



MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN NYE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

101 Radar Road, Tonopah, NV 89049

March 16, 2023

5:00 PM

Speakers in attendance

Chairman Don Kaminski
Vice Chair Tim Gamble
Secretary/Treasurer Cheri Harper
Trustee Patty Browning
Trustee Nancy Maslach

Horace Carlyle – Public Member
Jake Kohn – Lobbyit
Ron Browning – Public Member
Dr. Russell Pillers – Biowerx
Eileen Christensen – BEC Environmental
Dylan Crosby - SixCo

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).

Horace Carlyle shared that he is happy that the HD has 2.8 million. He shared that he would like to caution the Board on their financial decisions and asks that they think about any decisions before they make them tonight.

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

Item 5 removed

No 02.02.2023 minutes available

4. Announcements (first)

Administration read aloud a termination notice from BEC Environmental dated March 8, 2023.

Trustee Browning announced that the Board Administrative Secretary will be out of office

June 7th – 23rd.

Chairman Kaminski shared that the Board has received a USDA grant application refusal.

5. For Possible Action – Emergency Items

Item removed

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

No discussion

7. For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation of the minutes from the [June 23, 2022](#), [February 16, 2023](#), and [February 2, 2023](#) District Meetings.

Trustee Maslach Motions to approve the June 23, 2022 and February 16, 2023 meeting minutes.

Secretary / Treasurer Harper seconds motion

Motion passes; 5-0

8. No Action – Presentation by LobbyIt of Washington D.C. of all recent activities performed on behalf of the District in accordance with the Contract for Federal Government Affairs Services as approved by the District on September 17, 2020.

Jake Kohn gave the Lobbyit presentation and update. He shared updates of recent happenings on the Hill in regards to investments, Health Care and Rural Medicine. Mr. Kohn’s update included DCIP application, Grant opportunities, recommendation, and overview.

9. [No Action](#) – Presentation and discussion by Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority of their January 2023 reconciliation package and reports pursuant to the professional services agreement entered in 2022.

Vice Chair Gamble shared that Kevin Romero with REMSA could not make the meeting but asked that the Board be aware that he the invoice should appear more normal, as REMSA is now fully staffed in Tonopah and not relying on overtime from Careflight or REMSA Operations.

10. [For Possible Action](#) – Discussion and deliberation to approve, amend and approve, or deny a request from Tonopah Primary Care for \$2,000.00 for a Phlebotomy Course.

Trustee Browning shared that Mrs. E. Marie Peterson was not in attendance but Trustee Browning is aware that she is interested in putting one person through the Phlebotomy class because one of the two current phlebotomists working in that office is leaving sometime this year.

Chairman Kaminski shared that he wants to know if they have tried reaching out to the coalition for this class.

Trustee Browning responded that in the past they had a hard time getting in touch with anyone in the Coalition office.

Trustee Maslach recommends tabling this item for the next Board meeting.

Horace Carlyle shared that he thinks the Board should approve both item 10 and item 11 on the agenda. He thinks this is a good investment of the Board's funds and that this clinic has been here for the community while serving a large portion of the community.

Ron Browning stated that he agrees with Mr. Carlyle and feels they aren't asking for a lot, but do so much for the community

Trustee Maslach motioned to table the request from Tonopah Primary Care for \$2,000.00 for a Phlebotomy Course to allow the Board to do a little research and have this item back on the next agenda.

Secretary / Treasurer Harper seconds motion

Motion passes; 3-1 Vice Chair Gamble Opposed & Trustee Browning Abstained

11. [For Possible Action](#) – Discussion and deliberation to approve, amend and approve, or deny a request from Tonopah Primary Care for a CardioTech CT-5000 Bladder Scanner for a total cost of \$5,795.00.

Chairman Kaminski shared that they have been asking for this Bladder scanner for the last two years but has not had the time to do the research to find one that will fit her needs. Chairman Kaminski shared that he is in favor of giving this money with the stipulation that the machine belongs to the Hospital district and is on indefinite loan to them as long as they are providing care to personnel in the area.

Vice Chair Gamble proposed to put this request off for two weeks because it does not meet the minimum requirements for purchasing equipment which required 3 quotes from dealers. Knowing that this provider is busy Vice Chair Gamble offered to bring this item back himself with the required quotes.

Vice Chair Gamble motions to table this item for two weeks so he can rework it to conform to District Standards.

Secretary / Treasurer Harper seconds motion

Motion passes; 4-0 Trustee Browning Abstained

12. [For Possible Action](#) – Discussion and deliberation to approve, amend and approve, or deny a Credit Limit increase up to \$2,000.00 OR \$2,500.00.

Trustee Browning shared that this is the office Credit Card. Due to a high NV Energy bill, this card is being maxed out on a regular basis. Admin has tried to work with the county to find a solution but has been advised that a credit limit increase is the best option.

Chairman Kaminski motions to approve a credit limit increase up to \$2,500.

Trustee Maslach second's motion

Secretary / Treasurer Harper asked how the credit card payments are made.

Administration explained that invoices are uploaded to the Eden payment system.

Motion passes; 5-0

13. [For Possible Action](#) – Discussion and deliberation to accept, amend and accept, or deny the recommendation of Bowerx and SixCo to begin the process of liquidating any salable equipment either medical or general in an effort to raise funds intended for the hospital replacement project.

Dr. Pillers shared that Dylan has found entities that may be interested in purchasing this equipment out of the hospital, ranging from the imaging equipment to anything left in the building. He was looking for general approval to start the process, so that when they find an entity that's interested in specific equipment. Then they can bring that back to the Board for approval of the sale.

