



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE NORTHERN NYE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOARD
OF TRUSTEES**

101 Radar Road, Tonopah, NV 89049

February 16, 2023

5:00 PM

Speakers in Attendance

Chairman Don Kaminski (Absent)
Vice Chair Tim Gamble
Treasurer Cheri Harper
Trustee Patty Browning
Trustee Nancy Maslach

Stefanie Costa Rica – BEC Environmental
Dr. Russell Pillers – Biowerx
Horace Carlyle – Public Member
Ron Browning – Public Member

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge recited

2. 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).

No general public comment

3. Approval of the Agenda February 16, 2023. (Non-action Item)

Item 5 removed

No presenter for item 9

No January 19, 2023 minutes

4. Announcements (first)

No announcements

5. For Possible Action – Emergency Items

Items removed

6. Trustees’/Liaison Comments (This item limited topics/issues proposed for future workshops/agendas)

Trustee Browning announced that Nye County Finance would like the Hospital District to hold a special meeting on February 28th for the budget audit.

-Trustees discussed availability

7. For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation of the minutes from the [May 31, 2022](#) and [January 19, 2023](#) District Meetings.

Trustee Maslach motions to accept the May 31, 2022 minutes.

Treasurer Harper seconds motion.

Motion passes; 4-0

8. [For Possible Action](#) – Presentation and discussion to approve, amend and approve, or deny an advertising campaign with KIBS for American Heart month. Proposed package will run daily from February 18, 2023 until February 28, 2023 and include a rotation of 5 features at a discounted rate of \$1,000.

Trustee Browning explained that she spoke to the KIBS representative about this proposal, it is similar to other campaigns the District has approved.

Trustee Maslach recommends that the district not do this advertising campaign with KIBS

Trustee Harper agrees that this is not a necessary expense.

Trustee Browning motions to deny the advertisement with KIBS.

Trustee Harper seconds motion.

Motion passes, 4-0

9. [No Action](#) – Presentation and discussion by Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority of their December 2022 reconciliation package and reports pursuant to the professional services agreement entered in 2022.

Vice Chair Gamble told the board the Mr. Romero of REMSA wanted the Board to know that the invoice is representative of the contractually agreed cap and that REMSA will be taking a loss for the 2022 expenses.

Trustee Browning asked if Vice Chair Gamble knew if REMSA has made any progress in filling their empty positions.

Vice Chair Gamble shared that REMSA just hired a new Paramedic that had recently finished his first shift in Tonopah.

10. For Possible Action: Discussion and deliberation to accept, amend and accept, or deny the Resolution No. 2023-01, discussed during the January 19th NNCHD Board Meeting to obtain funding from the Nye County Brownfields Program for Nye Regional Medical Center site cleanup as part of the Nevada Department of Taxation process.

Stefanie Costa Rica with BEC Environmental shared that Nye County requested that this resolution No. 2023-01 to be resubmitted to the Hospital District as an agenda item and to include the resolution number which was read to clarify with the Department of Taxation. Also, the Notice of Intent was placed back in the Tonopah-Times Bonanza on February 2, 2023. That is also going to be included within the Department of Taxation package. Ms. Costa Rica requested that the board include the resolution number in their motion.

Vice Chair Gamble motioned to approve the Nye County Resolution No. 2023-01, a resolution authorizing a medium-term obligation for the purposes of environmental assessment and cleanup at the former Nye Regional Medical Center located at 825 S. Main Street Tonopah Nevada.

Trustee Maslach second's motion.

Motion passes; 4-0

11. For Possible Action: Discussion and deliberation to accept, amend and accept, or deny a 3% Cost of Living Increase for the Administrative Secretary Position.

Trustee Browning stated that she added this item because looking back, the Hospital Board has not done any cost of living raises for this position that she is aware of. The backup included is to show that if Admin had been hired at government step increases (which hasn't been created for this position) she would have lost steps. Most employers have given cost of living raises, the County just did a cost of living raise for their employees. Trustee Browning states that she has projected what the next two cost of living raises would be for this position and because this hasn't been done in the past, she proposed a 3% cost of living raise. Trustee Browning stated that due to general inflation in the last year or two she felt this item should be brought to the Board. The budget impact is going to be just over \$1,000 per year and that includes benefits.

Trustee Maslach states that she feels this is a good idea but doesn't think the Board would be acting in good faith to the Board or to their constituents to approve the proposal and asked Trustee Browning if she met with the Chairman to discuss the staff members reviews.

Trustee Browning shared that reviews have been done and there is another employee review coming up in March, but she stated that this item has nothing to do with performance, it is about the position itself.

Trustee Maslach shared that she would like Trustee Browning to call for a personnel meeting.

Trustee Maslach stated that this cannot go forward in good faith until a personnel meeting has been held and proposes that this item be postponed for another meeting.

Vice Chair Gamble confirmed that since the creation of this position, a cost of living adjustment has not been made and he believes there was a goal to establish a steps system similar to the one published on the agenda but it never was created.

