



Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes March 24, 2020

PRESENT

Robb Kimmes, CEO; Brenda Schneider, CFO; Dr. Russell Smith, Chief of Staff; Paul Pennington, Commissioner

CALL-IN

Jonathan Blake; Board Chair; Ricky Knowles, Commissioner; Juliet Pouillon, Commissioner; Les Dewey, Commissioner; Diane Matthews, CNO, Elizabeth Vaivoda, PR/Foundation Director; Heidi Hedlund, Quality Director; Steve Opbroek, IT Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair, Jonathan Blake, called the meeting to order at 1819 hours.

OPEN DISCUSSION & PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No discussion.

CONSENT AGENDA

Paul Pennington motioned to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2020 regular meeting and the minutes of the March 7, 2020 special meeting. Juliet Pouillon seconded. Motion approved unanimously. Approval of Warrants and Bad Debt have been postponed until next month.

MEDICAL STAFF REPORT & CREDENTIALING

Dr. Russell Smith reported the medical executive committee recommended Alyssa Kessler, CRNA for reappointment of privileges. Discussion followed. Paul Pennington made motion to approve. Juliet Pouillon seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Postponed until next month.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- **CEO Report:** Robb provided a verbal report saying it has been a very busy past 8 days of emergency preparedness. The Emergency Depart project will proceed for now, but we're in a good position to put the project on hold if necessary. If COVID-19 produces a large surge in patients, we won't want to have ED under construction and we will delay project in order to provide care for community. We interviewed a PA from Portland recently and plan to make an offer to him soon. He can start immediately.

- **Financial Report:** Brenda presented the February 2020 Financial Statements. Bottom line for February is a negative \$346,326. We discussed the negative financial impact of the COVID

emergency. We've talked to the county commissioners about the possibility of needing registered warrants in the future. We're also watching what is being decided by the federal and state governments regarding funding for hospitals.

- **CNO Report:** Postponed until next month.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Emergency Department Renovation:** No report.
- **Levy Lid Lift Proposition:** No report.

NEW BUSINESS

- **COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness:** Robb gave a synopsis of where we are:
 - Implemented incident command center
 - Preparing for large surge of patients
 - Temporarily shut down elective services
 - Increased bed capacity to 30+ beds
 - We have two ventilators and quite a few CPAP machines
 - Acquiring Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): face masks, face shields, gowns and gloves
 - We have industrial respirators that are reusable
 - Dr. Swanson has shown strong leadership in preparation of this.
 - Requested large quantity of supplies, equipment, and drugs from national stockpile
 - Local companies are making PPE for us to use
 - Looking at ways to make more negative pressure rooms in hospital
 - Set up triage tent
 - Building a temporary enclosed wooden structure outside of the ED for triage and patient care. Materials have been donated by SDS Lumber
 - Gorge CEOs calls are scheduled weekly
 - CNOs and hospitalists within Gorge are also holding regular calls
 - Met with new Klickitat County Public Health Director today
 - Working with EOC logistics coordinator to acquire resources through FEMA
 - Implemented telemedicine through clinic and hospital to allow for virtual visits with patients
 - Have some employees working from home. Working to repurpose other employees
 - Ethics committee established

We saw first positive COVID test result last night. Goldendale has seen five. Hood River County has had one positive.

Dr. Smith provided additional updates:

- NW Emergency Services now has a backup provider available for ED coverage
- Hospitalist backup list has been created
- EMS has pre-screening process in place
- PPE is crucial to our ability to provide care

The Board passed a motion to officially thank the staff for their superb work and dedication during this time. Les Dewey made motion. Paul Pennington seconded.

ADJOURN: Board Chair, Jonathan Blake moved to adjourn the meeting at 1939 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brenda Schneider
CFO

Board Chair

Board Secretary