



~Approved 10/3/2023~

Regular Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 5, 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
Teresa Kittridge – Marcell Township
Tom LaMont – City of Effie
Marie Lovdahl – Itasca County Unorganized
Gordon Rahier – Pomroy Township
George Rounds – Stokes Township
Larry Salmela – Carpenter Township
Dan Sursely – City of Big Falls
Heidi Watson – Koochiching County At-Large

Board Members Remote: None

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Members: Dr. Ed Anderson, Darla Anderson, Nelly Becker, Heather Boessel, Annette Buckingham, Kyle Buckingham, Sam Caron, Alex Cleath, Jeff Fontana, Drew Francisco, Katie Gilbertson, Amanda Niemala, Heidi Powell, Aaron Saude, Londa Storlie, Renee Tower

Others: Cindy Braiedy, Scott Braiedy, Tom Brula, Linda Buckingham, Cheri Carrigan, Lin Cook, Diane Coppens, Carolyn Davis, Jim Drewlow, Junell Erickson,

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.

Kurt Fredrickson, Farrell Gunelius, Judy Gunelius, Dan Heinecke, Jack Hillstrom, Jennifer Holliday, Dawn Kern, Angela Kleffman, Heidi Korstad, Charles Lericheux, Bonnie Lovdahl, Brad Lovdahl, Connie Lovdahl, Ted Lovdahl, Tracy Lovdahl, Barb Miles, Gary Miles, Todd Morrison, Terry Price, Barb Rahier, Gene Rajala, Linda Roach, Meredie Rounds, Bruce Sampson, William Schaeppi, Sally Sedgwick, Karen Springer, Deneise Swanson, Bob Traxler, Tony Trujillo, Valerie Trujillo, Marsha Witherill, Karla Willis

Chairman George Rounds called the regular monthly board meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting opened with prayer.

I. Approval of Agenda

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

II. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes 8/1/2023

A **motion** to approve the August 1, 2023, Regular Board meeting minutes was made by Heidi Watson, seconded by Dan Sursely. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Approval of Special Board Meeting Minutes 8/14/2023

A **motion** to approve the August 14, 2023, Special Board meeting minutes was made by Teresa Kittridge, seconded by Carol Gilbertson. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Community Comments

Lin Cook, Bruce Sampson, Connie Lovdahl, Marsha Witherill, Karla Willis, Heidi Korstad, Terry Price, Scott Braiedy, Deneise Swanson, Sally Sedgwick, Jack Hillstrom, Carolyn Davis, Jennifer Holliday, Bob Traxler, Gene Rajala, Tom Brula, Dan Heinecke, Ted Lovdahl, Brad Lovdahl, Barb Rahier, Cheri Carrigan, and Jim Drewlow voiced opinions about the tax levy.

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.

V. **Information, and/or Action**

A. **Tax Levy**

Darla Anderson reviewed tax levy talking points and a spreadsheet showing the impact a tax levy increase would have on hospital district residents.

The 2023 tax levy amount is \$836,220.

On July 25, 2023, the Finance Committee made a **motion** to raise the 2024 tax levy to \$1.5 million. The motion was seconded by Tom LaMont. Discussion ensued.

Chairman George Rounds called for a roll-call vote, the vote of yeas, nays, and abstentions being as follows:

Yeas	Nays	Abstentions
1. Carol Gilbertson	1. Clint Cook	
2. Teresa Kittridge	2. Greg Cook	
3. Larry Salmela	3. Gary Erickson	
4. George Rounds	4. Tom LaMont	
	5. Marie Lovdahl	
	6. Gordon Rahier	
	7. Dan Sursely	
	8. Heidi Watson	

The motion failed with four in favor and eight opposed.

Gary Erickson questioned whether the board is permitted to offer a different amount. Discussion ensued. There was no resolution.

A **motion** to raise the 2024 tax levy to \$1.2 million was made by Teresa Kittridge, seconded by Larry Salmela.

Chairman George Rounds called for a roll-call vote, the vote of yeas, nays, and abstentions being as follows:

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.

Yeas	Nays	Abstentions
1. Carol Gilbertson 2. Teresa Kittridge 3. Larry Salmela 4. George Rounds	1. Clint Cook 2. Greg Cook 3. Tom LaMont 4. Marie Lovdahl 5. Gordon Rahier 6. Dan Sursely 7. Heidi Watson	1. Gary Erickson

The motion failed with four in favor and seven opposed. There was one abstention.

