



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT NO. 1 OF KLICKITAT COUNTY**  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
November 15, 2023  
Zoom Meeting ID #854 6579 0851

### **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

A regular meeting of the Klickitat Valley Health (KVH) Board of Commissioners was held on Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. in Conference Room A/B as well as via Zoom Conference Call. Commissioner Scott, President of the Board of Commissioners, was the presiding officer, also in attendance were Commissioners Hocter, Pond, Sigfrinius and Ihrig.

Also present were: Lori Groves, CFO; Charis Weis, Director of Human Resources and Community Outreach; Linda Compton, Out-Patient Clinic Director; Jonathan Hatfield, COO; Karrie West, Director Quality and Risk and Compliance Officer; Erin Wooley, CNO (via Zoom); Jonathan Lewis, Director Environmental Services; as well as Barbara Bostick, Recorder.

### **CALL TO ORDER, APPROVAL OF AGENDA & CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE**

Board President Scott called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Commissioner Pond made a motion to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Sigfrinius seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Board President Scott asked all commissioners present if anyone had any conflict of interest regarding any items on the agenda. Commissioners noted no conflict of interest.

### **Public Comment/Business from the Audience**

Community Member Jeff Teal expressed his interest in being considered for appointment to upcoming Board vacancy.

The process for filling the vacancy was explained including that the Board will nominate one or more persons for consideration of appointment at the end of this meeting. After that, the upcoming vacancy notice will be posted in three locations and will include the name(s) of nominees as is required for the posting. It will be posted for 15 days during which time any registered voter within the hospital district can nominate themselves or someone else for consideration for appointment to the vacant position. The posting will include information on where to obtain an application for the vacant position, as well as the date that the application must be turned in by. The Board will determine at their December 20, 2023 a date for a Special Meeting in early January which will allow them to interview interested parties, select the person to be appointed and for that person to complete the Oath of Office prior to the January 2024 Regular Board meeting. It was noted that all persons nominated will also need to complete and submit an application to be considered for the vacancy.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Hocter made a motion to approve the September 2023 Consent Agenda as presented, including: Regular Meeting Minutes from October 18, 2023; Special Meeting minutes from November 3, 2023 and November 13, 2023 as well as Accounts Payable in the amount of \$ 559,996.10; Accounts Payable Paymerang in the amount of \$893,292.90; and Electronic Transfers in the amount of \$1,951,550.74; and Bond Payments in the amount of \$3,890.00; and Bad Debt in the amount of \$46,646.11 and Charity Care in the amount of \$100,993.30. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ihrig. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Special Presentation/Board Education**

Goldendale Police Chief Mike Smith and Klickitat County Sheriff Bob Songer, as well as Undersheriff Carmen Knopes were present to provide a local law enforcement update to the Board. Chief Smith noted that he has participated in a meeting at KVH to discuss homelessness, drug use and mental health concerns. He added that the communication between the hospital and the police department is the best it has been in a long time. He noted his appreciation for the addition of the Safe Room to the ER. He commented that the police are doing the best they can to provide security in regards to the many challenges. He noted that they will be assisting with training KVH's new security team. He added that mental health issues and drug use are at an all time high in the Goldendale community.

Undersheriff Carmen Knopes noted her agreement that mental health issue and drug use are at an all time high county-wide. She noted that following the departure of Comprehensive Health, the County Commissioners have spent a year building a mental health program. They have appointed a new director, Tyrone, he has a big vision for our county. She expressed her gratitude for Erin Quinn and her efforts in assisting with grants including one that can be used for treatment for inmates. She noted there is a grant for Narcan at the jail as well as a new grant for a co-responder that will ride along with deputies to address crisis at the scene. She reported that 50-75% of residents in jail are impacted by drugs or mental health issues. She noted that she is hoping for additional grants to help with more services in the jail.

Sheriff Songer noted that the Sheriff's Department has taken a hardline approach regarding illegal drugs. He advised regarding the benefits of the addition of the Sheriff's Posse. He noted they do not have arrest authority, but they are able to observe, document and report. He also noted that there are also six pilots that fly for the county at no cost. They fly during fire season to watch for smoke or potential fire, they help search for cars, bad guys and missing people.

Sheriff Songer reviewed his concerns regarding problem predators. He noted that only he or Undersheriff Knopes have the ability to authorize the use of hounds if a citizen calls in about a cougar or bear. He added that there are state statutes that have to be followed in regards to the use of hounds. Additionally, Sheriff Songer reviewed the Posse Scout Program that has recently been activated. He noted that the program is open to individuals that are 10-18 years old. He added that currently there are 15 scouts that have been sworn in. He noted that a recent fundraiser raised \$7,100 that will be used to purchase uniforms and study materials for the Scout program. Discussion was also had regarding budget cuts to the Sheriff's department and its impact on staffing models.

Chief Smith expressed interest in developing a first responder community video to showcase Klickitat County and assist in recruitment for multiple agencies within the county. Charis Weis, Director of HR and Community Outreach noted that KVH has a very good recruitment video that is not hospital specific, she noted that it could be used by others for recruitment. She will send it to Chief Smith for his consideration.

