



~Approved 10/28/2025~

Special Board Meeting

Monday, October 13, 2025

2:30 p.m.

Board Room & Teams

Board Members Present:

Greg Anselmo – Itasca County Unorganized
Kurt Fredrickson – Stokes Township
Larry Salmela – Carpenter Township
Sally Sedgwick – Wirt Township
Dan Sursely – City of Big Falls
Heidi Watson – Koochiching County At-Large

Board Members Remote:

None

Board Members Absent:

Clinton Cook – Bigfork Township
Greg Cook – Koochiching County Unorganized
Carol Gilbertson – Itasca County At-Large
Dan Heinecke – City of Bigfork
Teresa Kittridge – Marcell Township
Tom LaMont – City of Effie
Gordon Rahier – Pomroy Township

Staff Members Present:

Nathan Hough, Renee Tower

Staff Members Remote:

None

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.

Others:

Bruce Sampson

Guests:

Representative Roger Skraba, Senator Grant Hauschild, County Commissioner Casey Venema, and County Commissioner Cory Smith

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:33 p.m. by Secretary Sally Sedgwick. It was noted that a quorum was not present.

Purpose of Meeting

To meet with local and state legislators to discuss Bigfork Valley Hospital's legislative priorities and provide a tour of the facility.

Discussion Summary

The meeting began with introductions from board members, legislators, and county commissioners.

Folder packets were distributed to visiting legislators and included the following materials:

- 2024–2025 Bigfork Valley Annual Report
- Legislative Education Committee's bullet list of legislative priorities
- Hospital district map
- Specialty provider directory
- A one-page summary outlining Bigfork Valley's economic and community impact

Discussion topics included:

- The importance of support for rural hospitals and distribution of state and federal healthcare funding.
- Challenges with Medicaid reimbursement and protecting IMCare.
- Workforce development needs, including training opportunities, recruitment incentives, and loan forgiveness expansion.
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) funding and the need for sustainable support for ambulance operations.
- Housing and childcare shortages as barriers to workforce recruitment and retention.

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- Opportunities for collaboration to strengthen local healthcare delivery and ensure access to specialty care in rural areas.

During the discussion, county commissioners reassured the board that ambulance stipends will continue after Bigfork Valley assumes operation of the ambulance service.

Senator Grant Hauschild also shared information on an initiative to offer Local Government Aid (LGA) to public hospital districts.

Following the discussion, a group photo was taken and legislators participated in a tour of the facility.

The group did not reconvene after the tour, and the meeting was adjourned.

Notes

No motions were made, and no official action was taken.

A quorum of the board was not present.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Renee Tower

Executive Administrative Assistant

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