

# **CITY-COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES**

## **Monthly Board Meeting**

**March 18, 2015**

**PRESENT:** Sharon Buhr, Chair  
Dr. James Buhr, Secretary  
Tom Overn, Vice Chair  
Cindy Schwehr (left @ 5:20 p.m.)

**ABSENT:** Madeline Luke

**ALSO PRESENT:** Theresa Will, RN, Director  
Angie Martin, Office Manager  
Carl Martineck, BC States Attorney  
Scott Miller, BC Ambulance  
Debbie Miller, BC Ambulance  
Sherm Severson, F-M Ambulance

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m. by Sharon Buhr, Chair, in the County Commission room in the Barnes County Courthouse.

**AGENDA:** Agenda approved as printed.

**MINUTES:** Overn made a motion to approve the minutes of the Feb. 19 regular monthly meeting. Second by Schwehr. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Reviewed.

**VOUCHERED EXPENSES:** Will noted that since CCHD's bills have to be paid through the county, moving the Board meeting date would not ease the approval process regarding bills that need to be paid between meetings (such as utility, telephone, vaccine purchases, etc.). Dr. Buhr made a motion to approve the March/April voucherred expenses. Second by Overn. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Reviewed.

**OLD BUSINESS:** There was nothing new to report regarding the Barnes OTM Partnership.

CCHD facilities update: Will reported that the asbestos in the tunnel area has now been removed. It only took 1 1/2 to 2 days to complete the job. Will talked with Derek Hall, Waste Management Division of the ND Department of Health, and he was surprised since they don't have a signed contract yet with Trio Environmental Consulting, who removed the asbestos. Will stated that the exact cost of the asbestos removal project is unknown to her at this time, but it should be under \$25,000. Had bids gone over that amount, it would have taken more time for the process.

*(Bobbi Hepper Olson, Architect, joined the meeting by phone at this time.)*

Carl Martineck, Barnes County States Attorney, joined the meeting in regards to lack of a \$5,000 contingency fund being included in Bakkegard & Schell's mechanical bid, a requirement spelled out in the bid book and addendum, and bidders were also reminded verbally of this clause at the pre-bid meeting. This omission was not caught by the

architect until Bakkegard & Schell's first pay request was submitted. Bakkegard & Schell owners had signed the contract that stated they had included the \$5,000 contingency fund in their bid. It was noted that Bakkegard & Schell was the only bidder for the mechanical portion of the CCHD building project, so this omission did not unfairly affect the outcome of the bidding process for this portion. Hepper Olson stated that Bakkegard & Schell may ask forgiveness of this oversight, but have not done so yet. Board members questioned what action they needed to take, the ramifications, and if there was no change in the bottom line regarding cost to CCHD would it not be better to forgive the omission. Hepper Olson was concerned that if the Health Board forgives this omission, the other contractors could also potentially seek forgiveness regarding contingency funds, and this could ultimately end up costing CCHD as much as \$15,000 (later in the meeting Hepper Olson clarified her statement regarding the other contractors as she already has their documentation in hand and they won't seek forgiveness). In his legal opinion, stated Martineck, the contract is solid and it is up to the Board how they want to proceed. He reminded the Board that as a public entity they would be under scrutiny. He suggested delaying a decision until the Board talks with Bakkegard & Schell owners, and have them provide documentation. Tabled until April monthly meeting.

*(Moved ahead to New Business: Community paramedics topic at this point.)*

NEW BUSINESS: Scott Miller, Barnes County Ambulance, and Sherm Severson, F-M Ambulance, addressed the Board regarding the community paramedic program. F-M Ambulance is serving as a state pilot project for this program through the ND Department of Health. They are currently in the middle of this program and they are beginning to extend out into other communities now (Valley City/Barnes County doesn't currently offer this program). The community paramedics program is dependent on a community health needs assessment and then paramedics fill gaps. This program targets people who don't qualify for home health, but who have chronic medical conditions and no other health care access. Many are on Medicaid. Approval for reimbursement for this program has only passed one branch in the ND Legislature and is pending in the other. There is currently no reimbursement for this program, and there won't be much funding if it does pass in the legislature. F-M Ambulance (subsidiary of Sanford Health) will lose money for two years or more, but they are seeing huge benefits. Both Sanford and Essentia have a community paramedic program. Often see high-frequency users. Seeing more people using ambulance services for OB deliveries. F-M Ambulance is currently seeing two clients in Valley City. Severson would prefer to work with BC Ambulance rather than driving here from Fargo (don't want to duplicate services). Board encouraged communicating with local agencies such as CCHD to see if services were available for individuals. All agreed there needs to be collaboration. Medicaid and MA Expansion do not pay for community paramedic services. Insurance carriers are reaching out to community paramedics to hold down costs. Behavioral health is big issue.

*(Returned to Old Business: CCHD facilities update)*

OLD BUSINESS: Will asked Board if she can go to Overn concerning building issues while Buhrs are in India, and can he make decisions with Will, up to \$2,000, if something comes up (stand-in for Sharon Buhr)? Consensus of Board was yes.

There was a change order for \$315 for occupancy sensors (Enterprise Electric) that was approved by Will and Sharon Buhr.

Will briefly discussed the tile floor in the reception area. The old tile by the south door that said FCCU on it is partially exposed under the reception desk. Will discuss options at construction meeting Thursday. Mats were discussed (plain \$500/w-CCHD logo \$1,000). Is there a more permanent fix? Overn suggested asking BC Commissioner Mike Metcalf for suggestions.

SPF SIG: Nothing to report this month.

Tobacco/e-cig ordinance: Madeline Luke requested Will attend a meeting on March 19. Will was uncertain as to the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting will be **Tuesday, April 28 at 3:30 p.m.** in the Commission room (unless CCHD has moved to new building by this time).

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. James Buhr, Secretary