### **Medical Staff Update**

Dr. MacGillivray reviewed the Medical Staff Meeting Summary. A copy of the summary was provided to the Board of Commissioners at the Board meeting as the Med Staff Meeting was held on November 14, 2023 and the summary was not available at the time that the Board book was sent out. A copy of the report will be included in the Board Record book.

### **Onboarding Plan**

Jonathan Hatfield reviewed the Onboarding Plan that he provided in the Board packet. Please see copy in the Board Record book.

### **Resolution 2023-22 Surplus Property.**

The Board reviewed the items included in the Resolution, after discussion, Commissioner Pond made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-22 as presented. Commissioner Ihrig seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Proposed 2024 Board Dates and Committee Assignments**

The Board reviewed the proposed 2024 Board dates and determined to change the May 15, 2024 meeting date to May 22, 2024 and the October 16, 2024 meeting date to October 23, 2024. Those changes will be made and the updated Board meeting dates for 2024 will be presented at the December 20, 2023 Board meeting for consideration of approval.

The Board reviewed the proposed 2024 Committee Assignments. It was noted that the PI Committee will become the Quality Committee Meeting in 2024 and that while it will initially be held monthly, it will at some point become a quarterly meeting. Karrie West, Director of Quality and Risk noted that the Quality Committee should have two Board members instead of one. Following discussion, it was determined that the name of the Committee will be updated to reflect Quality instead of PI and that Commissioner Hctor will be added to that committee along with Commissioner Sigfrinius. There were no other requests for change or correction to what was proposed. The Committee Assignments will be updated and presented to the Board at the December 20, 2023 Board meeting for consideration and approval.

### **Dingus, Zarecor & Associates 2023 Audit Engagement Letter**

Lori Groves reviewed the quote comparisons noted in the Board Packet. She noted that pricing with the other groups was higher and the service that has been received over the past several years from Dingus, Zarecor and Associates has been exceptional. She noted her recommendation to proceed with DZA as per the proposal outlined in the DZA 2023 Audit Engagement Letter. Commissioner Hctor made a motion to approve the agreement with Dingus, Zarecor & Associates as presented. Commissioner Sigfrinius seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Spheregen Agreement Review**

Jonathan Hatfield noted that in June 2023 the Board approved a proposal to implement bots for use in the

Business Office, not to replace workers, but to aid with repetitive tasks and efficiencies. He noted that the Board at that time approved a quote presented by Jorie, but when Jorie was approached regarding finalizing the agreement, they stated they were no longer able to honor the quote that had been provided. Jonathan noted that following additional research and due diligence, KVH is now prepared to move forward with the second-place vendor, Spheregen. He noted that breakeven would be achieved with Spheregen early in the third year and that Spheregen would be significantly less than Jorie over five years. Commissioner Hctor made a motion to move forward with Spheregen instead of Jorie. Commissioner Sigfrinius seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Written reports were presented from Jonathan Hatfield, CEO; Lori Groves, CFO; Jonathan Lewis, Director of Environmental Services and Safety Officer and Linda Compton, Out Patient Clinic Director; Erin Wooley, CCO; Dr. MacGillivray, Chief of Staff and Charis Weis, Director of Human Resources and Community Outreach; and Karrie West Director of Quality and Risk and Compliance Officer. Commissioner Pond made a motion to accept the reports as presented Commissioner Hctor seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

President Scott stated that the Board would be going into Executive Session at 5:15 p.m. for approximately 15 minutes for the purpose of medical staff credentialing review allowable per RCW 70.44 as well as to evaluate the qualifications of candidates for Board nomination(s) for consideration of appointment to the Board as allowable per RCW 42.30.110 (h) and would return to open public session at 5:30 p.m.

## **RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

The Board returned to open public session at 5:30 p.m. Upon returning to open public session, Commissioner Hctor made a motion to approve initial appointment to Medical Staff of Rachel Sonne, MD (Family Medicine) and initial appointment to Medical Staff of Andre Sonne, PA-C (Family Medicine), as well as delegated credentialing of Virtual Radiologic Professionals, LLC telemedicine provider Eugene Tong, MD (teleradiology only). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ihrig. The motion carried unanimously.

Following discussion, Commissioner Sigfrinius made a motion to nominate Brenda Rogers, Jeff Teal and Craig Steinfeldt for consideration of appointment to the upcoming Position No. 5 vacancy. Commissioner Hctor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

It was noted that the vacancy will be posted for 15 days in three areas and will include the name of the Board nominees as required. Individuals that are registered voters within the Public Hospital District may nominate themselves or any other individual that meets the requirements for consideration during that 15-day notice period. The Board will interview and make final selection for appointment following the December 20, 2023 Board Meeting at which time the Position No. 5 vacancy will begin.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Sigfrinius made a motion to adjourn at 5:43 p.m. Commissioner Ihrig seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

  
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Crystal Scott, President

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Larry Hactor  
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~~Rob Ihrig, Board Secretary~~  
Larry Hactor, Vice-President