Bigfork Valley
Hospital • Clinics • Communities

Where Skill Meets Compassion

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~Approved as Amended 8/25/2026~

Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, July 28, 2026
9:00 a.m.
Board Room & Microsoft Teams

Board Members Present:
Greg Anselmo – Itasca County Unorganized
Clinton Cook – Bigfork Township
Greg Cook – Koochiching County Unorganized
Kurt Fredrickson – Stokes Township
Dan Heinecke – City of Bigfork
Tom LaMont – City of Effie
Gordon Rahier – Pomroy Township
Larry Salmela – Carpenter Township
Sally Sedgwick – Wirt Township
Dan Sursely – City of Big Falls

Board Members Remote:
Teresa Kittridge – Marcell Township
Heidi Watson – Koochiching County At-Large

Board Members Absent:
Carol Gilbertson – Itasca County At-Large

Staff Members Present:
Samantha Beckner, Nathan Hough, Sherry Jaryszak, Renee Tower

Staff Members Remote:
Nelly Beckner, Annette Buckingham, Alex Cleath, Josh Kinn, Mark Lyons, Heidi Powell, Ashlee Snyder

Others Present:
Ellen Bomstad, Bernie Hough, Rep. Roger Skraba

Others Participating Remotely:
Community Member (identity could not be verified)

Remote Participation Statement
Board Member Heidi Watson participated in the meeting remotely pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.02 due to caregiving responsibilities for her vulnerable adult son.

Board Member Teresa Kittridge participated in the meeting remotely pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.02 due to a work-related scheduling conflict.

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.02, all votes taken during the meeting were conducted by roll call due to remote participation by board members.

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Chair Clinton Cook and opened with a prayer.

A. **Community Comments** (3 minutes per speaker)
No community comments were received.

B. **Approval of Consent Agenda**
1. Agenda
2. Regular Board Meeting Minutes (June 30, 2026)

A **motion** to approve the consent agenda was made by Larry Salmela and seconded by Dan Heinecke.

A roll call vote was conducted:
- Greg Anselmo – Yea
- Clinton Cook – Yea
- Greg Cook – Yea
- Kurt Fredrickson – Yea
- Carol Gilbertson – Absent
- Dan Heinecke – Yea
- Teresa Kittridge – Yea
- Tom LaMont – Yea
- Gordon Rahier – Yea

- Larry Salmela – Yea
- Sally Sedgwick – Yea
- Dan Sursely – Yea
- Heidi Watson – Yea

Motion carried.

C. Information, Discussion and/or Action

1. **Rep. Roger Skraba**

   Rep. Roger Skraba provided an overview of the 2026 legislative session and discussed several issues affecting rural health care, including the 340B program, paid family and medical leave, rural hospital funding, Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement, housing shortages, and the Rural Health Transformation Grant (RHT) program.

   The need for clearer guidance regarding future RHT funding opportunities to assist with long-term planning was discussed. Nathan Hough noted that additional direction from the state would be beneficial as the organization prepares for future grant opportunities.

   Rep. Skraba expressed his commitment to supporting rural hospitals and maintaining access to health care services in Greater Minnesota.

2. **Finance Committee Report**

   Treasurer Kurt Fredrickson summarized the July 24, 2026, Finance Committee meeting.

   The Board reviewed the May financial report, June accounts payable, the aged accounts payable report and the aged accounts receivable report. Going forward, the aged accounts payable and aged accounts receivable reports will be included in Board meeting packets.

   a. **Financials**

      A **motion** to approve the May financial report was made by the Finance Committee and seconded by Greg Anselmo.

   A roll call vote was conducted:

   - Greg Anselmo – Yea
   - Clinton Cook – Yea

- Greg Cook – Yea
- Kurt Fredrickson – Yea
- Carol Gilbertson – Absent
- Dan Heinecke – Yea
- Teresa Kittridge – Yea
- Tom LaMont – Yea
- Gordon Rahier – Yea
- Larry Salmela – Yea
- Sally Sedgwick – Yea
- Dan Sursely – Yea
- Heidi Watson – Yea

Motion carried.

b. Accounts Payable

A **motion** to approve the June 2026 accounts payable was made by the Finance Committee and seconded by Tom LaMont.

A roll call vote was conducted:

- Greg Anselmo – Yea
- Clinton Cook – Yea
- Greg Cook – Yea
- Kurt Fredrickson – Yea
- Carol Gilbertson – Absent
- Dan Heinecke – Yea
- Teresa Kittridge – Yea
- Tom LaMont – Yea
- Gordon Rahier – Yea
- Larry Salmela – Yea
- Sally Sedgwick – Yea
- Dan Sursely – Yea
- Heidi Watson – Yea

Motion carried.

