

The Three Rivers Hospital Board of Commissioners called a regular meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, November 29, 2023. The meeting was held in the McKinley Building Conference Room at 507 Hospital Way, Brewster WA 98812 and virtually via the Microsoft Teams platform. The presiding officer was Mike Pruett, Board Chair.

A quorum was present, including:

Mike Pruett, Board Chair
Cherri Thomas, Vice Chair
Leslie McNamara, Secretary
Tracy Shrable, Member
David Garcia, Member

Others present:

J. Scott Graham, Chief Executive Officer
Tina Smith, Chief Nursing Officer
Jennifer Munson, Chief Financial Officer
Shauna Field, Administrative Assistant
Jeremy Vandelac, Ancillary Services Director
Rosie Hartmann, Revenue Cycle Director
German Meza, Quality Director
Jennifer Best, PR/Marketing
Jamie Boyer, Clinic Manager
Rob Wylie, Facility and Maintenance Manager
DJ Dinjian, Environmental Services Manager
Rosie Poole, Materials and HIM Manager
Zach Allison, Radiology Supervisor
Michele Graham, Quality Coordinator
Dan Webster, Foundation President
Patricia Leigh, Community Member
David Clement, Community Member

Vision, Mission & Values

All took turns reading the vision, mission, and values statements.

Agenda

An executive session regarding the performance of a public employee RCW 42.30.110(g) was added after new business. A motion was made by L. McNamara to accept the amended agenda as official; seconded by T. Shrable. Motion carried.

Minutes from Previous Meeting

A motion was made by C. Thomas to approve the September 27, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes and the October 25, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes; seconded by D. Garcia. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Patricia Leigh and David Clement took a few minutes to present a prepared statement regarding their letter to the editor in the Methow Valley News expressing opposition to the new building proposition and their desires to see a different model of healthcare in the region.

Consent Items

M. Pruett noted the payroll, vouchers, and Medical Staff applications as listed on the agenda. L. McNamara recused herself from approving the 10/5/23 vouchers due to an invoice from Grovers Building Supply.

Payroll Total:	Gross: <u>\$ 1,209,368.22</u>	Net: <u>\$ 435,667.93</u>
<u>9/17/23 to 9/30/23</u>	Gross: <u>\$ 296,974.04</u>	Net: <u>\$ 212,065.52</u>
<u>10/1/23 to 10/14/23</u>	Gross: <u>\$ 297,918.73</u>	Net: <u>\$ 215,647.45</u>
<u>10/15/23 to 10/28/23</u>	Gross: <u>\$ 308,234.88</u>	Net: <u>\$ 224,126.54</u>
<u>10/29/23 to 11/11/23</u>	Gross: <u>\$ 306,240.57</u>	Net: <u>\$ 223,602.41</u>

Vouchers Total:		<u>\$ 2,482,397.49</u>
<u>9/28/2023</u>	<u>099403-099454</u>	<u>\$ 349,974.95</u>
<u>10/5/2023*</u>	<u>099455-099491</u>	<u>\$ 455,304.04</u>
<u>10/12/2023</u>	<u>099492-099536</u>	<u>\$ 319,918.93</u>
<u>10/19/2023</u>	<u>099537-099568</u>	<u>\$ 403,731.40</u>
<u>10/26/2023</u>	<u>099569-099650</u>	<u>\$ 281,010.97</u>
<u>11/2/2023</u>	<u>099651-099672</u>	<u>\$ 352,975.88</u>
<u>11/9/2023</u>	<u>099673-099729</u>	<u>\$ 319,481.32</u>

Bad Debt - October	<u>\$ 25,323.04</u>
Financial Assistance - October	<u>\$ 26,384.29</u>
Bad Debt - November	<u>\$ 4,276.75</u>
Financial Assistance - November	<u>\$ 21,335.34</u>

A motion was made by C. Thomas to accept the consent items as presented; seconded by T. Shrable. Motion carried.

Foundation Report

Dan Webster presented the Foundation Report. He is collecting the vote yes signs from the campaign and they can be dropped off at Grovers Building Supply as well. They are reviewing our requests for a vaccine refrigerator and a transportation van. They will be implementing a formal process for requests to improve documentation. Roots and Wings granted them another \$35k grant for this year and are already discussing another grant for next year. They helped us purchase a six-month lease for a billboard

on the highway for \$7,000. Mike and Scott would like to attend the next Foundation meeting when it is scheduled. The Board thanked the Foundation for their support during the new building campaign. The group discussed community response to the campaign, which was overall supportive, and the need for further dialogues and education around how a public hospital district operates and challenges in rural healthcare.

