



**MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN NYE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**101 Radar Road, Tonopah, NV 89049**

**July 18, 2019**

**6:00 PM**

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Chairwoman Link called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Chairwoman: Rhonda S. Link

Vice Chair: Karmin Greber

Secretary / Treasurer: Justin Zimmerman

Trustee: Don Kaminski

Let the record show that Trustee Gamble was absent from this meeting.

**Item #1, Pledge of Allegiance.**

Led by Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman.

**Item #2, Approval of the Agenda for July 18, 2019. (Non-action Item)**

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman suggested the removal of item 5. Chairwoman Link accepted his suggestion.

**Item #3, 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).**

Jessica Popelka said that Steve, the owner and physical therapist of Affiliated Therapy wanted to thank the Board for the help getting them started in town. She said that he also wanted to thank Lorina for making equipment available for them to purchase. She also said that they have received fifty referrals, and they have hired a physical therapist to start full time in October.

**Item #4, Announcements (first)**

Chairwoman Link said that Dr. Pillers flew from his home in Carson City to Las Vegas and then drove to Pahrump for the meeting of the Board of County Commissioners meeting where item sixty was of special interest to the Board.

Dr. Pillers announced that if the Board can provide them assurance that the Board understand the financial burden, by the next meeting of the County Commissioners, we should be able to have the hospital campus property transferred from the County to the District.

Chairwoman Link thank Russell and said that owning that property is what is going to propel the District further along the trajectory of the goals of the Board.

Dr. Pillers said that he will work with Lorina. She shared previously some financials, and if that is the full picture, then the Board is ready to go.

**Item #5, For Possible Action – Emergency Items**

Removed from the agenda.

**Item #6, Trustees'/Liaison Comments (This item limited to topics/issues proposed for future workshops/agendas)**

Assistant County Manager Lorina Dellinger confirmed what Russell had just stated. She said that basically the County is drawing up a resolution and quit claim deed. The resolution will contain conditions that all liability, maintenance responsibility, financial responsibility and the Renown lease will be assigned to the District with all terms and conditions as they are. That will be submitted to the District Attorney for review and once approved by the District Attorney, she will share the documents with the Board.

She then went on to say that in addition to utilities, the County has contracts with the Forestry Division for the grounds, and other contractors for janitorial services, so we need to make sure that those services aren't interrupted.

Chairwoman Link asked about a possible memorandum of understanding for the District to retain the County Buildings and Grounds staff.

Lorina said no, the direction from the Commissioners was all or nothing.

Lorina also said that she reached out to the County's consultant with Brownfields, and with the property transferring out of County ownership, the Board would be eligible for additional funding through the County Brownfields program. She said that through this program, the Board wouldn't have to wait for the State to give any permissions for those funds, so she felt that this was a good opportunity.

Trustee Kaminski said that with the property transfer coming up, he wanted to see utility costs, and the Renown lease. He wanted to know if the District could use any of that property, as he's heard that Renown has exclusive use of everything.

Vice Chair Greber requested a workshop be set as soon as possible.

After reviewing schedules, the fourth week of August seemed suitable for a workshop.

Dr. Pillers said that if everything went ideally, the transfer would be on the next Commissioner's agenda, which should be the sixth of August. He said that the idea of a workshop would probably push the date of that agenda item back and stressed the importance of striking while the iron is hot.

Chairwoman Link said that it could be placed on their next agenda and we could request that it be removed if the District hasn't had a workshop.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said he wanted to avoid that scenario.

Chairwoman Link said that the plan was to hold the workshop at the old library on July 30<sup>th</sup>. That date was suitable to all Trustees.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

### **Item #7, No Action – Presentation by Renown Health of their May 2019 reconciliation package and reports pursuant to the professional services agreement entered into on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that Jessica Thompson had notified him that she wasn't going to be in attendance at the meeting. But Gary Beck and Kim Pearson was on teleconference.

Kim Pearson said that it wasn't clear what had been asked of them with regard to the financial reconciliation. As the contract didn't start until January 2018, it was confusing as to why the Board had requested a reconciliation from December 2017. She said that after talking to Jessica, she thinks the Board is asking for confirmation that nothing from 2017 went into the January 2018 invoice.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that was correct, specifically the District was asking about Business Personal Property Taxes.

