the foundation was in place or that the foundation was a front for the district so whatever funds that were being donated were going directly to the District which is not the case. At that point this is where we rebranded. We still have the opportunity to work with Pathfinder and get that funding. The foundation does want to help in any way we can but the big factor for them is getting that management team in place and getting that funding going. She wants to step in and start working when the district is ready to do so.

The foundation requested \$2.5 million in regards to a list of equipment that is needed for either the clinics or the hospital. We have received funding for part of the request but we hare hoping for more. She is unable to help for the marketing campaign but she said that we are willing to help with that fundraising with the CAH. They have currently donated about \$60,000 and \$7,000 have come from ultra and EIRMC. The large portion of the funding for these current requests have come from Marathon and Dominion. The just wanted to make sure that the board knows that the foundation is here, we support the CAH but no matter what happens when this election comes around, and we want to make sure we still have a facility here. She can help work on private funding grants etc.

Bill asked what can we do to become better partners?

Sherri thinks that it is important that we do find a way to connect. At what time does the foundation reconnect? Is it when the hospital district is in place? Is it now? what is it that we can do additionally to show our support and she said please let us know if there is anything else you would like to see from us what that is. Some of the donors like to see what their money was used for or just a thank you would go a long-ways. We usually do a press conference as far as the foundation goes but she thinks it important that the recognition comes from the board members as well. She offered for the board to be involved in person at the press conference or even via emails.

Dave expressed his thanks to the Foundation for all of their work and willing to work together.

Dave Racich stated that there are people waiting cautiously to see what happens he feels that were will be people to jump in whole heartedly if this initiative passes. But a lot want to see the management company in place so it doesn't falter. Part of the funding that we were willing to say was 10% was just going to be given to the board and now we even have a dentist. That has opened up an avenue that before ourselves and the community didn't have. Hopefully people can realize that they can come to us that doesn't fall on the clinic's shoulders like vets with mental health or dental issues. He said we appreciate your time and we are here to help.

Wendy stated that one of the things Lorraine Werner would like to see donations that could be coming in from month to month not just the large donations. Sherri stated that donors donate on an annual basis, not a monthly basis, but it is really up to the donor itself. Some have restrictions on how the funds can be utilized and some that will give us one lump sum and say they are done or come back year after year, which can be pledged for 5 or ten years, whatever the case may be. She does know that some nurses and doctors donate monthly which is just automatically taken out of their account.

Tonia stated that she really appreciated Dave and Sherri coming tonight. Tonia had a poor understanding of what they can do and there is no reason why we can't be better communicators and we are happy to work together more often.

The board overall expressed their appreciation for the GRVHF and look forward to working with them in the future.

**Public Comments:**

N/A

**Old Business:**

Approve meeting minutes for July 15<sup>th</sup> and August 19<sup>th</sup>

Mike made the motion to approve both sets of minutes, Tonia seconded, unanimous approval

**Routine Business:**

Approval of Payroll and Bills

Tonia moved to approve payroll and bills in the amount of \$720,244.50, Marti seconded the motion, unanimous approval

**Adjournment:**

Mike moved to adjourn, Tonia seconded the motion, unanimous approval.

Minutes taken by Emily Ray

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Wendy Boman, Chairman

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Dave Doorn, Administrative Director