



**MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN NYE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**101 Radar Road, Tonopah, NV 89049**

**April 19, 2018**

**6:00 p.m.**

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Chairman Eason opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Ken Eason  
Vice-Chairman Cathie Clifford  
Secretary/Treasurer Justin Zimmerman  
Trustee Karmin Greber  
Trustee Roni Link  
Commissioner/Liaison Lorinda Wichman

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge was recited.

**2. Approval of the Agenda for April 19, 2018 (Non-action Item)**

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman said item 5 could be removed from the agenda.

**3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (Three-minute time limit per person.) Action will not be taken on the matters considered during this period until specifically included on an agenda as an action item (first).**

There was none.

**4. Announcements (first)**

Trustee Link advised the community paramedic started on Monday, which was her normal run day so she was able to work with her partner. The guys were scheduled four on and eight off, and since the schedule was so short she told the guys she would be their driver for the first two days of their tour up here. Trustee Link was looking forward to working with them because she could learn so much more.

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman invited everyone to the Renown open house on April 27, 2018, from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

#### **4. Announcements (first)-Cont'd.**

Trustee Greber said she received an invitation from Joe Westerlund for the Board to sponsor and support the national arm wrestling competition in Tonopah to be held May 27, 2018, in conjunction with Butler Days. She copied the letter, but did not include it in the agenda since she thought it was something to pass on to REMSA and Renown as it was a good opportunity to build community presence. She asked Chairman Eason if he wanted her to list it under item 6 for the future, which he agreed to since it would require a decision by the Board.

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman pointed out there was not enough time as he would like next month's meeting to not be on the third Wednesday as he was not available. An agenda item today was scheduling a meeting for the following week anyway so he was hoping to push it to May 24, 2018, which would cut that deadline.

Trustee Clifford mentioned that was not a good day either because of graduation.

Trustee Greber passed out copies of the invitation to the Board members.

#### **5. For Possible Action – Emergency Items**

This item was removed from the agenda.

#### **6. Trustees'/Liaison Comments (This item limited topics/issues proposed for future workshops/ agendas)**

Chairman Eason asked for an item on the next agenda to consider sponsorship for the arm wrestling association contest. Also, he advised the tax commission hearing would be on April 25, 2018, in Carson City to review the tentative budget for the fiscal year. Removing the Hospital District from the watch list would also be considered at that time. Chairman Eason was going to try to attend, but if not Commissioner Wichman would be at the meeting as well as Savannah Rucker.

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **7. For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation concerning a request to set a date, time and location for a Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 tentative budget for Northern Nye County Hospital District.**

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman explained per Assembly Bill 19 of the 2015 legislative session a public hearing on the tentative budget must be held no sooner than the third Monday in May and not later than the last day in May. His goal was to have a regular meeting on that day and have this on the agenda.

Trustee Clifford made a motion to hold the FY2018-2019 tentative budget meeting on May 21, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.; seconded by Trustee Greber; 5 yeas.

**7. For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation concerning a request to set a date, time and location for a Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 tentative budget for Northern Nye County Hospital District-Cont’d.**

Chairman Eason asked to have the sponsorship item on that agenda as well.

Trustee Clifford asked if the regular meeting would be held on that day also.

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman said that was his plan, but it would be determined under item 18.

**8. No Action – 1) Presentation of Renown Health’s February 2018 reconciliation package; and 2) update on the progress made by Renown Health and Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority regarding the implementation of services pursuant to the professional services agreements entered into on December 20th, 2017.**

Louis Mendiola from REMSA Community Health Services reviewed what they had done in the last month which had a great deal of emphasis on community outreach. Posters were put up in Smoky Valley, Carvers, Round Mountain, and Tonopah. A mailer dropped on April 2, 2018, followed by a joint direct mailer letter this week. They had also started developing their budget for the social media campaign. Advertisements and articles would be coming out in the local newspaper that would feature both the added services and a community invite to an open house on April 27, 2018, to be held at the old Nye Regional medical campus at the Renown clinic. They also had a public safety mixer on April 17, 2018, with the Tonopah volunteer fire department, EMS, and members from the departments in the Smoky Valley/Round Mountain area.