3. Line of Credit Update

Nathan Hough reported that $700,000 had been drawn from the organization's $1 million line of credit to assist with cash flow during the electronic medical record (EMR) implementation.

4. **<u>Baird Investments</u>**

The Finance Committee recommended approval of a resolution authorizing CEO Nathan Hough to withdraw up to $1 million from the Hospital District's Baird investment account to pay aged accounts payable and the Medicare Cost Report settlement balance. Greg Cook seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was conducted:

- Greg Anselmo – Yea
- Clinton Cook – Yea
- Greg Cook – Yea
- Kurt Fredrickson – Yea
- Carol Gilbertson – Absent
- Dan Heinecke – Yea
- Teresa Kittridge – Yea
- Tom LaMont – Yea
- Gordon Rahier – Yea
- Larry Salmela – Yea
- Sally Sedgwick – Yea
- Dan Sursely – Yea
- Heidi Watson – Yea

Motion carried.

Sally Sedgwick made a **<u>motion</u>** to authorize Nathan Hough to determine the use of the Employee Retention Credit (ERC) funds totaling $1,547,944.46 without further Finance Committee approval. Greg Anselmo seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was conducted:

- Greg Anselmo – Yea
- Clinton Cook – Yea
- Greg Cook – Yea
- Kurt Fredrickson – Yea
- Carol Gilbertson – Absent
- Dan Heinecke – Yea
- Teresa Kittridge – Yea
- Tom LaMont – Yea
- Gordon Rahier – Yea

- Larry Salmela – Yea
- Sally Sedgwick – Yea
- Dan Sursely – Yea
- Heidi Watson – Yea

Motion carried.

5. <u>2027 Tax Levy</u>

Nathan Hough reported that certification of the 2027 tax levy is due Sept. 30, 2026, and that a decision is not required until that time.

The Board discussed the purpose of the tax levy, its role in supporting hospital operations, and the importance of providing opportunities for public input before making a final decision. Board members emphasized the need to discuss the tax levy at upcoming Finance Committee and Board meetings so residents are informed throughout the decision-making process.

To assist with future discussions, the Board requested the following information:

- A draft 2027 budget.
- A comparison of tax levies for other Minnesota hospital districts.
- An estimate of the impact of potential levy increases on hospital district property owners.

No action was taken. The 2027 tax levy will remain on the Finance Committee and Board meeting agendas through the Sept. 30 certification deadline.

6. <u>Quarterly CEO Goals Progress Update</u>

Nathan Hough presented the quarterly CEO Goals Progress Update and reviewed progress toward organizational goals.

Updates included long-term care census and admissions, assisted living occupancy and staffing, retail pharmacy service expansion, and implementation of the new electronic medical record (EMR). Mr. Hough reported that long-term care EMR go-live is scheduled for Oct. 1, 2026.

Mr. Hough also presented proposed revisions to the measurable outcomes for the Assisted Living and Retail Pharmacy goals.

A **motion** to approve the CEO Goal Statements as amended was made by Sally Sedgwick and seconded by Larry Salmela.

A roll call vote was conducted:

- Greg Anselmo – Yea
- Clinton Cook – Yea
- Greg Cook – Yea
- Kurt Fredrickson – Yea
- Carol Gilbertson – Absent
- Dan Heinecke – Yea
- Teresa Kittridge – Yea
- Tom LaMont – Yea
- Gordon Rahier – Yea
- Larry Salmela – Yea
- Sally Sedgwick – Yea
- Dan Sursely – Yea
- Heidi Watson – No response

Motion carried.

7. **CEO Report**

Nathan Hough provided updates on organizational operations, including emergency medical services, implementation of the electronic medical record (EMR), the 340B program, facility projects, new specialty providers, Medicare reimbursement delays, grant activity, regulatory matters, transportation services, senior services and recent community events.

Mr. Hough reported that:

- Bigfork Valley received $1,547,944.46 in Employee Retention Credit (ERC) funds.
- The propane project is scheduled to begin Aug. 3.
- A psychiatric nurse practitioner has accepted a position with Bigfork Valley.
- Dr. Robert Fischer, ENT, will begin providing services on July 29.

- Dr. Nathan Goldin, urologist, is expected to begin seeing patients in late October or early November.
- Long-term care EMR implementation remains on schedule.

A board member requested a status update regarding the class action and threatened lawsuit. Nathan Hough reported that both matters have been resolved.

Mr. Hough also reviewed recent grant activity and reported on upcoming events.

8. **Governance Committee Report**

Chair Clinton Cook summarized the July 21, 2026, Governance Committee meeting.

