

BENEWAH COMMUNITY HOSPITAL  
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, December 21, 2021, 7:30 a.m.  
Francie Walters Board Room, Benewah Community Hospital, St. Maries, Idaho

MINUTES

Attendees:	Carol Humphrey Dan Hammes Richard Schumacker	Mike LaPlante Ron Hodge	Peggy Cuvala Dave Cox
Staff:	Chuck Lloyd Rachel Ewert	Lori Minier Dr. Cooper Wester	Rebecca Plante
Other:	Phil Lampert, County Commissioner		

**1. Call to Order** – Chairman Humphrey opened the meeting at 7:37 a.m.

Humphrey requested a motion to amend the agenda to add action item #7.2. Dr. Robert Conroy Contract. A **motion** made by Hodge, second Cuvala, to approve amending the agenda, adding #7.2 Dr. Robert Conroy Contract for action. The motion passed.

Reason for amending agenda: Administration had a phone call with Dr. Conroy yesterday to discuss a PRN Independent Contractor Agreement and came to terms on a contract.

**2. Regular Session**

**3. Approve Minutes** – A **motion** made by Hodge, second by Cuvala, to approve the meeting minutes November 24, 2021, December 7, 2021, and December 14, 2021. The motion passed.

**4. Open Forum/Visitors** – Humphrey introduced Dr. Cooper Wester, 2022 Chief of Staff. Lampert expressed his appreciation from the Commissioners for the \$705,000 recently put into the bond fund; they appreciate BCH getting closer to one full year in reserves. Lloyd stated that as of yesterday, we will no longer be offering Pediatric Dental surgery at this time due to the Pediatric Dental Surgeon no longer affiliated with Marimn Health. Lloyd spoke with the CEO at Marimn to let him know our OR is still available if they hire a new provider; discussion followed. Discussion regarding the OSHA COVID vaccine mandate. Lloyd reported that KH is transitioning from their contracted ER group to employed providers; discussion followed. Humphrey asked the Board members to arrange for pickup of their Board packets each month.

**5. Board Committee Reports**

**5.1. Performance Improvement Committee** – Schumacker stated that the PI committee did not meet this month.

**5.2. Finance Committee** – Hammes stated that the finance report was given in the Finance Committee meeting prior to the Board meeting. The Finance Committee will be looking at the capital budget next month.

5.2.1. **November Financials** – A **motion** made by Hammes, second by Cox, to approve the November Financials. The motion passed.

### 5.3. **Board Nominations and Bylaws/Policy Committee**

5.3.1. **2022 Governing Board Officers** – Cox stated that as discussed last month, the Committee has recommended we move forward with current Board officers for 2022. A **motion** made by Cox, second by Cuvala, to approve the 2022 Governing Board Officers as presented. The motion passed.

5.3.2. **Governing Board Bylaws Annual Review** –The Board has had time to review the Bylaws; no requested changes at this time. A **motion** made by Cox, second by Hammes, to approve the Governing Board Bylaws annual review with no changes. The motion passed.

5.4. **Medical Staff Committee** – Hodge stated that he had nothing to add to Plante’s Medical Staff report.

## 6. **Medical Staff**

### 6.1. **Initial Appointments**

6.1.1. **Gregg Schellack** – Dr. Wester stated that the Medical Staff approved Dr. Gregg Schellack’s initial appointment to the Medical Staff at their December meeting. A **motion** made by Hammes, second by Cox, to approve Dr. Schellack’s initial appointment to the Medical Staff. The motion passed.

6.1.2. **Albert Merritt, CRNA** – Dr. Wester stated that CRNA Albert Merritt will be filling in until our new CRNA starts in March. The Medical Staff approved CRNA Albert Merritt’s file at their December meeting. A **motion** made by Hodge, second by Hammes, to approve Albert Merritt’s initial appointment to the Medical Staff. The motion passed.

## 7. **Contracts**

7.1. **Rebekah Myers, FNP, Amendment** –Minier stated that Rebekah Myers would like to move to part-time beginning January 2022. Rebekah’s contract will also be renewed in March. A **motion** made by Cuvala, second by Hammes, to approve the contract amendment for Rebekah Myers, FNP. The motion passed.

7.2. **Robert Conroy, MD Contract** – Minier stated that Dr. Conroy has agreed to a temporary agreement, working 14-20 days per month. A **motion** made by Cuvala, second by Hammes, to approve the Independent Contractor Agreement for General Surgeon Dr. Robert Conroy. The motion passed.

8. **Administrative Reports/Questions** – The Board and Administration had conversations regarding the following items: Supply inventory and Materials Management, Chemotherapy staff transition, wound care, preference cards for Orthopedics, and the process of patient transfers when hospitals are at capacity. Lampert added that he hopes to see the hospital break even in the near future. Discussion regarding the Nurse pinning at NIC as well as becoming a clinical sight for NIC starting in the Spring. Humphrey added that Nancy Wolff will be retiring at the end of the year.

## 9. **Follow-Up Items**

9.1. **COVID Update** – Humphrey expressed her appreciation for Ewert. Ewert stated that our COVID numbers are going down. We had five total positive COVID tests last week with a weekly positivity rate of 6%. We are testing less than ten people a day usually. We have treated a few

more COVID inpatients this last month, and we are still having major struggles transferring patients.

**10. Communications**

**10.1. IHA Updates** – Cuvala attended a recent IHA meeting. IHA is looking to transition to a three year membership renewal process instead of renewing every single year. At this meeting, the No Surprise Act (talking with patients upfront about what their bills may be) was discussed at length. Cuvala forwarded some information from AHA to Administration. The legislative session will be starting in three weeks, and one of the goals is to bring people in that can provide scientific, medical information before decisions are made.

**10.2. BetterCARE Update** – Hodge stated that BetterCARE has not met recently.

**10.3. KH Symposium** – Plante stated that all Board members should have received an invitation to the KH Symposium in January. If you plan on attending, please let Plante know so she can RSVP for BCH as a group. This years’ focus is on Board education.

**11. Executive Session**

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At 8:24 a.m., a **motion** made by LaPlante, second by Cox, to adjourn into executive session per Idaho Code 74-206(1)(b) Personnel and Idaho Code 74-206(1)(j) Provider Contract & Other Contract Manners. Roll Call Vote: All ayes. The motion passed.

*Present at this time: Humphrey, LaPlante, Cuvala, Schumacker, Hodge, Hammes, Cox, Lloyd, Minier, Ewert, Plante, Wester and Lampert.*

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*Ewert, Plante and Wester exited at 8:24 a.m.*

*Schumacker exited at 8:45 a.m.*

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by:

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Rebecca Plante, Board Secretary

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Carol Humphrey, Board Chairman