Administration Report

S. Graham presented the Administration Report. Scott also thanked the Foundation for their support and asked for them to prioritize the vaccine refrigerator over the van at this time. Regarding the public comments about changing the structure of healthcare in the region, he discussed the importance of that decision being community input driven and that a county wide change of that nature could take a decade or more to implement, while our building will continue to age. There are also concerns about barriers created by consolidating and centralizing healthcare for the underserved and vulnerable populations in the county. We received 44% of the community's support for a new building and Scott feels with more time, outreach, and strategic planning we would be in a good position to run the bond again. There were rumors during the campaign of other districts wanting to annex parts of our district, but our legal team advised that this is unlikely to be successful due to the process involved.

Going into the new year we will be re-evaluating our strategic direction. Our swing bed volumes and referrals have seen a significant decrease and the reason is unclear. We will back away from our swing bed task force and marketing for now to focus on growing other areas. Dr. Ebaugh started his three-week schedule in November and we should see a total of 25 surgeries by month end. Orthopedics has remained steady. ER volumes continue to be low which is concerning. Dr. Devrnja with ERx passed away recently and we've met with the new CEO. Current gross revenue for the month is 1.6M, which falls short of the 2.1M we need to break even.

Finance Report

J. Munson presented the October Finance Report. We ended the month with 3.32 inpatient days, 36 acute care days, and 67 swing bed days. Patient revenues were under budget. Our contractuals were low in October with the help of our swing bed days. We had an operating profit of \$9,000 and an overall profit of \$238k. The cost report model includes a \$200k payable. She will accrue part of this in November and part in December.

A motion was made by L. McNamara to accept the Finance report as presented; seconded by C. Thomas. Motion carried.

Physician Report

Dr. Witt provided an update on the Surgery Committee meeting which was well attended, and they are working to improve workflows and patient satisfaction. The next MedStaff meeting is scheduled for next month.

Break

A break was held between 12:00 p.m. – 12:20 p.m.

Quality Report

G. Meza presented the Quality Report. As of October departments are 90% in compliance with our Quality Improvement Plan. We are preparing for the new antimicrobial stewardship reporting required

in 2024. We received the final approval and sign off from the Fire Marshal for the fire door replacement in the McKinley building.

A motion was made by L. McNamara to accept the Quality Report; seconded by T. Shrable. Motion carried.

Old Business

Capital Improvements Update – The new ER registration office is pending approval for use as the maintenance department works on a solution to connect the roll shutter to the fire alarm system.

New Business

Resolution 2023-09: 2024 Budget – The group reviewed the final 2024 budget. A 5% increase was included for services. A wage increase was included but will depend on volumes and revenue. Tax revenues include the 2024 M&O levy funds. Switching to PEBB insurance will save about 100k in premiums. An additional clinic provider position was included. The budget is based on a monthly goal of 25 surgeries. There was no operating profit included but with tax funds we should see an overall profit in 2024. L. McNamara has had community members tell her they are reluctant to transfer their primary care to our clinic in case it shuts down; clinic business is steady and there is no risk of shut down. Reps for the new insurance will be onsite on 12/4 and the deadline for enrollment is 12/15. A motion was made by L. McNamara to approve the 2024 budget; seconded by C. Thomas. Motion carried.

Executive Session RCW 42.30.110(g)

A fifteen-minute executive session to discuss the performance of a public employee was held between 12:40 p.m. – 12:55 p.m. No action was taken.

Strategic Plans and Discussion

The group discussed how to move forward with a new building and whether to run the same campaign in the new year or scale the project down. The cost was the most common concern from the community, but there was also a lot of misinformation about the cost in taxes per year. Only about 5,000 people voted in this election. We will continue to keep the current building maintained and find a way forward. The maintenance department is replacing two HVAC units in the ER and has created additional parking spots. The group discussed how the pandemic showed the importance of redundancy with hospitals in the region and how consolidation of healthcare could decrease access to care.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

M. Pruett noted the upcoming schedule of meetings and events. Due to the holiday and the need to complete the 2024 oaths of office the December Regular Board Meeting was rescheduled to Thursday, December 28, 2023 at 11:00am. A strategic planning meeting was scheduled for January 23rd, 2024 in the McKinley Conference Room at 9:00am.

Adjournment

A motion was made by L. McNamara to adjourn the meeting at 1:18 p.m.; seconded by C. Thomas.
Motion carried.

Mike Pruett, Board Chair

Cherri Thomas, Board Vice Chair

Leslie McNamara, Board Secretary

Tracy Shrable, Board Member

David Garcia, Board Member