



~Approved 9/5/2023~

Regular Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 1, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Board Room & Microsoft Teams Conference Call

Board Members Present:

Clint Cook – Bigfork Township
Greg Cook – Koochiching County Unorganized
Gary Erickson – City of Bigfork
Carol Gilbertson – Itasca County At-Large
Tom LaMont – City of Effie
Gordon Rahier – Pomroy Township
George Rounds – Stokes Township
Larry Salmela – Carpenter Township
Dan Sursely – City of Big Falls

Board Members Remote:

Teresa Kittridge – Marcell Township
Marie Lovdahl – Itasca County Unorganized
Heidi Watson – Koochiching County At-Large

Board Members Absent: None

Others: Darla Anderson, Kyle Buckingham, Sam Caron, Alex Cleath, Katie Gilbertson, Dan Heinecke, Elizabeth Jones, Dawn Kern, Bonnie Lovdahl, Amanda Niemala, Heidi Powell, Aaron Saude, Sally Sedgwick, Renee Tower, Karla Willis

Chairman George Rounds called the regular monthly board meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

The meeting opened with prayer.

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

Sally Sedgwick thanked the board for the flower arrangement that was sent to Dean Sedgwick's memorial service.

Sally suggested that the board consider the following: reassessing the needs of the people of the hospital district and build services around those needs; meeting at a location where all board members are allowed to attend in person; reconsidering board governance policies to conform to a public entity; and advertise for letters of interest for the vacant Wirt Township board seat.

II. Approval of Agenda

After discussion, a **motion** to approve the agenda as presented was made by Gary Erickson, seconded by Greg Cook. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes 7/11/2023

A **motion** to approve the July 11, 2023, Regular Board meeting minutes was made by Carol Gilbertson, seconded by Tom LaMont. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Information, Discussion and/or Action

A. Finance Committee Report

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

Darla Anderson presented the financials and accounts payable for June 2023.

B. Financials

A **motion** to accept the financial report for the month of June was provided by the Finance Committee, seconded by Dan Sursely. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Accounts Payable

A **motion** to ratify the accounts payable for the month of June was made by the Finance Committee, seconded by Gordon Rahier. The motion passed unanimously.

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D. 2024 Tax Levy

Darla Anderson reported that Bigfork Valley's change in net position in the 2022 audited financial statement was -\$485,006. Bigfork Valley's shortfall would have been \$1,666,006 in 2022 without the tax levy of \$770,000 and \$411,000 of Covid funding.

Darla Anderson provided an overview of tax levy talking points for 2024, the 2022 audited financial report, and a spreadsheet showing the impact a 79.38% tax levy increase would have on hospital district residents.

The tax levy certification is due to Itasca County on September 15.

The 2023 tax levy is \$836,220.

Larry Salmela reported that a **motion** to set the 2024 tax levy at \$1.5 million was made by the Finance Committee. There was no second to the motion.

After discussion, a **motion** to table voting on the tax levy motion until the September board meeting was made by Gary Erickson, seconded by Clinton Cook. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Annual Report

Darla Anderson reported that the 2022 annual report is not complete but will be ready for the September board meeting.

F. Wirt Township Vacancy

Wirt Township will be notified of the vacancy. Residents of Wirt Township are invited to submit a letter of interest to fill the vacancy.

G. Legislative Education Committee Report

Teresa Kittridge provided a summary of the Legislative Education Committee meeting that was held on Tuesday, July 25.

Senator Grant Hauschild visited Bigfork Valley on Friday, July 14.

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H. Governance Committee Report

George Rounds provided a summary of the Governance Committee meeting that was held on Tuesday, July 25.

The committee reviewed the Executive Succession & Transition policy. No changes were recommended.

A **motion** to approve the Northern Itasca Hospital District Bylaws as amended was made by the Larry Salmela, seconded by Gordon Rahier. The motion passed unanimously.

I. CEO Report

Aaron reported that he attended the HealthTrust University Conference in Las Vegas. The bus that Bigfork Valley received through a federal grant will be transferred to a different organization due to not meeting trip and mileage requirements.

Dr. Merritt plans to request approval for the purchase of ENT equipment at the September board meeting.

Aaron is talking to six other independent hospitals about forming a clinically integrated network.

Jennifer Rissanen accepted the Acute Care DON position. Beth Jacobson accepted a nurse practitioner position at Scenic Rivers Health Services. Dan Heinecke accepted the CFO position at Scenic Rivers Health Services.

The Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation endowment fund statement was provided.

St. Luke's in Duluth is affiliating with Aspirus Health.

The merger between Sanford Health and Fairview Health Services has been called off.

There was discussion about Bigfork Valley's relationship with Scenic Rivers Health Services.

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J. Education

A document from LeadingAge Minnesota regarding nursing assistant workforce challenges was provided.

K. Employee Appreciation

Carol David, Linda Penn, Annette Buckingham, and Sara Elioff were nominated to receive employee appreciation gift certificates for outstanding job performance. A **motion** to approve the nominations was made by Larry Salmela, seconded by Greg Cook. The motion passed unanimously.

Housekeeping was recognized for outstanding service.

L. Monitoring CEO Performance – Ends Focus of Contracts (Internal)

Aaron provided his monitoring report “Ends Focus of Contracts”.

A **motion** to accept Aaron’s monitoring report was made by Dan Sursely, seconded by Carol Gilbertson. The motion passed unanimously.

M. Strategic Discussion

No discussion.

N. Board Meeting Agenda Topics for Next Month

No discussion.

O. Board Self-Evaluation Questionnaire

The Board Self-Evaluation Questionnaire results were provided.

At 11:25 a.m., a **motion** to adjourn the meeting was made by Greg Cook, seconded by Carol Gilbertson. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Renee Tower, Executive Administrative Assistant.

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