

BENEWAH COMMUNITY HOSPITAL  
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING  
Thursday, November 21, 2024, 7:30 a.m.  
Francie Walters Board Room, Benewah Community Hospital, St. Maries, Idaho

MINUTES

Attendees: Tom Ebert Suzy Epler Dan Hammes  
Carol Humphrey

Staff: Burt Keltner, *CEO* Lori Minier, *CFO* Becca Plante, *Board Secretary*  
Carleen Walker, *DNS*

Other: Phil Lampert, *County Commissioner*

1. **Call to Order** – Vice Chairman Epler opened the meeting 7:36 a.m.
2. **Regular Session**
3. **Positive Update/Celebrate Wins** – Keltner reported that we have hired a Pharmacist who will start December 1<sup>st</sup>. He is moving here from CA with his family and has always wanted to live in Idaho. Kelter added that he thinks this will be a great fit.
4. **Approve Minutes** – A **motion** made by Hammes, second by Humphrey, to approve the meeting minutes from October 24, 2024, November 1, 2024, and November 11, 2024. The motion passed.
5. **Open Forum/Visitors** - None
6. **Board Committee Reports**
  - 6.1. **Performance Improvement Committee** – The PI Committee meets in January.
  - 6.2. **Finance Committee** – The finance report was given in the Finance Committee meeting. Keltner spoke on the bond payment schedule adjustment for the rest of 2024 (due to cash-flow building and amount already in the fund). Keltner spoke in regard to the one-year balance expectations in the bond fund. Lengthy discussion regarding financials and the future of the bond payments. Kelter stated that we have had some communication on the ERC dollars, but it is not a guarantee that we will be getting this. (Should know more in January). Kelter offered to sit and talk with the County Treasurer.
    - 6.2.1. **October Financials** – A **motion** made by Hammes, second by Ebert, to approve the October financials. The motion passed.
  - 6.3. **Board Nominations and Bylaws/Policy Committee** – Committee has not met.
  - 6.4. **Medical Staff Committee** – Epler attended the November Medical Staff meeting by telephone. Plante explained Dr. Sterling bringing up the call process for the ER when potential surgery patients present. The goal is to try to keep our patients here for surgery when possible.

## 7. Medical Staff

**7.1. Initial Appointments** – Plante stated that the Medical Staff approved and are recommending the following providers for initial appointment.

7.1.1. **Jackson Bell, D.O.** – A **motion** made by Humphrey, second by Ebert, to approve the initial appointment of PRN ER Physician, Dr. Jackson Bell. The motion passed.

7.1.2. **Joshua Morris, MD** – A **motion** made by Hammes, second by Humphrey, to approve the initial appointment of PRN ER Physician, Dr. Joshua Morris. The motion passed.

7.1.3. **Giselle Statz, MD** – A **motion** made by Humphrey, second by Ebert, to approve the initial appointment of Tele-Cardiologist, Dr. Giselle Statz. The motion passed.

**7.2. Reappointments** – Plante stated that the Medical Staff approved and is recommending the following provider for reappointment. Plante added that it is a requirement of the Swing Bed program to have a Dentist available for emergencies.

7.2.1. **Kyle Ewert, DDS** – A **motion** made by Hammes, second by Humphrey, to approve the reappointment of Dr. Kyle Ewert. The motion passed.

### 7.3. Privilege Modification

7.3.1. **Leah Jones, MD** – Plante stated that the Medical Staff has approved the addition of Admitting privileges for Hospice Provider Leah Jones. A **motion** made by Hammes, second by Humphrey, to approve the privilege modification for Hospice Provider Dr. Leah Jones, adding the privilege to Admit. The motion passed.

## 8. Contracts

**8.1. Fujifilm/Olympus Surgical Equip. Quotes** – Kelter stated that these quotes are for the Scope Tower and equipment for General Surgery. We have obtained quotes from Pentax Medical (not competitive), Fujifilm, and Olympus. Keltner added that both Fujifilm and Olympus are willing to do finance terms. Surgery would like to trial the equipment prior to purchase. Replacement parts are no longer made for our current equipment. Discussion followed. Olympus is preferred by Sterling (has a smaller scope).

**Olympus:** \$262,000 (36 months, \$6,657 monthly or 42 months, \$5,983 monthly, lease to own).

**Fujifilm:** \$186,000 (60-month term).

**Pentax:** \$258,000 with no financing options.

Epler stated that BetterCARE has been working on grants for this project as well. Miner and Keltner will look into the procurement laws for steps going forward (this most likely needs to go to bid). A **motion** made by Hammes, second by Humphrey, to approve directing Administration to start the appropriate process for bids as well as checking with BetterCARE. The motion passed.

**8.2. Stryker/Arthrex Surgical Equip. Quotes** – Kelter stated that these quotes are for Tower and set-up for Orthopedics as current equipment is aging out.

**Arthrex:** (Surgeon preferred) - \$181,000 (equipment only, no consumables). Finance terms over 5 years, 1<sup>st</sup> year credit percentage (lower payments in the first year), plus defer first 6 months.

**Stryker:** \$535,000 over 5-years (includes consumables). A **motion** made by Ebert, second by Hammes, to approve directing Administration to start the appropriate process for bids. The motion passed.

**9. Administrative Reports/Questions** – The Board and Administration had discussions regarding the following items: Wound Care RN (Walker is meeting with General Surgery today to ramp up this

process); Surgical Services process improvement/revamp; Quick Care; marketing ads and getting children involved; ER transfers; Vaccines for Children Program; Discounted cash labs; Physical Therapy recruitment at universities; and Café numbers being up.

**10. Follow-Up Items**

**10.1. Physician Recruitment** –Plante reported that we will have an ED Physician onsite to interview in December. Kelter and Plante spoke with another ED candidate yesterday.

**11. Communications**

**11.1. BetterCARE Update** – Epler stated that the response for the BetterCARE Gala has been wonderful; they have sold almost 200 tickets. There will be a Christmas Tree decorating contest for departments.

**12. Executive Session**

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At 9:15 a.m., a **motion** made by Hammes, second by Humphrey, to adjourn into executive session per Idaho Code 74-206(1)(b) Personnel and Idaho Code 74-206(1)(j) Provider Contract & Other Contract Matters. Roll Call Vote: All ayes. The motion passed.

*Present at this time: Ebert, Epler, Hammes, Humphrey, Minier, Keltner, Plante and Walker.*

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*Minier, Plante, and Walker exited at 9:15 a.m.*

Meeting adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by:

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Rebecca Plante, Secretary

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Suzy Epler, Board Vice Chairman