The committee reviewed the Executive Limitations Policy Section 3.6, Financial Condition and Activities, and the Board Governance Processes Policy.

Teresa Kittridge exited the meeting at 11:23 a.m.

a. **Executive Limitations Policy**

Sally Sedgwick made a **motion** to amend Executive Limitations Policy Section 3.6.6 by increasing the CEO approval threshold from $25,000 to $50,000 to align with the CEO Job Description. Dan Sursely seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was conducted:

- Greg Anselmo – Yea
- Clinton Cook – Yea
- Greg Cook – Yea
- Kurt Fredrickson – Yea
- Carol Gilbertson – Absent
- Dan Heinecke – Yea
- Teresa Kittridge – Absent
- Tom LaMont – Yea
- Gordon Rahier – Yea
- Larry Salmela – Yea
- Sally Sedgwick – Yea

- Dan Sursely – Yea
- Heidi Watson – Yea

Motion carried.

b. **<u>Board Governance Processes Policy</u>**

Sally Sedgwick made a **<u>motion</u>** to amend Board Governance Processes Policy Section 4.6.2.1 to align the policy with the current stipend amounts previously established by the Board. Kurt Fredrickson seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was conducted:

- Greg Anselmo – Yea
- Clinton Cook – Yea
- Greg Cook – Yea
- Kurt Fredrickson – Yea
- Carol Gilbertson – Absent
- Dan Heinecke – Yea
- Teresa Kittridge – Absent
- Tom LaMont – Yea
- Gordon Rahier – Yea
- Larry Salmela – Yea
- Sally Sedgwick – Yea
- Dan Sursely – Yea
- Heidi Watson – No response

Motion carried.

The Board discussed Board Governance Processes Policy Section 4.4.2.3 regarding Board members seeking employment with Bigfork Valley.

Clinton Cook made a **<u>motion</u>** to remove the requirement that a Board member resign before applying for employment with Bigfork Valley. Dan Heinecke seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was conducted:

- Greg Anselmo – Yea
- Clinton Cook – Yea

- Greg Cook – Yea
- Kurt Fredrickson – Nay
- Carol Gilbertson – Absent
- Dan Heinecke – Yea
- Teresa Kittridge – Absent
- Tom LaMont – Yea
- Gordon Rahier – Yea
- Larry Salmela – Nay
- Sally Sedgwick – Nay
- Dan Sursely – Yea
- Heidi Watson – No response

Motion carried.

9. **Employee Appreciation**

Chair Clinton Cook exited the meeting at 11:45 a.m. Treasurer Kurt Fredrickson assumed the duties of chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Dan Sursely also exited the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

The Board recognized the following employees for exceptional performance: Gloria Madsen, Chase Jacobson, Pat Hennessy, Mallory Johnson, Hannah Thompson, and Katie Gilbertson. Each employee will receive a $25 appreciation gift certificate.

A **motion** to approve the employee appreciation nominations was made by Greg Anselmo and seconded by Greg Cook.

A roll call vote was conducted:

- Greg Anselmo – Yea
- Clinton Cook – Absent
- Greg Cook – Yea
- Kurt Fredrickson – Yea
- Carol Gilbertson – Absent
- Dan Heinecke – Yea
- Teresa Kittridge – Absent
- Tom LaMont – Yea
- Gordon Rahier – Yea

- Larry Salmela – Yea
- Sally Sedgwick – Yea
- Dan Sursely – Absent
- Heidi Watson – No response

Motion carried.

10. **Board Meeting Agenda Topics for Next Month**

No Board members requested additional items for the August Board meeting agenda.

11. **Open Discussion**

During open discussion, the Board received clarification that the Coleraine property is now included within the property and equipment line on the financial statements rather than being reported separately.

A Save the Date announcement for the Bigfork Valley Community Foundation Annual Fundraiser on Sept. 13, 2026, was distributed. Proceeds from the event will support Bigfork Valley Hospital's Advance Life Support (ALS) services.

A community member encouraged the Board to communicate a consistent message regarding the 2027 tax levy.

With no further business to come before the Board, a **motion** to adjourn was made by Larry Salmela and seconded by Greg Anselmo.

A roll call vote was conducted:

- Greg Anselmo – Yea
- Clinton Cook – Absent
- Greg Cook – Yea
- Kurt Fredrickson – Yea
- Carol Gilbertson – Absent
- Dan Heinecke – Yea
- Teresa Kittridge – Absent
- Tom LaMont – Yea
- Gordon Rahier – Yea
- Larry Salmela – Yea

- Sally Sedgwick – Yea
- Dan Sursely – Absent
- Heidi Watson – No response

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Renee Tower
Executive Administrative Assistant