A **motion** to raise the 2024 tax levy to \$1 million was made by Carol Gilbertson, seconded by Dan Sursely.

Chairman George Rounds called for a roll-call vote, the vote of yeas, nays, and abstentions being as follows:

Yeas	Nays	Abstentions
1. Carol Gilbertson 2. Teresa Kittridge 3. Larry Salmela 4. Dan Sursely 5. George Rounds	1. Greg Cook 2. Tom LaMont 3. Marie Lovdahl 4. Heidi Watson	1. Clint Cook 2. Gary Erickson 3. Gordon Rahier

The motion passed with five in favor and four opposed. There were three abstentions.

B. ENT Equipment Purchase

After discussion, a **motion** to approve the purchase of ENT equipment in the amount of \$193,000 was made by Clint Cook, seconded by Gary Erickson. The motion passed unanimously.

The board took a 10-minute break at 12:02 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 12:13 p.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.

C. Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, August 29. Darla Anderson presented the financials and accounts payable for July 2023.

D. Financials

A **motion** to accept the financial report for the month of July was provided by the Finance Committee, seconded by Gordon Rahier. The motion passed unanimously.

Darla will look into offering a one-time discount on bad debt accounts receivables.

E. Accounts Payable

A **motion** to ratify the accounts payable for the month of July was made by the Finance Committee, seconded by Dan Sursely. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Annual Report

Darla Anderson provided an overview of the 2022 annual report.

After review, a **motion** to add financial information to the 2022 annual report was made by Clint Cook, seconded by Greg Cook. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Wirt Township Vacancy

Two letters of interest were submitted to fill the vacant Wirt Township board seat. The board will appoint a successor at the October board meeting.

H. Legislative Education Committee Report

The Legislative Education Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, August 29.

Teresa Kittridge reported that Collen Landkamer, USDA State Director, visited the facility on August 16. There may be funding and technical support available through the USDA for solar power.

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.

A **motion** to explore the feasibility of solar power was made by Greg Cook, seconded by Heidi Watson. The motion passed unanimously.

Senator Amy Klobuchar, Senator Tina Smith, and Congressman Pete Stauber have been invited to visit the facility.

I. CEO Report

Aaron reported that Bigfork Valley experienced an overvoltage issue on August 16. Aaron attended a Statewide Trauma Advisory Council meeting on August 31 to discuss the reasons hospitals are choosing to not participate in the Level 4 Trauma Hospital Designation.

The Bigfork Valley Community Foundation's 16th Annual Fundraiser will be at the Wilderness Barn on Sunday, September 17. A portion of the event proceeds will benefit the Bigfork Ambulance Service and Wilderness Wheelers ATV Club.

J. Employee Appreciation

Jodi Martin, Lynette Lovdahl, Katie Kilpatrick, Teri Lund, Nikki Jones, Susie Schmickle and Darla Anderson 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 Gary Erickson. The motion passed unanimously.

K. Monitoring CEO Performance – Communication with and Support of the Board (Direct Inspection)

A **motion** to accept Aaron Saude's monitoring report was made Teresa Kittridge, seconded by Marie Lovdahl. The motion passed unanimously.

L. Special Board Meeting Report

A special board meeting was held on Monday, August 14. The meeting was closed to the public to evaluate the performance of CEO Aaron Saude and to discuss potential business relationships.

M. Potential Business Relationships

Consensus of the board was to begin the strategic planning process.

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.

Gary Erickson will draft a plan and present it to the board at the October meeting.

N. Evaluate CEO

Aaron Saude requested that he and the board start the process to negotiate a mutual separation.

O. Strategic Discussion

Gary Erickson made a **motion** to amend the Governance Policy to say the board will adjust the strategic plan, at a minimum, every year or more often if needed, seconded by Tom LaMont. The motion passed with 11 in favor and one opposed.

P. Board Meeting Agenda Topics for Next Month

The following topics will be added to the October board meeting agenda: Strategic Planning and Conflict of Interest.

At 2:03 p.m., a **motion** to adjourn the meeting was made by Greg Cook, seconded by Gary Erickson. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Renee Tower, Executive Administrative Assistant.

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.