Kim said that that item hit the Renown financials in December 2017, prior to the contract taking affect in January 2018. She assured the Board that it never would have crossed into another financial period. She said it was just unclear what the Board wanted.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman referenced the notice that had been sent to Renown months earlier. He said that it had asked for invoice copies from January 2018 to tie back to the reconciliation statement.

Kim said that she could supply the information by the end of the day tomorrow.

Gary Beck asked if there was anything the Board wanted to hear from Renown.

Vice Chair Greber said that, as per usual, the regular reconciliation item could be heard.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that Jessica had provided various backup and asked if Gary wanted to speak on those items.

Mr. Beck said that Kim didn't have any updates, and he just saw the backup moments before the meeting. He said that he could provide an update on Renown's negotiations with Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield. He said that he knows many people in Tonopah are impacted, and negotiations are ongoing. A letter is being sent to Renown patients with Anthem coverage letting them know that Renown will continue to see them. Gary said that he hasn't gotten any update on the negotiation, but as soon as he gets anything, he'll share with the Board.

Vice Chair Greber asked if there are any other insurance payors leaning in this direction.

Mr. Beck said that Anthem did this in 2017. He said that they are the only ones that Renown has problems negotiations with. To his knowledge, they aren't having this problem with anyone else.

### **Item #8, No Action – Presentation by Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority of their May 2019 reconciliation package and reports pursuant to the professional services agreement entered into on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**

Kevin Romero said that there were 48 non- clinic and 2 clinic responses. He said that this is the first month where we are able to compare two years' worth of data. So, going forward we will be able to compare data to prior year.

He said that there were 14 Community Paramedic transports. He said that the idea is to get this number down, to keep the resource in the community.

Kevin then spoke on the Nurse Healthline call number. He said there is an anomaly making that number inflate. He said that what they found is that regardless of where a person is, if the Google "Nurse Healthline" the REMSA number is one of the top results. So, the inflated numbers we are seeing are true in terms of callers, but not necessarily indicative of the District's constituents making use of the service.

Kevin said that to mediate this issue, they have decided to remove that number from Google, but when they did that, our District specific number became the number three search result on Google. Kevin said that REMSA can do what they did in Washoe County, which is to remove the number from Google, and the REMSA website. If they take this route, we will have to rely on local advertising to spread word about the number. He said that he wanted the opinion of the Board before he did this.

Vice Chair Greber asked what the downside of having too many calls was. She didn't want it removed from Google, because she is having people call her at home asking for the number, and neither she nor they could find it online.

Kevin said that it is accessible to the Country. REMSA created a dedicated line for callers from our service area so its usage can be tracked. Having it open to the entire Country completely negates the need for a dedicated line.

Chairwoman Link asked if this would result in an entirely new number.

Kevin said no, it would be the same number, it just wouldn't be found by Google search.

Chairwoman Link said from an EMS perspective and with regard to timeliness of getting services to local people, the number should be isolated to local people.

Dr. Pillers said that the District doesn't have its own website and communicating things in the District is a challenge. He said that the District does have a Facebook page, and the local paper has a small readership, but he suggested that REMSA send fridge magnets to every home and business in the District.

Kevin said that he would talk to their marketing department.

Vice Chair Greber said she had been directing people to the phonebook and it wasn't listed there. She suggested that REMSA get it published there. She went on to say that there is a huge gap between what services are available in the District, and what services people think are available. She said that arbitrarily pulling the number from Google prior to having an advertising fix in place, would be upsetting.

Kevin said that REMSA won't pull the number, until a decision is made on how to get the word out about the Nurse Healthline.

Vice Chair Greber said that she is also trying to educate people on REMSA's home enrollment services.

Kevin said that Community Health Paramedic Home Visits have seen an increase, and an increase in referrals for this service. He said they had four patients receive this service last month. This service will be added to the monthly report, so the Board can see those numbers. Kevin hoped that this service would expand with ET3, and that program will allow Medicare to pay for these services.

Chairwoman Link asked if these Community Paramedic Home Health services were at the Basic Life Support or Advanced Life Support level.

Kevin said that the REMSA runs an Advanced Life Support level program.