Mr. Mendiola further advised the second community paramedic would start tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. and be here for the subsequent four days. The nurse health line went live on February 15, 2018, and while the first month’s data showed fairly limited use he felt that was due to the information only being posted on Facebook and knew that number would increase as their efforts from a public outreach and marketing standpoint increased.

Chairman Eason asked when the paramedic made a run if that was a Nye County call or a REMSA call.

Mr. Mendiola explained the call would go out to both and the only time the paramedic served as the attendant on the ambulance was if the patient required advanced life support or if for some reason they needed additional assistance on the ambulance.

Chairman Eason asked who submitted the billing.

Mr. Mendiola said the County submitted the billing for all transport as it owned and operated the ambulance.

Chairman Eason asked if the charges were the same with or without a paramedic on board.

**8. No Action – 1) Presentation of Renown Health’s February 2018 reconciliation package; and 2) update on the progress made by Renown Health and Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority regarding the implementation of services pursuant to the professional services agreements entered into on December 20th, 2017-Cont’d.**

Mr. Mendiola advised the charge structure depended on the level of care provided, not the crew composition, and REMSA had nothing to do with the billing for services.

Jessica Thompson, representing Renown Medical Group, advised they still had two positions posted at the clinic. A few applications were submitted and they currently had two interviews scheduled for next week. She then addressed an invoice concern from February.

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman said it was a new line item on their reconciliation sheet for depreciation and the Hospital District was not paying that.

Mrs. Thompson then mentioned the open house on April 27, 2018, from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. which was being advertised on Facebook. Flyers were also going out and it was in the newspaper. Several entities were coming in like REMSA, Renown, and the Healthy Nevada Project. The local health nurse would also be there and demonstrations would be given on telemedicine.

Gary Beck from Renown asked the Board for recommendations on where to place the flyers about the open house. As far as what they would provide with REMSA next week, tours of an ambulance and care flight helicopter were planned. People would also be able to learn more about the REMSA nurse health line, meet community paramedics, explore REMSA’s outreach program, meet Renown’s on-site care team, and experience Renown telehealth with live demonstrations. Additionally, Hometown Health was bringing their RV down with staff and would have information about their health plans.

Mr. Beck discussed the Healthy Nevada Project sponsored by the Governor’s Office. He said there was an opportunity to enroll 40,000 northern Nevadans in the project. It was saliva testing, which provided information on genetic testing for factors involved in health issues. Of that 40,000, 10,000 was dedicated to rural Nevada. There would be no charge to anyone that came to the open house and enrolled in the genetic testing there. Mr. Beck added they had also committed to participating in Jim Butler Days.

Trustee Link asked if there was a Web site people could visit to learn more on the genetic testing.

Mrs. Thompson said there was a flyer specific to it with links on it which would be distributed.

Trustee Greber recommended posting at the grocery store and taking them to the schools.

Trustee Clifford said she was asked today what exactly the urgent care was.

**8. No Action – 1) Presentation of Renown Health’s February 2018 reconciliation package; and 2) update on the progress made by Renown Health and Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority regarding the implementation of services pursuant to the professional services agreements entered into on December 20th, 2017-Cont’d.**

Mrs. Thompson explained urgent care was for urgent needs like bumps, bruises, and minor injuries as they had x-ray available. Things they could not do would be what they could not physically do in the clinic like sutures, deformities and things like chest pain.

Trustee Link said one of the problems brought to her attention was on a Friday Chief Elliott had a problem and no one could be reached at the clinic because of the lack of telephone service.

Mrs. Thompson advised that on Friday one person worked alone so if she was with a patient she could not answer the phone. Also, if the internet was wavering at all the phones could cut out.

Chairman Eason suggested a cell phone for a secondary number.

Mrs. Thompson said they were waiting on the fiber line and once they linked onto that they should not have any more issues.

Trustee Link asked what lab work could be done.

Mrs. Thompson said what they could result out locally was point of care testing such as influenza, strep, A1C, pregnancy, among others.

Trustee Link said she posted the job openings on Facebook and someone reached out to her personally. She asked for a good link for Renown to send them directly to the job application site that she could post.

Secretary/Trustee Zimmerman said he posted that link on the Facebook page.

Mr. Beck advised they met with their recruiting department about a week and a half ago and said a diligent effort needed to be made to find a provider here. They subsequently met with the medical group leadership to come up with the parameters of what was being looked for. He said he would be involved with that as well and had worked closely with the recruiter.

