

Minutes for PEHPC Board Meeting
January 27, 2025
Approved March 24, 2025

People present at the meeting: Dave Schmitt, Chairperson; Pam Taylor, Vice-Chairperson and Treasurer; Betsy Greenman, Secretary; Debbie Pautsch, Member at Large; Terra Lewis, Clinic Administrator

Call to Order: Dave Schmitt, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Changes to the Agenda: There were none.

Approval of the minutes of the PEHPC Board meeting, December 10, 2024: Dave had two editorial edits which will be incorporated into the minutes. Pam moved, Debbie seconded that the minutes be approved as edited. Vote was 4-0, passed unanimously.

Correspondence and public input: There was no correspondence or public input.

Ambulance Report Dana Simrell was not available for this meeting. The report will be combined in the February agenda.

Clinic Administrator's Report Terra Lewis:

Report/update on Community Health Worker Position; Terra reported that even though Sam was accepted into the program, with the upcoming May ballot tax measure it does not make sense to start anything new, especially because it involves training. The Board agreed that this initiative be put on hold until we know the results of the May ballot measure.

Encounters in December: Dr. Defrees saw 12 patients; Dr. Smithson saw 8; and Kate averaged 11.

Terra said that the Humana Medicare Advantage program was no longer being accepted at St. Alphonsus and was never accepted in La Grande. This means both hospitals are now "out of network" which imposes more out of pocket payment. Many of our patients have that particular insurance. Terra and the staff are trying to find work-arounds to assist with this situation.

IRS did not receive 2020 taxes. Terra forwarded the info to our accountant who had filed that year electronically.

Terra is working with the wrap payments with Oregon Health Plan. That's the gap between what they pay and what they are supposed to. Also working with the upcoming cost report.

Committees:

Finance- Review and approve 2025 budgets; The DAFT budgets for 2025 for the Pine Eagle Clinic, the Halfway-Oxbow Ambulance and the Building were unanimously approved, 4-0, by motion made by Betsy, seconded by Pam.

Personnel - proposal for staff time and funding; Betsy and Terra talked about the proposal for giving the staff an additional week of vacation per year. At this time the staff have one week of Personal Time Off which includes illness, emergencies, vacation. The proposal is to add a week, making two weeks per year. One week would start at the beginning of each calendar year. The second week would accrue as it does currently during the year. One week may be carried over into the next calendar year. Pam moved, Betsy seconded, that this week be added to staff benefits retroactive to January 2025. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Additional retroactive pay proposal will wait until after we know about the funding from the ballot measure.

The Board requested that the staff be informed of this benefit. (subsequently, Dave requested that we hold off on this communication until after the Policy discussion at the February meeting. The Board agreed via e-mail)

Policy - Dave will take a look at updating the policy to add this additional week.

Building

Clinic front door project update - Dave's conversation with Larry; Larry promised the drawing, which we do not have. We decided to contact other builders for proposals. Dave will ask Larry to get us the drawing and rough estimate. Terra will talk with Eric Waller, Dave will talk with Joe Akers. Terra will call Donny Higgins. If anyone knows of a contractor feel free to contact them and request a concept drawing and rough estimate by the February 24, meeting.

Conference room door to electrical room; the permit is in hand. There is one part, a break-out bar, on order. When that arrives construction can start.

Old Business

Open Board Position update: Pam spoke with Jenna, provided info, but Jenna called to say she was not interested. Election time Judy Sanders said come back to her. Chris (Jacob's Dream) might also be a possibility.

Steve Bachman contract is signed and he is using the building. Dave will remove the other chair.

Terra is putting 'opaque' film on the door and perhaps the window. He is using the desk so we can leave it there.

New Business

Report from Pine Eagle Health District: money, May Tax Levy: There seems to be confusion about the timing of payments made in 2023 and 2024. Terra and Betsy will work with the District Board to clarify budget years and fiscal years and timing of payments.

Knowing that the levy is up for election we need to think ahead, just in case. Terra suggests we look into being part of the National Health Service. This eventually could be a resource for us. We need to go through to see if it is current and what we might need to do to be part of it. There are also large organizations that would do immediate funding but we would then have breathing space to find additional sources of funding.

Suggestion to have Betsy mention the upcoming measure in the Hells Canyon Journal summary. Also, closer to May perhaps there could be letters to the editor. Terra mentioned that one of the areas of contention is that the Clinic is not a walk-in clinic.

Betsy will check with Linda on Language.

Terra will check on the level of donations over the last couple of years.

Perhaps along the way we could inform folks about some of the costs, such as liability insurance. The current levy money covers what it costs for the provider.

Board Member Comment; there were none.

Next Meeting - February 24, 2025

Meeting adjourned at 6:57PM

Topics for next meeting

- Clinic front door proposal

- Report back from conversation with Health District

- Policy regarding additional week for staff