Chairwoman Link then asked where REMSA was with regard to offering suturing.

Kevin said that they are working through the variance on this service.

**Item #9, No Action – Update on USDA grant, presented by project manager Dr. Russell Pillers; and 2) presentation of monthly report pursuant to the professional services agreement entered into on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018.**

Dr. Pillers said that he has been working through the steps with the Air Force housing. There were two deficiency letters, one asking for letters of recommendation which he was able to secure. The second was asking for verification that all five units would be occupied if the Board was to receive them. Dr. Pillers provided this. They also asked for a full environmental questionnaire, Russell took care of this. Earlier this week Russel said that he had received notice that each application had been approved. The District has been awarded all five houses. We are just waiting on the official deeds.

Russell said that he had a chance to meet with Van from CNRC. They are in the process of getting their version of the contract back for the Board's review. Dr. Pillers said that he wanted them to list the services they would provide. CNRC finds this to be a difficult ask, but they are working on it. Dr. Pillers said that he would BCC the contract to the Board members once received, and everyone can respond with their comments to him alone.

Dr. Pillers then provided an update on the medical services being offered from the Sheriff's Office. He said that Nye County will be receiving ICE detainees in the Pahrump jail. As such, the County will be shipping regular inmates up to the Tonopah jail, and the County has entered into a contract with a company called Serenity to offer medical and mental health services to those inmates. He announced the owner of that company. Dr. Pillers said that this company is willing to open a clinic in the lobby of the jail to provide care to the community that we may or may not have. They want to find out what gaps we have and help fill them.

Gaby Cruz is the owner of Serenity. She said they have had a contract in Pahrump for a couple years and just expanded to Tonopah. She said they will be providing 24/7 medical care, they will have doctors doing telehealth with RN's present from 9:00AM to 9:00PM, and MA's present from 9:00PM to 9:00AM. She anticipates them not being super busy, and as such wants to open a free clinic. She said she doesn't know exactly what the community needs, but she wants to help. She said that the services will be completely free. If a patient has Medicaid or some other insurance, they will be able to bill them, but no one will be turned away.

Gaby said they also provide mental health services 5 days a week, drug and alcohol, and that will be provided free to the community too. She said again, if you have Medicaid, they will be able to bill them, but if not, your name will still go on the list and as the providers have free time from the inmates, they will contact people on that list to establish appointments.

Chairwoman Link asked where they would be set up.

Gaby said they are currently setup inside the jail, and the lobby isn't being used. So, they are going to get furniture and utilize that space for the community services. Gaby said she'd been in town for a few days and has learned a little about what is available and what is lacking. But she has more to learn. She said she hoped to leave today with a list of services to go back and try to figure out the logistics of offering in the community.

Dr. Pillers said that he would get Gaby a copy of the needs assessment.

Dr. Pillers suggested gathering all of the services providers in the District for a round table.

Gaby said that is exactly what she wants to do. She said she has a vision for what she could do with the hospital campus, but if all she can get is a small piece in the corner, she is happy with that too.

Gaby said that SerenityMentalHealth.org is their website. They have been in business for 8 years. They have three different locations in Caron City, Pahrump, and Las Vegas. They are inside three detention centers and are currently in escrow on a house in town for her staff. She said she just hired two local RN's, but there are no mental health clinicians locally, so she will be bringing them in from Las Vegas.

She stressed that they need a list of needs. She said that the County is already paying them to be here, so she thinks she can offer more services, and for less than the District is currently paying, as a result of her situation with the County.

Dr. Pillers asked if in any of their other operations, do they receive critical patients.

Gaby said only inside the jails. In their group homes they mainly provide mental health and primary care.

Dr. Pillers said then that they do treat critical care inside the detention centers, so they do have that capability.

Gaby confirmed, but only inside the detention centers. She said there are a lot of things she can do to expand.

Chairwoman Link asked if she is obligated to stay at the Sheriff's office due the contract with the County.

Gaby said that she is obligated to stay and provide services at the Sheriff's Office, but Serenity could expand their footprint in the community, there could be a separate contract. There are options.

Gaby then said that Serenity also has a pharmacy, so as long as patients have insurance or the ability to pay for medications, they can overnight medication directly to the patient's home. She provided the Trustees with her cell phone number, 702-630-0883.

