

Orcas Island Health Care District
Board of Commissioners - REGULAR Meeting Minutes
Orcas Island Fire & Rescue – Eastsound Firehall
Tuesday, February 18, 2020
5:00 – 7:00 pm

Commissioners Present:

Art Lange (remote)
Patricia Miller, Secretary
Richard Fralick, President

Staff:

Anne Presson, Superintendent
Pat Hunt, Project Mgmt. Consultant

Commissioners Absent:

Diane Boteler
Pegi Groundwater

I. Call to Order

President Fralick called the meeting to order at 5:07 pm. It was noted that Commissioner Lange would be remote, and Commissioners Boteler and Groundwater were out of the country and unable to participate.

II. Public Comment

Penny Buttke shared her views that we are fortunate to have such a fine team of medical professionals on such a small island. She expressed her appreciation for the level of expertise at the UW Clinic. She asked about how the medical team is working with the District in looking at options to UW. She also reminded the Board that many islanders supported the endeavor to bring UW to Orcas, and it is still very early in their tenure to be looking for a different provider.

Carl Buttke reiterated what Penny shared, and he also expressed his satisfaction with the UW Clinic over the past two years. He likes the connection to their specialists in Seattle, as well as the ease of using eCare to get information from a visit and view lab results.

Douglas Ellis also agreed with everything that was previously shared. He felt the electronic medical records system, EPIC, was a tremendous asset and delivers a lot of value to patients. He feels UW is a highly rated hospital system in WA and provides a very high level of care. He also reminded the Board that EPIC represented a large expense from the money that was raised in support of UW. He ended by sharing his feelings that the Board should review the history with Island Hospital when considering them as a possible option in the future.

Marilyn Parman asked about the timing for the Board to make a decision around running our own clinic or looking at other options. President Fralick responded by saying the Board made one decision on the timing for changing the District's approach to the financial piece. The Board realizes the financials don't work in a two-clinic model, and there was consensus to move to a single funding model in 2021. Commissioner Miller clarified reasons behind that decision were largely driven by UW Medicine's change in their provider compensation model, which created a significant subsidy increase. She shared that while there are still a few years before the District runs into a financial deficit, the Board is going through the due diligence to be in a position to make a change before that happens. Commissioner Miller also stressed the Board is working as smart and aggressively to find a long-term solution, in combination with having to find the right approach to the building repairs. The District took over the aging building and equipment without a full understanding of the significant costs of the deferred maintenance. As more information has been gathered, estimates for the work are coming in a lot higher than originally forecast.

III. Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda contained two items: (1) Draft Minutes from the 1/21 Regular Board Meeting; and (2) a 2/6 AP Voucher report in the amount of \$2,607.444. There were no objections to entertaining the Consent Agenda as presented.

MOVED by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Lange to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. No further discussion. VOTE 3:0:0. MOTION CARRIED.

IV. Committee and Work Group Reports

- a. **Building/Equipment Committee** – President Fralick summarized the updates on the two systems the Board is concerned about: the roof and HVAC. He shared for the public, a history dating back to early in 2019 when the District issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to proceed with the roof replacement. The Board ended up rejecting the bids after concluding the HVAC could be an even more immediate need. In addition, there was likely interaction between the two projects which resulted in consideration given to approaching the two projects simultaneously. Commissioner Fralick shares the frustration in how difficult and lengthy it has been to determine the right path forward, and concerns that the initial bids are astronomically higher than the budgeted \$450,000.

At a preliminary cost of \$1.6 million, the District cannot afford to proceed with the HVAC system as designed. President Fralick suggested the Board might reconsider a simpler approach to proceed with the re-roof and replace the HVAC in stages. At the same time, the Board can also seek additional bids for the current design to see if what's been initially proposed is out of line. The goal is still to perform the roof replacement this dry season.

As far as the HVAC, the original system that was put in place when the building was built in 1991 has exceeded its useful life. The question remains if we can afford to move forward with modern technology. The engineer who designed the system feels the initial bids are very high, and his recommendation is to open up an RFP to additional bidders. In addition to the engineer, the Committee sought feedback from Doug Poole with Sage Contracting. Doug is familiar with the building and design since his company worked with OMF many years ago when the Foundation was considering the HVAC replacement. President Fralick is waiting for feedback from Doug and have also met with Greg Sawyer from the County. Greg provided introductions to San Juan Heating and another contact at Barron Heating. President Fralick will have discussions with each.