Secretary / Treasurer Harper asked how Dr. Pillers will find these buyers.

Dr. Pillers shared that he would be reaching out to buyers but he will be verifying if there are any requirements to make an announcement prior to any sales.

Vice Chair Gamble shared that this is called public personal property, not public real property, and they will have to put an agenda item in front of the Board, that says something to the effect of “declare excess and liquidate” or “declare excess and sell excess items”. He also shared that these interested parties are brokers, a lot of the equipment in the hospital can't be used in this country.

Chairman Kaminski Motions to approve and allow Biowerx and SixCo to move forward with checking into what we must do to comply with any NRS in reference to selling our equipment and furniture and so forth out of the old hospital building.

Trustee Browning seconds motion

Motion passes; 5-0

14. For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation to accept, amend and accept, or deny the proposal by Biowerx Consulting to modify its Professional Services Contract to allow for NNCHD to secure Grant Management services.

Dr. Pillers explained that he does not have the skill set to manage the grants for the district financially. His proposal goal was to cut his current contract by half. Dr. Pillers proposes to give the Board a report every other month to catch the Board up his current projects and efforts while the work continues. The Board can then use the rest of that contract amount to secure someone who has the right background and skill set to manage the grants efficiently. Dr. Pillers shared that he has been confident to be able to submit the grant applications, but that is as far as his comfort zone goes.

Eileen Christensen shared that it is important that the Board does not receive a negative finding on a federal grant because it affects all future federal dollars going forward. Ms. Christensen shared that a challenge that we're running into is, a lot of the controls that need to be in place per the grant requirements, or project controls, require a budget that you're following. The Board must have controls in place for reviewing invoices and making sure they are consistent with the contract and that they can be reimbursed against the grant. One of the things that BEC strongly recommends in this grant application and in most applications moving forward is that the Board put positions out for competitive bid.

Trustees discussed the role Vice Chairman Gamble and Administration will play in the management of grants and projects.

Horace Carlyle wanted to make the Board and the Public clear that there are “two donkeys in this race”. An operating clinic and an alleged hospital. He asked the Board how this is going to be developed and if this is coming from the Horseford Funding of \$2 Million? He also asked how much money can be taken and put into the operation of the clinic and their daily expenses, or is it totally isolated?

Vice Chair Tim Gamble replied that absolutely none of the Horseford Funding may be used for anything other than preconstruction activities on the hospital.

Trustees discussed agenda and invoicing templates that will be used as control documents for the Board to meet the requirements lined-out in the HRSA funding.

Trustee Maslach shared that she appreciated Dr. Pillers foresight and hindsight and would like to accept his proposal.

Chairman Kaminski confirmed that the Biowerx contract would remain the same except the fee.

Dr. Pillers added that the Board will only be receiving bi-monthly reports.

Trustee Browning asked Dr. Pillers if he is still going to be the one putting documents and applications together for future grants.

Dr. Pillers confirmed that he can but he will need someone else to take ownership of the project after the applications are complete.

Chairman Kaminski motioned to accept Dr. Pillers proposal to cut his salary in half to \$6,000 a month, and also cut his reporting to once every other month.

Trustee Browning seconds motion

Motion passes; 5-0

15. No Action - Presentation and discussion on the current Hospital planning effort, and alternatives previously mentioned and abandoned because of program ineligibility.

Vice Chair Tim Gamble gave a presentation and overview of past and current hospital planning efforts. Presentation included the types of facilities that have been considered for this project, and an explanation for why they will or will not work for the NNCHD hospital build. Vice Chair Gamble reminded the Public that the current program is a wish list and will change as the board narrows down cost and other factors.

Trustee Browning reminds the Board and the Public that the type of facility they build will affect what care is billable and payable.

Secretary/Treasurer Harper shared that she was apprehensive about the hospital build and the cost that the Board is incurring to build the hospital is dwindling every day. She also stated that the dwindling of NNCHD's funds, is happening faster than we realize.

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

Trustees discussed the District Attorney's invoice and contractual details in regards to billing and reimbursement.

Secretary/Treasurer Harper shared that she appreciates the format of the EAPC invoice as it gives a clear picture of what they have been working on.

Trustee Browning motioned to pay the invoices as presented.

Vice Chair Gamble seconds motion.

Motion passes; 5-0

17. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (second)

Eileen Christensen shared that she spoke with Chairman Kaminski and Vice Chair Gamble about an opportunity that the USDA has presented, to work closely with them in moving forward with the hospital development process, USDA has offered to reach out to the Board directly to improve the application and/or work with them more proactively on the application. This program is called Nevada Rural Partners. Ms. Christensen encourages the Board to utilize this opportunity.

18. ANNOUNCEMENTS (second)

Trustee Browning shared that she has been in touch with Amy Meiers (Star Yoga) and received an update from the Yoga classes that the Board sponsored. Mrs. Meiers advised Trustee Browning that the evening community class has remain the same but the Senior Yoga has grown and continues to have large amounts of interest in it. Trustee Browning shared that because the Boards financing of those classes has ended, there will likely be an agenda item prepared in the future on this topic.

Vice Chair Gamble asked the trustees for their opinion on if they would like to start to see operational forms included on the agendas.

Chairman Kaminski share that he has been in contact with Valeria from the Dental group for a status update. Update included, completion of state inspections and grant update. Chairman Kaminski shared that he will report back to the Board in two weeks with another update.

19. ADJOURN

03.16.2023 Meeting Adjourned

Approved this May 4, 2023


Chair