

**Garfield County Public Hospital District No. 1**  
**Board of Commissioners**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting:**  
Remote Zoom Meeting

**Monday, April 6, 2020**

**Board Attending Remotely:** Cindy Wolf, Chris Herres, Jen Dixon, Steven Cannon and Mike Field.

**Staff Attending:** Jayd Keener, Mat Slaybaugh and Caroline Moore.

**Staff Attending Remotely:**

**Public Attending Remotely:** Connie Boyer, Martha Lanman and Tammi Bragg

**Meeting Called to Order:** 6:00 p.m.

**Conflict of Interest Statement:** None.

**Consent Agenda:**

- Board of Commissioners Regular Minutes (03/02/2020)
- Board of Commissioners Special Minutes (03/17/20)
- AP Vouchers 403715 – 403871 (02/25/20) – (03/25/20)
- Payroll Vouchers 50700 – 50701 (03/05/20) – (04/03/20)
- Finance Committee Minutes (03/30/2020)

*Motion was made to approve consent agenda as presented  
Moved by Chris Herres and seconded by Steve Cannon  
Motion approved & passed by vote*

**Old Business:**

**1. Allevant**

The District's attorney, the Executive Vice President of Allevant and their legal counsel are reviewing for one minor change made to the contract and then it will be ready to sign. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the start date for this program will be extended until June.

**2. HVAC Grant Update**

The Department of Commerce has approved the application for the \$250,000 legislative grant and the contract was sent for the District's attorney to review. An August start date has been proposed to begin work. Another grant that has been submitted for the same project is the Washington Rural Facilities Capital Grants Partnership through Premera and Empire Health Foundation for \$100,000.

**New Business:**

**1. New Grants**

Currently the M.J. Murdock Trust application is in the process. The District will apply for two more grants from the Lewis-Clark Valley Healthcare Foundation's Large Impact Grant for \$75,000 and Fast Track Grant for \$10,000 to help with the necessary supplies that have been purchased towards COVID-19 Response. A grant from the Washington State Healthcare Authority for \$143,000 was received to assist with the District's COVID-19 Response that was given to several rural at-risk critical access hospitals across the state. The Washington Department of Health also informed the District they will be receiving \$90,000 from the federal

Small Rural Hospital Improvement Grant for COVID-19 Response. Another grant was recently received from the Greater Columbia Accountable Community of Health for \$5,800 for equipment and software to offer telehealth visits at Pomeroy Medical Clinic.

The Paycheck Protection Loan was made available to hospitals and the District applied for this for \$780,000 that is part of the Care's Act. This loan will be forgiven if proof can be identified that the money was used for the allowable costs for payroll and the number of employees remained the same for six months. It is unsure if public hospitals are eligible for this but the Association of Washington Public District and Washington State Hospital Association are working hard to push this through. The District's CFO is working on the Advanced Payment Program through Medicare that is part of the Care's Act. Medicare will pay upfront the money projected for the year to help with cash flow due to COVID-19 Response.

## **2. COVID-19 Update**

In preparation for the COVID-19 Response, the District has been working diligently to prepare the hospital and clinic for screening processes and testing. Acute Medicare stays has increased to five. Clinic, radiology, and lab volumes are down significantly due COVID-19 restrictions and postponement of annual/wellness visits. Phone visits, when appropriate, are being done. Several labs have been performed for potential COVID-19 tests and a trailer is stationed in the hospital parking lot for this. Car testing has been approved as well. Screening for staff is performed twice a day and outpatient and vendors are done upon entering and leaving the facilities. A shipment of collection kits is expected to arrive. Bi-weekly counts are done for personal protective equipment in-house. Supplies are limited and weekly orders are submitted through the Garfield County Emergency Management. The District is in contact with Public Health several times a week and COVID-related webinars are attended 6-7 days a week. Continual education is offered for staff. The CDC has approved homemade masks to be worn in public but homemade masks have not been approved to wear in a hospital setting.

### **Committee Reports**

- **Finance Committee Meeting** – Steven Cannon

Day's cash-on-hand has increased to 88. Financial comparisons of 2019 and 2020 of professional fees and net are relatively the same year-to-year. FEMA funds are being researched by the CFO. All COVID-19-related work by staff is being recorded to recoup the FEMA money once the criteria has been established. Hazard Pay is also being researched but the District has not made an official decision on this.

- **Governance** – Cindy Wolf

The Non-Profit Conference in Lewiston, Idaho was attended by the President of the Board. Information was given how to collaborate with other entities within the community for grants and specifically how to structure and apply for grant applications. Several other grants were mentioned that will be coming available. Innovia Foundation has requested a survey be filled out to better accommodate for future grants. Currently there are many webinars available on COVID-19 updates through MRSC.

- **Co-CEO Report** – Mat Slaybaugh and Jayd Keener

Three new providers have officially begun working at the hospital and clinic. The District will be enrolled in the 340b Pharmacy Program starting Wednesday, April 9, 2020 and the start date will be in July 2020. The Pomeroy Pharmacy is also in partner with this program. The levy election will be held on April 28, 2020. The ballots will be mailed out on April 10 and will need to be received by April 28, 2020. A levy mailer was sent out on March 27, 2020 to Garfield County community members. Town hall meetings have been cancelled but the public can submit questions/concerns via email, Facebook (FB) or call the hospital at 509-843-1591. A list of individuals and businesses that have donated items to help with the COVID-19 supplies is being tracked. The District will recognize them with "thank you" cards and FB acknowledgements for their generous giving.

**Public Comment:**

The Garfield County Public Health District Administrator stated 16 patients have been tested, 14 negative with 2 pending. Garfield and one other county have zero positives. The FEMA funds for our county are being submitted through the Garfield County Emergency Management. The Innovia Foundation met and Pomeroy Assist will be helping with some rental assistance, power, water/sewage/garbage for individuals in our community. Masks for the community are being donated and Public Health will be getting these to individuals that are in need. Abbot testing points of care have been approved and 15 are being sent throughout the state. The positive tests take 5 minutes and the negative tests take 13 minutes. Two will be left at DOH and 2 to a civilian support team for cluster-testing. The closest Abbot Test Centers will be in Benton and Franklin Counties. Home-testing kits will be ready in the summer of 2020.

A public comment from the Board expressed how appreciative they are of all the support and assistance that has been offered from the Garfield County Public Health District and for the very informative communication between the hospital and the community.

A public comment was asked who the other providers are that have recently been hired besides Dr. Iacobelli.  
REPLY: Josh Mayfield, PA-C, and Courtney Travis, ARNP.

A public comment was asked to get additional information on the grants that were talked about earlier.  
REPLY: An offer was made to call or email the hospital tomorrow for additional information.

**Regular Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.**

**Executive Session was called to order at 6:45 p.m. for 15 minutes.**

RCW 42.30.110 (1) (g) to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee.

**Executive Session adjourned at 7:00 p.m.**

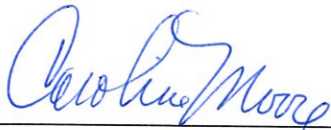
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Cindy Wolf, President

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Chris Herres, Secretary

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Jen Dixon, Commissioner

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Steve Cannon, Commissioner

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Mike Field, Commissioner



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Caroline Moore, Executive Administrative Assistant,  
on behalf of GCHD Board of Commissioners

Approved by emails on May 7, 2020