Vice Chair Greber asked Dr. Pillers about escrow on the Central Street house.

Russell said that he is on the sideline with this project, but if the Board needs him to dig in, he can.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that he didn't think this was necessary. The Board was going to be considering the final payment tonight.

Trustee Kaminski thanked Dr. Pillers for the link top the Google Cloud drive.

**Item #10, For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation to approve, amend and approve, or deny a professional services agreement with Impact Evaluation and Assessment Services to develop a Community Health Improvement Plan, or “CHIP”.**

Trustee Kaminski asked if the Board didn't talk about this at the last meeting.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that they did, it was a proposal, and now the Board is deliberating on the contract. He asked the Board if they had had the chance to look at it.

Chairwoman Link asked if this was a one-time good deal.

Justin said yes. This was for a specific one-time service. He also asked the Board to imagine getting Margo and Gaby in a room together, everyone confirmed that needed to happen.

Trustee Kaminski asked if there was a time limit in the contract.

Justin said that it would begin on August 1, 2019. He also said that her last scope of work took her less than

six months.

Dr. Pillers said that the CHIP is more detailed, there is more outside interaction, so he suggested that she not be held to the same pace.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that exhibit A lists the meetings she plans to hold.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman motioned to approve the professional services agreement.

Vice Chair Greber offered her second.

Motion passed 4-0.

**Item #11, For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation to approve, amend and approve, or deny an agreement with Combination Seven, LLC, DBA Mizpah Hotel to rent an office located in the annex section of the property.**

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that this is office space for the Board's Administrative Secretary to work in. This is a month to month lease agreement, meant to be temporary until such time as there is a suitable space on the hospital campus for this person to work. He said this is the same pitch as he made to the Tonopah Town Board, however it has been two months since that pitch and to his knowledge the Town has made no progress on this item.

Vice Chair Greber said the office space need to be nailed down so the Board can fill the position.

Chairwoman Link agreed in light of how fast everything is moving.

Trustee Kaminski said he had a problem with this because he is the Chairman of the Tonopah Town Board and they spent \$2,500 to get the building the District was previously seeking use of evaluated, and the is already in the works, the Town already paid that fee. He said the reason for the evaluation was to work a deal with the District as one governmental entity to another, to offer the space rent free.

Justin asked what their ETA was, did they know when the appraiser was going to be in town?

Don said that if Justin filled the position tomorrow, the Town space would be available next week.

Vice Chair Greber reminded Don that he couldn't speak for the Town Board. The item would need to be agendized and voted on by that Board.

Don agreed.

Chairwoman Link said that the Mizpah lease agreement was for \$100.00 a month and the Town space was available for \$0.00 a month.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman asked if the Town space was truly available for \$0.00 because the Board had previously discussed the need to pay utilities.

Roni and Don agreed it was not truly \$0.00.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that if he had known that the appraiser was going to be in town this week, he wouldn't have placed this item on the agenda.

Vice Chair Greber said that the space at the Mizpah is available right now and does offer some furniture. Given their willingness to help, she suggested the Board adopt this on a month to month basis and see what develops with the Town and the hospital complex.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that the lease being month to month, and that was also the idea with the Town property, until such time as there is a place that the District owns where this person can work, he didn't see a downside.

Chairwoman Link said that the Town property is more isolated than the Mizpah, and that might pose a security threat. She also said that there were parking issues at the Town property, and she didn't see that being an issue at the Mizpah.

Vice Chair Greber said to remember that the idea of this space was not to be a public outlet. This is a quiet place the District is providing for the staff member to work. This is not a location for meetings, or for other trustees to use as their own office.

Chairwoman Link asked if there would be a time when the space was not available to the District.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman and Vice Chair Greber both said no.

Justin also said that this space is a previously commercial space, once occupied as office space by the Solar Reserve.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman motioned to approve the rental agreement with Combination Seven, LLC.

Vice Chair Greber offered her second.

Motion passed 4-0.

**Item #12, For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation of the minutes from the May 28, 2019 regular meeting, and the June 20, 2019 regular meeting.**

Chairwoman Link asked if everyone had a chance to look at them.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that the second set was just released to everyone today.

