

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Public Hospital District No. 1-A of Whitman County, Washington
d/b/a
Pullman Regional Hospital
Friday, May 31, 2019, 2:00 p.m.**

Conference Room C & D, Pullman Regional Hospital, 835 SE Bishop Blvd.

Board of Commissioners

P-Tricia Grantham, President
P-Jeff Elbracht, Vice President
E-Sandra O'Keefe, Secretary
P-Joe Pitzer, Commissioner
P-Michael Murphy, Commissioner
P-Margaret Werre, Commissioner
P-Karen Karpman, Commissioner

Hospital Personnel

P-Scott K. Adams, CEO
P-Jeannie Eylar, CCO
P-Steve Febus, CFO
P-Bernadette Berney, CHRO
P-Megan Guido, CMCRO
P-Dr. Gerald Early, CMIO
P-Rueben Mayes, CDO
E-Isaac Grindeland, M.D., Medical Staff President
E-Erin Sedam, Executive Administrative Assistant
P-Carly Estey, Administrative Assistant
P-Kelly Brown, Legal Counsel

Guests:

P-Scott Jackson, Moscow-Pullman Daily News
P-Pat Wright, President of Pullman Regional Hospital Foundation Board
P-Karly Port, Director of Operations PRHCN
P-Kyrk Taylor, Human Resources Pullman Regional Hospital
P-Brad Loomis, Freelance Tech and Pullman Community Member
P-Dr. Karen Geheb, Director of Hospitalist Services Pullman Regional Hospital
P-PJ Sanchez, Vice President of Pullman Regional Hospital Foundation Board
P-Wayne Druffel, Co-Chair Campaign Cabinet Pullman Regional Hospital Foundation
P-Gabriel Bravo, The Daily Evergreen
P-Evan Ellis, Pullman Radio
P-Marie Dymkoski, Executive Director Pullman Chamber of Commerce

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Grantham called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Roll call was taken with the following Commissioners answering present: Werre, Karpman Grantham, Elbracht, Pitzer and Murphy. Commissioner O'Keefe was excused.

President Grantham conducted introductions of the guests in attendance.

II. OPEN SESSION

A. Considerations for the Next Era of Excellence

President Grantham began with an explanation of the order of the meeting and encouraged the group to follow along with the meeting outline and in the information packets provided. The meeting outline shows the following topics to be discussed: Election/Bond, Funding, Marketing/Communication, Citizen Committee, and Building Plans/Pavilion Occupants.

Election/Bond

President Grantham opened the floor to the group to ask questions or give feedback on the topic of the recent election and the bond proposal in general. The group discussed that the special election may not have been done at the right time and what factors could have contributed to the bond not passing, factors

such as low voter turnout from students, the bond being the only item on the ballot and timing of the Hospital bond with additional taxes that were presented to the community around the same time.

Funding

Steve Febus explained in more detail what the consideration to modify the bond amount to \$15million looks like and where that number came from. President Grantham asked the group what their thoughts were on lowering the bond amount or potentially eliminating parts of the proposal. The group discussed the details of why \$29 million was asked for and some group members felt that the amount was very calculated and specific and that a lot of time went in to designing a plan that would work and be sustainable. There were several members in the group who felt that without an expansion Pullman Regional Hospital would be unable to provide the quality of care that the community of Pullman wants.

A question about having the District boundaries mirror the boundaries of the Pullman School District came up and Kelly Brown explained the requirements for annexation of the taxing district and explained that the Board could adopt a resolution to make an area vote on annexation but said it would be very unlikely that there would be a change to the District boundary.

Lastly, President Grantham posed a question about some of the wording in the proposal and was curious what others thought. Some of the group felt that “care coordination” resonated more with people than the term “one-stop care”. Additionally, others in the group felt that the term “pavilion” was confusing and that they thought it would be better received if it was referred to as an addition instead of a pavilion.

Marketing/Communication

The group had a discussion about how additional education on The Next Era of Excellence could be presented to the community. Some ideas that were discussed were, doing educational pieces on what sets Pullman Regional Hospital apart from other area hospitals, explaining the structure and organization of a critical access hospital, and more doorbelling so that a larger area of the community could be reached. Megan Guido explained that unless the proposal radically changes more time and focus could be put towards being active in the community instead of doing presentations.

Citizens Committee

Megan Guido gave a brief overview of the involvement of the Citizens Committee, what worked and didn't work for them, and the feedback they received from the community. Ms. Guido explained that from the feedback they received there were some community members who were dissatisfied with who uses the hospital vs. who is paying the taxes for The Next Era of Excellence. She expanded on an earlier discussion about the timing of the bond by touching on the topic of “tax fatigue” in the community stating that some community members felt that because the school was coming out with a bond as well they were feeling overwhelmed by the additional taxes they could be receiving. The group discussed ways to address “tax fatigue” and decided that there may need to be more education provided around finances. When asked if there was anything different the Citizens Committee would have or could have done Ms. Guido emphasized the importance in having more man power.

Building Plans/Pavilion Occupants

There was discussion amongst the group about providing more education on what will go inside of the new building space. Several members of the group felt that there were some community members who were hesitant about the new space because they were unsure of what would be housed inside the Pavilion. There was continued conversation around the best way to provide new education, whether it is doorbelling, yard signs, social media or setting up “meet and greets” with some of the Commissioners or members of the Citizens Committee.

Additional Comments

President Grantham asked if there were any additional items that weren't already covered that the group would like to discuss. The group resumed talking about ways to continue to educate the community on the reasons that The Next Era of Excellence would benefit the community. There was a brief conversation about the population growth in Pullman and what this means for health care. Some group members felt that the community seemed to be aware of the growth but that some still weren't seeing the coalition between the growth and the necessity for the hospital to grow along with it. Some group members felt that the best way to continue education would be to cover as much ground as possible and to focus efforts on reaching as many people as possible. Others felt that the tactics in which the education was provided needed to be kept simple in order to provide an opportunity for a larger number of community members to be reached.

The meeting concluded with a brief overview of the differences between the 5 hospitals in the area and what it means to be a critical access hospital and a public hospital district. Some group members agreed that this would be valuable information to provide to the public.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:26 P.M. the President announced that the meeting would go into Executive Session for 30 minutes to discuss with legal counsel a proposed action that the District has identified that public discussion of the legal risks is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the District.

IV. OPEN SESSION

The meeting resumed in Open Session at 3:56 P.M. The President asked the Commissioners to complete and turn in the CEO evaluation and the evaluation of this meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Carly Estey
Administrative Assistant



Sandra O'Keefe, Secretary
Board of Commissioners
*(Minutes are not officially approved until the
next Board Meeting.)*