



~Approved 9/29/2026~

Regular Board Meeting**Tuesday, August 25, 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
Carol Gilbertson – Itasca County At-Large
Dan Heinecke – City of Bigfork
Teresa Kittridge – Marcell Township
Tom LaMont – City of Effie
Gordon Rahier – Pomroy Township
Sally Sedgwick – Wirt Township

Board Members Remote:

Heidi Watson – Koochiching County At-Large

Board Members Absent:

Larry Salmela – Carpenter Township
Dan Sursely – City of Big Falls

Staff Members Present:

Dr. Ed Anderson, Nathan Hough, Renee Tower

Staff Members Remote:

Sam Beckner, Alex Cleath, Sara Elioff, Josh Kinn, Mark Lyons, Heidi Powell, Jennifer Rissanen, Christopher Virta

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Others Present:

Ellen Bomstad, Bernie Hough

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.

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 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 (July 28, 2026)

The July 28, 2026, Board meeting minutes were presented for amendment under Agenda Item 8(b). The motion recorded in the minutes will be amended to read:

“Sally Sedgwick made a motion 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.”

Teresa Kittridge made a **motion** to approve the consent agenda, including the amendment to the July 28, 2026, Board meeting minutes. Kurt Fredrickson seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was conducted:

- Greg Anselmo – Yea
- Clinton Cook – Yea

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

Motion carried.

C. Information, Discussion and/or Action

1. Finance Committee Report

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

The Finance Committee reviewed the June and July financial reports, June accounts payable, the aged accounts payable report and the aged accounts receivable report. The committee requested that grant updates be provided to the Board more frequently.

The Board discussed the status of the volume indicators dashboard and sector summary following the implementation of OCHIN Epic. Mark Lyons reported that the finance team continues to work on accessing and producing the reports from Epic.

It was noted that the volume indicators are important to the Board's understanding of the organization's financial and operational performance.

Mark reported that he expects to have the sector summary organized prior to the next Finance Committee meeting. He also expressed confidence in the cost report model. Alex Cleath continues to work on obtaining statistical information from Epic.

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The Board meeting packets included the accounts payable aged reconciliation report by invoice date as of Aug. 21, 2026, and the accounts receivable aging report as of Aug. 21, 2026, for review.

a. Financials

The board reviewed the June and July 2026 financial reports.

A **motion** to approve the June financial report was made by Kurt Fredrickson 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 – Yea
- Dan Heinecke – Yea
- Teresa Kittridge – Yea
- Tom LaMont – Yea
- Gordon Rahier – Yea
- Larry Salmela – Absent
- Sally Sedgwick – Yea
- Dan Sursely – Absent
- Heidi Watson – Yea

Motion carried.

The July financial report was not approved because an adjustment is still needed.

b. Accounts Payable

The board reviewed the July 2026 accounts payable.

A **motion** to approve the July 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

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

Motion carried.

2. **Line of Credit Update**

Nathan Hough reported that, as of Aug. 25, the Hospital District had an outstanding balance of \$200,000 on its \$1 million line of credit.

3. **2027 Tax Levy (Due Date: Sept: 30)**

Kurt Fredrickson reported that the Finance Committee had not yet reached a consensus on the amount it would recommend to the Board for the 2027 tax levy. Nathan Hough recommended maintaining the levy at the 2026 amount of \$975,000.

The Board discussed the tax levy, including the potential impact of inflation and cost-of-living increases, capital needs, and the organization's financial position. Members discussed whether future levy increases should be tied to inflation or another cost-of-living measure and the potential impact on Hospital District taxpayers.

It was stated that the tax levy is not intended as a revenue stream. The Board also discussed the long-term goal of eliminating the tax levy and the importance of making financial decisions that would allow the organization to become less dependent on levy funds. It was noted that the tax levy may be adjusted annually.

In response to questions regarding the potential impact of Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement changes, Nathan reported that he does not anticipate a significant impact on the organization. He noted that

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less than 2% of patients are covered by Medicaid and that no significant negative impact is anticipated from Itasca County.

Nathan reported that the organization is expected to end the year with a positive bottom line, although grant revenue is contributing significantly to the projected result.

The Finance Committee will continue its discussion and make a recommendation to the Board at its September meeting. The Board is expected to determine the 2027 tax levy at its Sept. 29 meeting. The 2027 tax levy must be certified by Sept. 30.