The report ended with the suggestion from Commissioner Miller that all possible grant opportunities be explored. She is aware of a few options for commercial buildings through Sustainable Connections and will pass along relevant information. President Fralick reminded the Board that Sustainable Connections has been working with the Committee. They visited the building and prepared an updated Energy Assessment last year. In addition, OPALCO has been involved and shared information on their low interest loans. Once there is a plan in place those the Committee will pick back up with those discussions. For now, the next step is to revisit the RFP for the roof and have that ready should the Board decided to proceed.

- b. **FQHC Work Group** – Superintendent Presson reported that she received confirmation from Bruce Gray, CEO of the NW Primary Care Association, he will be reviewing and providing feedback on the District Prospectus. Commissioner Miller asked that Commissioner Lange provide Superintendent Presson with the names and contact information of the FQHCs he's spoken to so she can determine if any have an interest in affiliation.

- c. **Provider-Based RHC Work Group** – Superintendent Presson provided an update on her interactions with the new CEO of Island Hospital. The CEO, CFO and COO are interested in a meeting with members of the OIHCD and LIHD on 2/4. Commissioners Fralick and Boteler were selected to represent the District. It was also decided the Superintendent will make a similar outreach to PeaceHealth.
- d. **Next Step with Clinic Operators** – President Fralick reported that the two March dates for possible clinic meet-n-greets aren't going to work. At this point, he asked for Board input as to whether we should keep trying to arrange such a meeting. Commissioner Miller felt the main reason for pursuing was to allow the regional leadership of UWNC the chance to become familiar with the OFHC operations and allow OFHC leadership the opportunity to get to know the UWNC Regional Leaders. The hope was to facilitate dialogue to get the practices talking about ways to partner and work together in responding to a proposal for a single clinic. After discussion there was consensus to see if a new date in April is possible.

V. Old Business

- a. **Travel and Expense Policy** – this policy has been brought to several Board meetings for review. There haven't been any additional changes since the last draft was reviewed by the Board.

MOVED by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Lange to adopt the OIHCD Travel and Expense Policy, and clarify if a Policy number should be assigned. No further discussion. VOTE 3:0:0. MOTION CARRIED.

- b. **Provider Advisory Committee** – this item was postponed.

- VI. New Business** – the issue of remote participation was brought to the Board for discussion. Following the need to cancel a meeting due to lack of a quorum, combined with the number of times Commissioners are participating remotely, President Fralick asked the Board if it would make sense to consider adopting a remote participation policy. This could include the requirement that when participating remotely a Commissioner do so using video. After a brief discussion, there was consensus that a video requirement wasn't necessary; however, the Commissioners present agreed it was worth considering requiring a certain number of meetings be attended in person. This will be brought back to a future meeting for further discussion.

- VII. Operations Report** – Superintendent Presson provided an update on her work with the Project Management Consultant. In addition to the Commissioner survey, they are conducting 1:1 interview to gather more detail behind the Commissioner's survey answers. This work ties in with developing a clinic RFP, with the goal of identifying and getting alignment around the critical areas.

Discussion centered around the RFP format and content. Commissioner Miller expressed concern about scoring and weighting of the responses. President Fralick recalled an effort when he was on the County Counsel that might be relevant. He agreed to see if he can find the former RFP for the Transfer Station. Finally, the Board wanted to make sure a Community Communication Strategy was incorporated into the Project Plan. This could include Town Hall meetings and other communication methods to reach as many members of the community as possible.

Superintendent Presson reported on OFHC's opportunity to upgrade their EMR, at no cost. She also shared the update from UW Clinic that in light of being short staffed they are reducing appointment slots and reducing the number of courtesy lab appointments. Their goal is to resume normal operations by April.

VIII. Public Comment

Chief Williams expressed his appreciation for the work of the Board and Superintendent. He has appreciated the collaboration with EMS, and assistance in connecting his team to important conversations with the Clinics and health plans.

Leif commented on concerns around EPIC and the importance of allowing everyone's values to be expressed.

Dr. Shu feels that good primary care is simple – identify and solve the problem. In a larger organization providers feel rushed and stressed, and often have to see too many patients to be able to do their job.

Bob Thomas asked about courtesy labs and if those are being handled at OFHC.

Doug Ellis asked questions about the roof and HVAC, as well as clarification on prevailing wage.

Penny Buttke encouraged the Board to pursue Town Hall meetings to give everyone a voice.

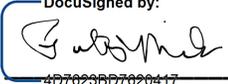
IX. Upcoming Meetings

A list of upcoming meetings was included on the Agenda. President Fralick reported that the Board will consider cancelling the next regularly scheduled meeting and scheduling a Special Meeting later in March to be able to have all five Commissioners present.

X. Meeting adjournment

MOVED by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Lange to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 pm. VOTE 3:0:0. MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes approved this ____ day of _____, 2020.

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Attest: Patricia Miller, OIHCD Board Secretary

5/18/2020