**9. For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation to consider development of a logo for the Northern Nye County Hospital District to include by not limited to public participation by means of a contest or other appropriate platform as determined.**

Trustee Clifford said they gave everyone a copy of what they were going to put in the flyer. It would be a \$300.00 prize for whichever logo the Board accepted. The flyer would mention the approximate size wanted and they would be printed on colored paper so they would stand out in the places they were posted. The deadline for submission was May 30, 2018.

**9. For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation to consider development of a logo for the Northern Nye County Hospital District to include by not limited to public participation by means of a contest or other appropriate platform as determined-Cont'd.**

Trustee Link asked if the decision was to keep it between sixth and twelfth graders then, which Trustee Clifford confirmed.

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman asked if the intention was to limit it to school age kids and then make a final determination exclusively on that. If so, he personally would like a contingency policy just in case the Board did not like what was received.

Trustee Clifford suggested setting a date by which if so many had not been received then it could be opened up to everyone.

Trustee Greber thought the contingency would be the Board was not obligated to select from that pool.

Trustee Link said the original intent was a scholarship type of thing, but if there were no responses then a contingency was needed.

Trustee Clifford made a motion to accept the brochure as written with a contingency plan of allowing all the public to participate if at least 25 entries from the sixth to twelfth grades were not received by May 15, 2018.

Trustee Greber felt that was a lot of entrants.

Trustee Clifford amended her motion to include a cash prize for the winning entry of \$300.00 to be awarded at a future meeting; seconded by Trustee Greber; 5 yeas.

**10. No Action – Discussion concerning ongoing negotiations with health care providers for a physical presence on the medical campus.**

Chairman Eason referred back to earlier discussions held by the Board about having other medical services at the facility such as dental in the same area as the campus along with a chiropractor. He felt if that was centralized they could assist each other in getting people to come to that area. He said he had a conversation with at least one other person that would like to use the facility if it was available.

Trustee Clifford asked if people were being referred to Renown since Renown leased the clinic building and she thought the final say would be with Renown.

Trustee Greber pointed out their lease did allow for other agencies and the Board was permitted to solicit a variety of ancillary services and to direct them through the lease process with the County. She asked then if the ongoing negotiations did not include a clinician or nurse practitioner in the clinic or if Chairman Eason was just referring to the hospital proper.

**10. No Action – Discussion concerning ongoing negotiations with health care providers for a physical presence on the medical campus-Cont'd.**

Chairman Eason said he was talking about the campus and the large building sitting empty. He also thought the Board was concentrating on Renown while there were other things out there that would help the medical campus.

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman referred back to the discussion at last month's meeting about mid-level providers and doctors who had expressed interest. There was a lot of hopeful dialogue, but those negotiations were over. One was unaware of what the situation really was and did not have the resources when he was informed. The other was asking for an astronomical amount of money to come up and offer a single FTE for more than twice what Renown was paying a provider.

Trustee Greber clarified that the one who asked for so much money was actually twice what Renown bid in the proposal. She then suggested asking the stakeholders for other avenues to obtain funding. She hoped the negotiations would not stop with the current bid that Renown could offer them as a salary noting the extreme location factor.

Chairman Eason thought more talk was needed about the emergency side of the whole thing. The clinic was talked about 95% of the time, but the ideal provider would be one that could do both clinic and some emergency. He felt the providers out there would eventually come once certain things were pinned down about the facility and he would like an agenda item each month on this subject.

Trustee Greber noted the Board had been saying from the beginning that it did not have a facility to provide yet. That was completely beyond the Board's control and it was frustrating. She wanted to continue soliciting proposals rather than remaining in limbo indefinitely. She also wanted to go on the record that the Board's piece was the operation and the infrastructure was out of its hands.

Chairman Eason noted there were grants available also.

**11. No Action – Update on the process of soliciting proposals for a consultant to perform a survey of requirements for certification of the medical campus.**

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman said there were portfolios from two of the architectural firms he contacted in the back-up. He did receive a proposal from the first one and the second one came up and offered a no cost/no obligation meeting and walk through of the facility to develop their proposal from. The overall feel after that meeting with KGA was the hospital itself was not in as bad of shape as the Board thought it was. The other thing they expressed was a lot of the money put into the building already for the specific services where they were would still be a viable investment. One issue though was the faux walls which were not up to code.

