

# North Pine Area Hospital District

## “Ensuring Local Access to Quality Health Care”

Board of Directors Meeting  
Tuesday, January 26, 2021 6:30 p.m.  
Askov Community Center/Via Zoom

### CALL TO ORDER

Ron Osladil, Chair, called the meeting of the North Pine Area Hospital District (NPAHD) to order at 6:31 p.m. on Tuesday, January 26, 2021.

### ROLL CALL

Board members present: Catherine Colstrud (Sandstone Township) via Zoom, Andrew Degerstrom-Hanley (City of Askov), Doug Driver (City of Hinckley), Barb Fischer (Danforth Township), Debrah Hultman (District at Large), Gary Klein (Hinckley Township), Linda Kvasnicka (Park Township) via Zoom, Brenda Langseth-Perrault (Dell Grove Township) via Zoom, Jeanne Larson (City of Sandstone), Fran Levings (New Dosey Township), Dennis Liebelt (City of Finlayson), Edith Molgaard (City of Bruno) via phone, Myrna Nelson (Partridge Township), Bill Olson (Pine Lake Township), Ron Osladil (Finlayson Township).

Board members absent: Dr. Chris Ketchmark and Steve Nelson.

Others attending: Chris Olson (NPAHD Admin. Director), Scott Nigon (Essentia) via Zoom, Mike Youso (Essentia), Steve Schmidt (NPAHD Accountant), and Kris Sundberg (The Links Group), Michael Waggoner (Ogema Township).

### APPROVE AGENDA

Osladil called for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion Langseth-Perrault. Second Molgaard. Motion carried.

### APPROVE NOVEMBER 24, 2020 MINUTES

Osladil called for a motion to approve the minutes from October 27, 2020. Motion Olson. Second Fischer. Motion carried.

### INTRODUCTION OF NEW NPAHD DIRECTORS

Osladil introduced and called forward Jeanne Larson, Debrah Hultman and Doug Driver. Osladil asked the new directors to raise their right hand and say the Oath of Office with him. The chair then requested each new director to take a few minutes and tell everyone a little about themselves.

Debrah Hultman: She stated she lives in Sandstone and was raised in Braham, MN. She moved to Sandstone in 1978-79. She was interested in serving on the board because she feels the hospital is a really important asset to Pine County both for their health care and as an employer. She is willing and excited to learn more about the hospital district.

Jeanne Larson: She said she has lived in the area for 50 years and worked many years at the nursing home. She was part of a health care board back then so she has been involved with health care in some fashion for many years. She is on the NPAHD board because someone pressured her to run. 😊

Doug Driver: He stated he was raised in the St. Cloud area but moved to Hinckley in the early 2000's to care for his mother and has remained here. He has a lot to learn about the board but looks forward to being a positive influence to the board and his local community.

Debrah is serving the hospital district in the District at Large position, Jeanne represents the City of Sandstone, and Doug represents the City of Hinckley.

#### CHAIRPERSON REPORT

Osladil introduced Michael Waggoner to the board. Michael is attending the meeting to find out more about what it means to be on the hospital district board. He lives in Ogema Township and is researching if he feels serving on the hospital district board is a good fit for him.

#### PINE MEDICAL CENTER

Mike Youso was present to report from Essentia. He gave a quick introduction of himself to the new board members. He followed that with an update on the Covid situation as it relates to Essentia hospitals. Since our last meeting the northern hospitals hit their "surge" and there were periods where all Essentia hospitals were "full". Youso explained that "full" does not mean all the beds were in use but rather they were at capacity of what their staff could serve. An example would be Moose Lake hospital has 25 beds and the most admissions there was 15 patients. The numbers have now declined.

Youso then gave an update on the vaccine. He stated they have been vaccinating for approx. 3 weeks. They offered the vaccine to all the Sandstone Hospital employees (130) and they vaccinated 90 employees. That indicates that 30% of the employees chose not to be vaccinated. Thirty percent of healthcare professionals refusing the vaccine is running about average of other healthcare facilities. Moose Lake had 40% decline the vaccine.

This past week they began vaccinating the general public. The first to get the vaccine was group homes and foster homes. They vaccinated 130 people. The vaccines go to St. Cloud and are distributed from there. This is the Pfizer vaccine. This week the vaccinations started for everyone over 65 years of age. They vaccinated 200 people in this category and that is what their weekly allocation currently is. He added that to this point they have not seen any reactions.

Operations Information: They have been busy. The oncology clinic has moved from Moose Lake to Sandstone. Some doctors are beginning to see patients on site again. The EMS volumes have been the busiest they have been in two years. He stated the EMS staff has been vaccinated, however, 30% chose not to be vaccinated.

Mike complimented the team at Sandstone Hospital. He said during this Covid situation they really showed what a great team they are. He said he believes they have done as good of job as any site Essentia is involved with.

The question was asked about the letter Essentia sent to Gateway regarding the imaging contract. Youso stated that there was an imaging joint venture that dates back many years. He stated, as he understands it, Essentia dissolved it because a true partnership does not exist between Essentia and Gateway. Currently they are two independent models and in order to remain in partnership there has to be many commonalities, financial, clinical standards, behavior standards etc. Those commonalities do not exist and the current contract benefits Gateway more than Essentia and Essentia decided to terminate it as the fundamentals do not line up in the same way they did when the original partnership was entered into over a decade ago. The primary reason is the two are headed in different directions. An example to demonstrate this is the vaccine. Most hospitals funnel the vaccine through the clinics and primary care doctors but Essentia cannot do that because Essentia and Gateway are not on the same health record system. Being on the same electronic

health record is key to being in partnership. The question was asked if patients in the community will notice any difference due to this change. The joint venture was economic not clinical. It had to do with taking all the imaging revenue and sharing it. Gateway can still do their imaging at the hospital, so it does not have to do with patient care.

