

BENEWAH COMMUNITY HOSPITAL  
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING  
Thursday, February 24, 2022, 7:30 a.m.  
Francie Walters Board Room, Benewah Community Hospital, St. Maries, Idaho

MINUTES

Attendees:	Carol Humphrey Dan Hammes	Mike LaPlante Ron Hodge	Peggy Cuvala Dave Cox
Staff:	Chuck Lloyd Dr. Cooper Wester	Lori Minier	Rachel Ewert
Other:	Phil Lampert, County Commissioner Robert Gonzales and Jonathan Oladitan, Cerner		

**1. Call to Order** – Chairman Humphrey opened the meeting at 7:51 a.m.

**2. Regular Session**

Humphrey requested the Board amend the agenda to add an action item under Finance Committee.

A **motion** made by Hammes, second by LaPlante, to amend the agenda to add action item 5.2.7.

Anesthesia Machine. The motion passed.

*Reason item was not on current agenda:* It was brought to Administration’s attention that the existing Anesthesia machine greatly needs replacement for patient care/outcomes. Purchasing a new Anesthesia machine would be better use of funds than the purchase of a new OR table.

**3. Approve Minutes** – A **motion** made by Hodge, second by LaPlante, to approve the meeting minutes from January 27, 2022 and February 8, 2022. The motion passed.

**4. Open Forum/Visitors** – The Board welcomed Robert Gonzales and Jonathan Oladitan “J.O.” from Cerner. J.O. will be taking over as our Cerner Account Representative. Discussions followed. *Gonzales and Oladitan exited at 8:03 a.m.*

**5. Board Committee Reports**

**5.1. Performance Improvement Committee** – Schumacker stated that the PI committee has not met (next quarterly meeting: April 12, 2022).

**5.2. Finance Committee** – Hammes stated that the finance report was given in the Finance Committee meeting prior to the Board meeting.

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

**5.2.2. 2022 Budget** – A **motion** made by Hammes, second by LaPlante, to approve the 2022 Budget, to include a 3% cost of living adjustment and a 3% increase in all charges. The motion passed.

**5.2.3. UVC Disinfection Robot** – A **motion** made by Hammes, second by Cox, to approve the purchase of the UVC Disinfection Robot. The motion passed.

- 5.2.4. **OR Table** – Item tabled (*it was determined that purchasing a new anesthesia machine was higher priority than a new OR table for patient safety purposes*).
- 5.2.5. **COVID Testing Machine** – A **motion** made by Hammes, second by Cox, to approve the purchase of a COVID Testing Machine. The motion passed.
- 5.2.6. **IHA Dues** – A **motion** made by Cuvala, second by LaPlante, to approve the 2022 IHA Dues. The motion passed.
- 5.2.7. **Anesthesia Machine** – A **motion** made by Hammes, second by Cox, to approve the purchase of the Anesthesia Machine. The motion passed.

**5.3. Board Nominations and Bylaws/Policy Committee** – Cox stated that the BNPB Committee has not met. Cox requested Administration send the Board information on how to login to PolicyTech.

**5.4. Medical Staff Committee** – Hodge gave the following report from the February Medical Staff meeting: Dr. Conroy will be providing General Surgery Coverage while Dr. Wheeler is out. He is also available for phone consultation when he is not available onsite. Dr. Schellack informed the providers about the foot and ankle services he provides. At the meeting, Lloyd informed the Medical Staff on accommodations for unvaccinated staff with the CMS vaccine mandate, the Vitalant blood drive onsite at BCH in March, the GE Ultrasound that was approved and ordered, Rebekah Myers, FNP going to 3-days a week in clinic, and rapid tests ordered through the Rural Health Clinic.

**6. Medical Staff** – Dr. Wester stated that he has no comments or issues to bring forward from the Medical Staff.

**6.1. Initial Appointments**

- 6.1.1. **Robert Conroy, MD** – Dr. Wester stated that Dr. Conroy’s file was approved by the Medical Staff at their February meeting, pending his DEA with an Idaho address and his Idaho Board of Pharmacy Controlled Substance Registration. Other than these two items, Dr. Conroy’s file is complete with no concerns. A **motion** made by Hodge, second by Cuvala, to approve the Initial appointment of Dr. Robert Conroy, pending receipt of his DEA with Idaho address and IDBOP CSR. The motion passed.
- 6.1.2. **Casey Johnson, CRNA** – Dr. Wester stated that CRNA Casey Johnson’s file was approved by the Medical Staff at their February meeting and is complete with no concerns. A **motion** made by Hodge, second by Cuvala, to approve the initial appointment of CRNA Casey Johnson. The motion passed.

**7. Contracts** – No contracts currently.

**8. Administrative Reports/Questions** – The Board and Administration had conversations regarding the following items: Ultrasound services, “Work of Heart” scholarship presentation at Rotary requesting support, FEMA RNs (unable to utilize due to lack of appropriate experience), two night-shift RN travelers coming with one day-shift traveler interview coming up, potential for growth in swing bed program with additional nursing staff, recent legislative vote “no” for 10 rural Idaho Nurses loan repayment program. Ewert reported that our two CNA scholarship recipients currently working towards their RN are doing great with their prerequisites. Discussion regarding transfers and Ortho cases. Our new Chemo Nurse passed her Chemo certification course and is now working with Dr. Bartels’ office to get our patients back.

**9. Follow-Up Items**

**9.1. COVID Update** – Ewert reported that COVID cases are declining. We had two COVID inpatients in January and one COVID transfer. We now have two options for employees to test: rapid home tests or the send-out saliva tests. Kootenai Health went from having 90+ COVID inpatients to 40 this last week. We continue to struggle with patient transfers due to beds/staffing.

**10. Communications**

**10.1. IHA Updates** – Cuvala stated that the most recent IHA meeting was great. Cuvala added that 40 pieces of legislation currently in the house are healthcare related. The Medicaid FMAP is a complex program currently being discussed.

**10.2. BetterCARE Update** – Hodge stated that BetterCARE has recently approved several items requested that will benefit the facility. They are also looking for two new Board members.

**11. Executive Session**

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At 8:41 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, Hodge, Hammes, Cox, Lloyd, Minier, Ewert, Wester and Lampert.*

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*Ewert and Wester exited at 8:41 a.m.*

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by:

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Lori Minier, Recorder

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Carol Humphrey, Board Chairman