Chairman Eason said another issue was trying to avoid some of the environmental problems. They probably did not want to penetrate into certain areas because of asbestos.

**11. No Action – Update on the process of soliciting proposals for a consultant to perform a survey of requirements for certification of the medical campus-Cont’d.**

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman said Renown was working with their regular company as well and all three were to submit proposals that he would bring to the Board. One thing he learned and did not like was the architects that came here pointed out NRS 625.530, restrictions upon public works and preferences for contracts. Subsection 3 of that NRS read the selection of a professional engineer, professional land surveyor or registered architect to perform services pursuant to subsection 1, which specified a public body like this Board, must be made on the basis of the competence and qualification of the engineer, land surveyor or architect for the type of services to be performed and not on the basis of competitive fees. That meant costs would not be received from any of the companies until one was chosen to move forward with. Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman advised if the Board chose to move forward with one and got a number it could not work with it could leave them and move onto another.

Chairman Eason asked that this item remain on future agendas for review and updates.

Beth Ennis, the Community Health Nurse in Tonopah, said she was speaking for herself and was interested in other uses available on the campus. She told the Board about the dental van that was in town last week and how 25 people took advantage of the service. She was talking to Dr. Antonina Capurro from the State Oral Health Office, who said they knew there used to be dental in the clinic and thought they could bring a dental hygienist in. Ms. Ennis said there was also some contact with the School of Medicine as medical students were looking for rural placement rotations for experience.

**12. No Action – Discussion relating to the District’s social media page.**

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman said this was a meeting he set up with Arnold Knightly and Trustee Link. They revamped the District’s page and there was now a page for official communication and a group page for discussion.

Arnold Knightly, County Public Information Officer, displayed the page for the Board and talked about the benefits of social media.

Trustee Link commented that at first she wondered what the meeting was going to be about, but she was glad and grateful someone had reached out to help her with the social media aspect of things.

**13. For Possible Action – Approval of invoices for payment.**

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman said the only invoices were from Renown and REMSA. He noted the Renown invoice was for the full amount including the depreciation because of posting requirements, but that would be credited back on next month’s invoice.

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman made a motion to approve; seconded by Trustee Greber; 5 yeas.

**14. No Action – Update on the current status of the fiscal year 2017-2018 budget.**

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman said the reports were updated to show the two expenditures just discussed. He noted the revenues looked a little bad right now for this year, but net proceeds would come in May which he thought would be a significant boost.

**15. For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation of the minutes from the March 30, 2018 teleconference.**

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman made a motion to approve; seconded by Trustee Clifford; 5 yeas.

**16. No Action – Open meeting law review.**

There was no discussion on this item.

**17. No Action – Update on the status of the United States Trustee contract to secure and distribute the medical records currently housed on the medical campus.**

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman said he found out yesterday that Lorina Dellinger would not be present to provide the update and he did not get it from her. He will put it on the next meeting and make sure he gets it if she would not be able to attend again.

**18. For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation to set the next meeting location, time and date.**

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman made a motion to set the next meeting for May 21, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. in chambers; seconded by Trustee Greber; 5 yeas.

**19. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (second)**

Horace Carlyle expressed concern with cost control and suggested setting a policy and putting it on Facebook about air flight and medical transport and the individual's responsibility for the same.

**20. ANNOUNCEMENTS (second)**

Trustee Link asked Community Paramedic Sark Aerick to talk about their trip to Bishop.

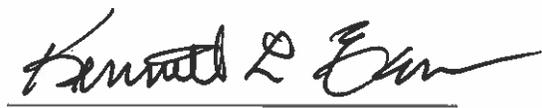
Mr. Aerick said yesterday evening they transported into a Bishop hospital where he met the charge nurse and ER manager. They talked about the rumors and misinformation that they were hearing. She was happy to hear about REMSA's participation and assistance in Tonopah.

Trustee Link added she was surprised at how much misinformation was there and was glad to be able to rectify some of that.

**21. ADJOURN**

Chairman Eason adjourned the meeting.

Approved this 21<sup>st</sup> day of June 2018.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth L. Eason", written over a horizontal line.

Chair