Scott Nigon continued the Essentia report with an update on the financials of Essentia.

#### FINANCE REPORT

Financial Statements for the month ending November 30, 2020 were distributed to all directors. These were reviewed prior to the meeting and Osladil called for a motion to accept. Motion Levings. Second Degerstrom-Hanley. Motion carried. Steve Schmidt reported on the December financial statements and made note of the current profit and loss budget, balance sheet and operating cash budget. Motion to accept the finance report Olson. Second Klein. Motion carried.

#### COMMUNICATION UPDATE

Sundberg stated Gateway reports the number of Covid cases peaked in December and have been going down since. She said Gateway will be receiving 300 doses of the vaccine tomorrow. They will start vaccinating the public this Friday. At this time they will only be vaccinating in the Moose Lake clinic. They expect to receive an ongoing supply and parties wanting the vaccine can call Gateway or go to their website.

Your packet has a press release of the two doctors joining their clinic. These have been given to the local papers however, we are not currently getting very good coverage from the local papers. Going forward we will do more direct communication so our constituents know what we are doing. Sundberg stated she will be doing another press release featuring the new board members. She is also working on the next newsletter from the hospital district.

Ascertain is now open for business in the prior Ben Franklin store. They were disappointed to learn the prior Gateway Clinic building has a purchase agreement.

The flyer supporting the medical personnel and expressing a huge THANK YOU from the communities went out in the Evergreen.

Colsrud inquired regarding the organization now occupying the Ben Franklin store and Kris explained they work with addiction and mental health.

#### GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The Governance committee did not meet this past month however her committee was involved with the election of new officers for the hospital district so they did work on that.

Their upcoming event concerns orientation and training. There will be an orientation training meeting scheduled soon so Barb asks all the new board members at the conclusion of tonight's meeting to gather for a few minutes to decide on a date that works for everyone. All members are welcome and invited to this orientation evening. The details will be forthcoming.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Olson reports the audit is underway. Steve Schmidt and Chris Olson have been working to provide them with the information they request. The question was raised earlier regarding the attorney fees and Olson explained that some major projects were undertaken this past year, including an update of the bylaws, much legal work regarding the ambulance/administration building, and just general inquiries regarding what we can and cannot do legally. The finance committee feels this year should have less legal fees than last year.

Olson explained he misspoke at the last board meeting regarding the \$350,000 going for the ambulance/administrative building. He believed everything had been handled and it was ready to be transferred only to find out today it had not been transferred yet but the final details were handled today so now it actually has been transferred.

#### STRATEGIC PLAN SUBCOMMITTEES

Gary Klein of the Capital and Technology Committee, reports his committee received a grant request from Duxbury Volunteer Fire Dept. Each director has a copy of the grant request in their packet but essentially they need to buy some equipment and they were unable to hold either of their fundraising events this past year due to Covid. They requested an amount of \$3,000 for the equipment. This department services Wilma, Ulna, New Dosey and Ogema Townships. The committee made the decision to grant the amount of \$1500 in order to be in compliance with the restrictions the hospital district has regarding spending money. Because our dollars are only to be used for the cities and townships who pay taxes into the district and only two of the above names townships are members of the hospital district the amount was cut in half. While the committee is aware that the equipment they buy will be used for all the areas they service they felt this decision helped keep us in compliance with the statutes. Our committee comes to the board with a motion to recommendation the board grants Duxbury Fire Dept. \$1500 to assist in purchasing equipment. Second Liebelt. Colsrud asked if the district has a grant application scoring sheet. This sheet would prioritize the grant requests. Sundberg explained that we have one but do not call it a scoring sheet but it is guidelines for grant requests. Sundberg indicated she would send one to Colsrud so she can see it. Colsrud expressed her concern to be making grants to organizations which are not part of our membership. She is concerned about opening up to awarding money to non-members. Sundberg stated that in order to award grant dollars it does have to involve one of our cities or townships which are members. Of course that does not mean an area outside of those member areas may not also benefit from the grant. Fischer explained that is the exact reason the committee did not grant the full amount requested, because there were non-member service areas. Kvasnicka, who serves on this committee, agreed that the service area was the determining factor in the awarding of this grant. Osladil asked if there were any addition comments or questions to this motion. Hearing none he restated the motion and called for a vote. Motion passed with one opposing vote.

Fran Levings, Health Care Needs Committee, started by introducing herself and explaining her committee to the new directors. Her committee will be meeting this week. Next she informed the directors that a thank you note from Naomi Koenig has arrived and she read the note to the board. Naomi has finished her first semester of her new program and she received a GPA of 4.0. For the new directors, Fran explained Naomi is a nurse who works at Gateway who submitted a grant request for tuition funding, via a forgivable loan, to go back to school to become a psychiatric nurse. This board recognizes the need for extended mental health options so her grant was approved for \$21,000 over three years (\$7,000 per year) to assist in her tuition costs.

#### ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

Osladil invited each of the candidates to come up to the microphone and briefly introduce themselves and express why they would like to represent the NPAHD as an officer. The introductions were followed by casting of votes and counting. The new officers are: Chairman: Bill Olson

Vice-Chair: Fran Levings

Treasurer: Barb Fischer

Secretary: Brenda Langseth-Perrault

#### OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Ron handed the gavel over to Bill Olson as the new chair.

#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is February 23, 2021

ADJOURN

Motion Osladil. Second Degerstrom-Hanley to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. Motion carried.

Submitted by Brenda Langseth-Perrault, Board Secretary \_\_\_\_\_