Trustee Harper asked when this position was created.

Vice Chair Gamble shared that it was created in 2018.

Trustee Harper shared that she thinks the Board needs to be careful and make sure a steps system is in place and that the Board doesn't simply give these increases whenever they feel like it.

Item 11 continued

Trustees discussed the correlation between the County Position Secretary position and their own secretary position.

Vice Chair Gamble motions to approve a cost-of-living increase of 3% for the Administrative Secretary position, effective immediately.

Trustee Maslach second's motion.

Motion passes; 4-0

12. No Action: Presentation and monthly report for Biowerx by Dr. Russell Pillers pursuant to the professional services agreement entered into on October 25th, 2018.

Dr. Russell Pillers gave the presentation and monthly report for Biowerx. Presentation included a summary of efforts to the following projects; Progressive Design Build, Wipfli efforts, Environmental Guidance, USDA Collaboration, EAPC – Criteria Architect, Care Model Consultant, Demolition update, Dental update, Grant Project and Accounting, the Biowerx Quarterly Snapshot, and the DoDCIP 2023 opportunity.

Trustee Harper asked Dr. Pillers for background information regarding discussion of the size and scope of the future hospital, and if that information is written down somewhere.

Dr. Pillers explained that yes, Wipfli performed a debt/market survey as well as a senior care survey and the debt capacity analysis for the district, and the trustees have had opportunities to decide on the scale of the new hospital.

Trustee Harper asked Dr. Pillers if she could set up time to discuss this deeper.

Dr. Pillers explained what the project size is estimated to be based off of past decisions made by the board from data collected by their consulting team.

Trustee Harper asked if there is a timeline for the Tonopah Landfill Expansion Project.

Vice Chair Gamble reiterated that the pre-construction process is working the way it's supposed to work. They are moving forward and making sure that they aren't duplicating efforts where appropriate.

Dr. Pillers told the board that he can't overstate how critical and supportive Vice Chair Gamble been. And through his recent training, education experience, he represents the trustees incredibly well in helping the consulting team lay the groundwork for everything. Vice Chair Gamble is, from the team's perspective, serving the Board and its constituents incredibly well.

Trustee Maslach informed Dr. Pillers that she thinks the world of him however, she stated that she had a stomachache from hearing so much of his data repeated ever since she joined the Board. Time is dollars and she was very concerned with the sustainability of the hospital that the Board is working so diligently to build.

Trustee Harper shared that she was concerned to see the money that the Board has gone through in the past, and the funds that are remaining. She was concerned that things would not be feasible for much longer.

Vice Chair Gamble shared that there is no way to get this hospital built without a loan. That is the financial realization of the whole project. He asked the Board to consider the debt capacity of \$35 million for the Hospital District, that includes the debt service, and operations of the facility. Currently, CES is projected by Wipfli, on their high-level examination, to bring in about \$18.5 million in patient revenue, after contractual obligations, which leaves \$18.5 million to cover things like salaries, supplies, and all the other stuff that goes along with rent at a hospital. That previous inappropriately licensed facility, was operating on about \$12 to \$13 million per year.

Item 12 continued

Mr. Gamble stated that it's just a matter of getting to the point where the funding is available for the build, which at this point looks to be somewhere in the neighborhood of about, \$5 million.

Trustee Maslach shared that this is a "big if" none of it is a guarantee. She asks the Board to consider what is going on in the nation, the area, the mine, and the military base.

Vice Chair Gamble reminded the Board that this project is not tied to any other projects or population influxes.

13. For Possible Action – Approval of invoices for payment.

Administration reminded the Board the invoice from Frontier Medical Group was denied in the past due to concerns.

Vice Chair Gamble told the Board to understand that if they allow the draw from Frontier, there are no other funds to support other health care business in town.

Trustee Maslach tells the Board she feels comfortable with giving this support locally and that it is a good investment. Trustee Maslach feels this is the type of project that the District was established to support.

Trustee Harper asked if the first loan request had been received yet.

Trustee Browning and Administration answer that it has not due to legal and administrative delays, but have been advised that payment was being expedited that week.

Public Comment-

Horace Carlyle shared that he had a complicated medical emergency that Frontier Medical Group was able to manage and control for him. He shared that he hopes the Board keeps Frontier because they are the best medical care in town.

Trustee Maslach motions to pay all invoices presented to the Board on February 16, 2023.

Treasurer Harper seconds motion.

Motion Passes ; 3-1 Vice Chair Gamble denies motion

14. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (second)

Dr. Govind Koka notified the Board that Frontier Medical Group had still not received their first loan payment.

Mr. Ron Browning shared that he thinks it is sad that the Board hasn't been able to pay Frontier Medical Group yet and hopes they get it figured out soon.

Administration reminded the Board that the first loan payment to Frontier Medical was approved prior to a final agreement being written and signed.

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS (second)

Administration announced that the upcoming RAM event is looking for volunteers.

16. ADJOURN

02.16.2023 Meeting Adjourned

Signed this 16th Day of March 2023



Chair