



~Approved 3/1/2022~

Regular Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

9:00 a.m.

Board Room & Microsoft Teams Conference Call

Board Members Present:

Greg Cook – Koochiching County Unorganized

Tom LaMont – City of Effie

Marie Lovdahl – Itasca County Unorganized

Meredith Morneau – Itasca County At-Large

George Rounds – Stokes Township

Dan Sursely – City of Big Falls

Board Members Remote:

Teresa Kittridge – Marcell Township

Joanie Olson – City of Bigfork

Larry Salmela – Carpenter Township

Dean Sedgwick – Wirt Township

Heidi Watson – Koochiching County At-Large

Board Members Absent:

Clint Cook – Bigfork Township

Gordon Rahier – Pomroy Township

Others: Dr. Ed Anderson, Darla Anderson, Dawn Kern, Angela Kleffman, Aaron Saude, Sally Sedgwick, Renee Tower, Laura Vaneps

Chairman Dr. George Rounds called the regular monthly board meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

The mission of Bigfork Valley is to provide a continuum of quality health care and community services rooted in excellence and delivered with skill and compassion.

I. Community Comments

There were no community comments.

II. Approval of Agenda

A **motion** to approve the agenda as amended was made by Dan Sursely, seconded by Greg Cook. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes 1/4/2022

A **motion** to approve the January 4, 2022, Regular Board meeting minutes, as presented, was made by Greg Cook, seconded by Dan Sursely. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Approval of Strategic Planning Meeting Minutes 1/12/2022

A **motion** to approve the January 12, 2022, Strategic Planning meeting minutes, as presented, was made by Greg Cook, seconded by Tom LaMont. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Acceptance of Medical Staff Meeting Minutes 10/25/2021

A **motion** to accept the October 25, 2021, Medical Staff meeting minutes as presented was made by Dan Sursely, seconded by Meredith Morneau. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Information, Discussion and/or Action

A. Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, January 25.

Darla Anderson presented the unaudited December 2021 financial dashboard report.

B. Financials

A **motion** to accept the unaudited financial report for the month of December was provided by the Finance Committee, seconded by Greg Cook. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Accounts Payable

A **motion** to ratify the accounts payable for the month of December was made by the Finance Committee, seconded by Meredith Morneau. The motion passed unanimously.

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D. Credentialing

Dr. Ed Anderson presented the following credentialing applications for consideration:

Privileges with a 6-month provisional status:

- Joseph Horner, DO (vRad)
- Alap Jani, MD (vRad)
- Faraz Nasim Kazmi, MD (Essentia Cardiology)
- Paula Lundell, CRNA

Privileges without a provisional status:

- Sharif Kershahm, MD (vRad)
- James Manwill, MD (vRad)

A **motion** to approve the credentialing applications as presented was made by Greg Cook, seconded by Marie Lovdahl. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Governance Committee Report

The Governance Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, January 25.

The new Investment Policy Statement (created when the board authorized moving investments to Baird) will supersede the previous Investment Policy.

The Governance Committee amended the Investment Procedure. A draft showing the changes was provided to the full board for review.

F. Charter Approval

The Governance Committee reviewed and recommended no changes to the following charters:

- Executive Evaluation and Compensation Charter
- Governance Committee Charter
- Legislative Education Committee Charter
- Strategic Planning Project Committee Charter

The Governance Committee amended the Finance Committee Charter. A draft showing the changes was provided to the full board for review.

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G. Bond Refinance

The Finance Committee made a **motion** to adopt the preliminary resolution authorizing the negotiated sale of hospital district health facilities gross revenue refunding note, series 2022A, seconded by Greg Cook. The motion passed unanimously.

H. CEO Report

Aaron Saude provided a brief overview of the 2022 American Hospital Association Environmental Scan. It was recommended to share the Environmental Scan with the community.

Aaron attended the LeadingAge Region B meeting virtually on January 25. They are going into their legislative advocacy work and one of their priorities is to push for a \$25 minimum wage for direct care staff by 2025. Hospitals are not able to admit patients to nursing homes due to workforce shortages.

The vaccine mandate went into effect on January 27. Proof of vaccination or an approved medical or religious exemption is required for compliance. Bigfork Valley lost one part-time employee and five casual employees due to the mandate. Current compliance rate: employees – 100%, contractors – 85%, providers – 100%, volunteers – 88%, board – 69%. To comply with the CMS COVID 19 vaccination requirement, Aaron requested that board members that have not provided proof of vaccination or an approved medical or religious exemption sign a form agreeing to perform their duties remotely going forward.

I. Strategic Planning/Mission, Vision and Values

The Leadership Team met with Ed Zabinski and Laura Connelly on January 26 to identify action plans to achieve the strategic goals set by the Board. Leadership will meet again on February 9 to complete the process. The final strategic plan will be presented to the full board for consideration at the board meeting on March 1.

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J. Rural Hospital Improvement Grant

A **motion** to adopt the governing board resolution authorizing Bigfork Valley to apply for a Rural Hospital Capital Improvement grant from the Office of Rural Health and Primary Care of the Minnesota Department of Health was made by Marie Lovdahl, seconded by Meredith Morneau. The motion passed unanimously. If awarded, a 25% match is required. The grant funds will be used to purchase a new chemistry analyzer.

K. Pay Equity Report

Aaron Saude provided review of the Pay Equity Implementation Report.

As a local government jurisdiction, we are required to submit a pay equity report to the State of Minnesota every three (3) years. Our 2021 report was due January 31, 2022.

Pay equity is a method of eliminating discrimination against women who are paid less than men for jobs requiring comparable levels of expertise. The report uses statistical data (job class, Job points, salary range, years to max) to test for compliance. Based on the preliminary results generated by the online submission tool, Bigfork Valley is in compliance for 2021.

After review, a **motion** to approve the pay equity report was made by Dan Sursely, seconded by Greg Cook. The motion passed unanimously.

L. Employee Appreciation

Rhonda Hauck, Toni Cleath, James Parks, Dr. Eric Scrivner, and Laura Vaneps were nominated to receive employee appreciation gift certificates for outstanding job performance. A **motion** to approve the nominations was made by Greg Cook, seconded by Dan Sursely. The motion passed unanimously.

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M. MHA Winter Trustee Conference Report

George Rounds, Teresa Kittridge, Dean Sedgwick and Larry Salmela attended the MHA Winter Trustee Conference that was held virtually January 6 and 7. A summary of the event was provided.

Dr. Ed Anderson provided an update on the current state of COVID-19 in the area. The bigger hospitals still don't have general hospital beds or ICU beds. We are having to keep patients here longer than we would normally. There are a lot of COVID patients that are in hospitals and ICUs, but there is also a problem with workforce. The vaccine boosters are working well to keep people out of the hospital for at least four to five months after the booster.

At 10:12, a **motion** to adjourn the meeting was made by Tom LaMont, seconded by Dan Sursely. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Renee Tower, Executive Administrative Assistant.

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