Vice Chair Greber said that she could not underestimate the work load these represent.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman motioned to approve both sets of minutes.

Vice Chair Greber offered her second.

Motion passed 4-0.

**Item #13, No Action – Update on the current status of the fiscal year 2018-2019 budget.**

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that he had updated the spreadsheet to include the invoices being considered tonight. He also said that if the Trustees would review the revenue portion, the Board has now collected more than \$86,000.00 more than projected for the prior fiscal year.

**Item #14, No Action – Update on the current status of the fiscal year 2019-2020 budget.**

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that this is just a brand-new spreadsheet with expenditures listed that have already occurred. No revenue has been collected yet for this term, and that is normal.



**Item #15, For Possible Action – Approval of invoices for payment.**

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that there was one adjustment to be made. He said that if the Board members followed the math down the current month's column on Renown's reconciliation statement, they would end up being off by \$1.00 again. He said that then, if they look at the invoice, you see Net Patient Revenue of \$34,484.00, and then if you look at the reconciliation statement you will see Net Patient Revenue of \$34,485.00. These numbers should match. He said that this will wash the credit that the board elected not to use last month. He recommended that the Board underpay this invoice by \$1.00 and approve the Renown invoice to be paid tonight at \$40,847.00.

Vice Chair Greber asked if that was a motion.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman motioned to approve the invoices as stated pending that single correction.

Vice Chair Greber offered her second.

Motion passed 4-0.

**Item #16, No Action – Open Meeting Law review.**

The Board had nothing to discuss under this item.

**Item #17, For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation to set the next meeting location, time and date.**

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that the 15<sup>th</sup> was the Board's next regular third Thursday meeting day, and that they had to meet before the 19<sup>th</sup> of August because the 19<sup>th</sup> was the cutoff for processing prior year invoices, and there would be some to consider.

Trustee Kaminski said he was available on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Vice Chair Greber said that she was not available on that day, but she was available on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

The 19<sup>th</sup> seemed to work for all Trustees.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman motioned to set the next meeting location, time and date as August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 6:00PM in the Chambers at 101 Radar Road.

Vice Chair Greber offered her second.

Motion passed 4-0.

**Item #18, General Public Comment (second)**

Beth Ennis asked Gaby Cruz a question. She asked if she had heard correctly that the Doctors could bill for the services they provide.

Gaby responded that they could not bill for services performed inside the jail, but for services performed in the lobby to the community, yes.

Beth Ennis then stated that it is not a truly free service.

Gaby responded that they are not going to ask the patients to pay any money, but if they have insurance, they will bill their insurance. If the person has no insurance, the service will be 100% free.

Beth Ennis asked if she was hearing that doctors or providers won't be routinely billing for their services.

Gaby said in the case where a patient presents to the lobby for services and has no insurance, they will not be billed. She said that the providers will be paid from the County contract for the consideration of the jail. The clinic they will offer in the lobby will be free. Gaby said again, that she wants to offer the clinic because they will have ¼ of the inmates they have in Pahrump with the same amount of staff, she anticipates the staff, that will already be getting paid under the County contract, will have enough free time to offer the free clinic.

Jess Rosner with Nye County Coalition said that he has been asked several times about the Mental Health/First Aide class. He said they are working on bringing that class back in August. He is trying to setup some dates that work best for the meetings, so he will provide contact information for anyone who is interested, to let him know what dates work best. He also said that on July 26<sup>th</sup> from 10:00AM to 2:00PM. Jess then said that when the Board gets ready to post the position of their Administrative Secretary, he can also help with that.

Marie Peterson said that Comfort Hospice care has pulled back from our area. There is a new company in town called Nevada Hospice Care. They will also be offering some home health services. The home health services are their primary focus, but with Comfort Hospice pulling back, Nevada Hospice has stepped up to help fill that void.

Chairwoman Link mistakenly adjourned the meeting after public comment.

Secretary / Treasurer Zimmerman said that item 19 had been skipped.

Chairwoman Link reconvened the meeting.

**Item #19, Announcements (second)**

None.

**Item #20, Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned.

Approved this 19<sup>th</sup> day of September 2019.

  
Chair