4. Quarterly Strategic Action Plan Update

Nathan Hough presented the quarterly Strategic Action Plan update and reviewed progress. Updated action items were highlighted for the Board's review.

5. CEO Report

Nathan Hough provided the following updates:

EMS Services

- Bigfork Valley completed 36 basic life support (BLS) ambulance runs in July. The organization submitted an application to the state in early June for part-time advanced life support (ALS) licensure.

EMR Update

- The hospital continues in the post-go-live stabilization and optimization phase of the electronic medical record (EMR) project. The long-term care (LTC) portion of the project is in the build phase, with user acceptance testing scheduled to begin Aug. 31 and continue through Sept. 11. A tentative LTC go-live date is Oct. 1.

340B Program

- Bigfork Valley met with Kim Doud, a 340B assessor, to evaluate potential opportunities for the organization through the 340B program. Nathan reported that the assessment produced encouraging results. Additional data and financial information will be provided to the Board following completion of the assessment.

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Propane Project

- The propane project has been completed.

Rural Health Transformation Funds

- Nathan reported that the state notified Bigfork Valley that its Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) application had been accepted and approved. The organization received the fully executed agreement from the state.
- The approved funding will include costs related to EMR enhancements compared with the organization's previous system, including diversified reporting, patient engagement, continuity of care, community wellness and telemedicine/virtual care.
- Funding will also support an orthopedic surgical robot.

Senior Services

- A Senior Services Fun Day is scheduled for Aug. 26 from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The event will be held outdoors between the Tamarack Wing and the Villa and will be open to the public. Activities will include music, food trucks and other activities.

6. QAPI Committee Report

No report was provided because QAPI Committee members Larry Salmela and Dan Sursely were absent.

7. MnDOT 5310 Board Resolution

A **motion** to adopt the resolution endorsing the Northern Itasca Hospital District's Title VI Program was made by Sally Sedgwick and seconded by Carol Gilbertson.

A roll call vote was conducted:

- Greg Anselmo – Yea
- Clinton Cook – Yea
- Greg Cook – Yea
- Kurt Fredrickson – Yea
- Carol Gilbertson – Yea
- Dan Heinecke – Yea
- Teresa Kittridge – Yea

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- Tom LaMont – Yea
- Gordon Rahier – Yea
- Larry Salmela – Absent
- Sally Sedgwick – Yea
- Dan Sursely – Absent
- Heidi Watson – No response

Motion carried.

8. **Employee Appreciation**

The Board recognized the following employees for exceptional performance: Amber Vernlund, Leeanna Adamson, Avery Ritter, Ashley Shearen, Kristin Haight-Hernandez, and Brian Rieger. 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 – Yea
- Greg Cook – Yea
- Kurt Fredrickson – Yea
- Carol Gilbertson – Yea
- Dan Heinecke – Yea
- Teresa Kittridge – Yea
- Tom LaMont – Yea
- Gordon Rahier – Yea
- Larry Salmela – Absent
- Sally Sedgwick – Yea
- Dan Sursely – Absent
- Heidi Watson – Yea

Motion carried.

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

The Board requested that housing be added to the September Board meeting agenda.

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10. Open Discussion

A board member noted that Janelle Bowers recently celebrated her 100th birthday. Ms. Bowers previously served on the Hospital District Board. The Board discussed sending Ms. Bowers a birthday card or letter in recognition of her 100th birthday and service to the Hospital District.

The Board discussed housing availability in the area and its continued impact on recruitment and retention. Members noted that housing is frequently identified as a barrier for prospective employees and discussed the possibility of forming an ad hoc committee or task force to assess the hospital's housing needs and explore potential solutions.

Discussion included whether the Hospital District has property that could potentially be used for housing, previous plans for additional housing and assisted living apartments, and the possibility of selling Hospital District-owned property in Coleraine and using the proceeds to acquire property for housing.

The Board agreed to place housing on the September Board meeting agenda for further discussion, with the goal of determining the hospital's housing needs and exploring potential solutions.

With no further business to come before the Board, a **motion** to adjourn was made by Dan Heinecke and seconded by Kurt Fredrickson.

A roll call vote was conducted:

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

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- Sally Sedgwick – Yea
- Dan Sursely – Absent
- Heidi Watson – Yea

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Renee Tower

Executive Administrative Assistant

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