

SPECIAL MEETING
BENEWAH COMMUNITY HOSPITAL GOVERNING BOARD
Wednesday, July 2, 2025, 8:00 a.m.
Francie Walters Board Room, Benewah Community Hospital

MINUTES

Present: Kris Brock Gary Coats Tom Ebert
Suzy Epler Dan Hammes Mike LaPlante
Doug McKelvey

Staff: Amy Edwards, DNS Burt Keltner, *CEO* Becca Plante, *Board Secretary*
Lori Minier, CFO

Other: Mariah Dunham, Benewah County Attorney
Sara Sexton, Benewah County Treasurer
Mia Suchoski, Community Member

1. **Open Meeting** – Epler opened the meeting at 8:14 a.m.
2. **Endoscope Reprocessor** – Kelter explained the need for the Endoscope Reprocessor (*current equipment 20+ years old, at end of life, not functioning well*). Olympus machine, cost: \$37,000, 60-month term, warranty/service agreement included. A **motion** made by Brock, seconded by Ebert, to approve the Endoscope Reprocessor. The motion passed.
3. **Financial Requests from Benewah County Treasurer** – Kelter stated that we received a request from the County Treasurer for ten years of bank and credit card statements. Kelter added that the Board and Finance packets are emailed to the County each month. Sexton explained that her request is for her to review with the already supplied financial statements to help herself better understand the whole financial picture. Dunham requested that we start with one year of statements, and the county will let us know if/when they would like more. Kelter stated that Banner Bank would only have statements for the previous seven years, but we did verify that they could pull these for us. Anything beyond seven years would have to be pulled from old file boxes in storage.
4. **Open Discussion/Visitors** – Suchoski brought forward some concerns she has as a community member, to include having difficulty paying a bill, the bond payment obligation, and the cost of living going up all around; discussion followed.

Keltner stated, to remind everyone, that the funds for the Fall 2025 bond payment and the Spring 2026 bond interest payment are currently in the reserve account at the county. The county has instructed Keltner to use the expected Medicare dollars coming in September to be paid to the bond account to fund most of the Fall 2026 bond payment. Kelter added that the remainder will get paid to the county as well.

Dunham stated that the Hospital is in default of the bond agreement with the County. Dunham explained that there are two agreements for the hospital bond: An agreement between Benewah County and the Bond Authority, as well as an agreement between the BCH and Benewah County that includes a payment schedule and other requirements. The county recognizes that the hospital has been unable to make the monthly payment, which is why these discussions are and have been

occurring. Keltner stated that his ultimate goal is to increase revenue to be able to make the payments each month as originally agreed upon. Dunham stated that BCH has come to the county with a series of requests/proposals for a tax levy: The whole bond amount, a portion of the total bond, or a levy to support elsewhere (i.e. capital improvements). Discussion regarding contributing factors including how we are getting paid by the insurance carriers compared to years past. Hammes added that we would have approx. \$3 million more a year if we were getting paid by insurance carriers as we were when the new hospital was first built. Sexton stated that the County budget public hearing is August 25, 2025. Discussion followed.

5. Executive Session

At 9:03 a.m., a **motion** made by LaPlante, second by Ebert, 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: Brock, Coats, Ebert, Epler, Hammes, LaPlante, McKelvey, Edwards, Keltner, Plante, Minier, Dunham, Sexton, and Suchoski.

Edwards, Plante, Minier, Dunham, Sexton, and Suchoski exited at 9:03 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by:

Rebecca Plante, Board Secretary

Suzy Epler, Board Chairman