



~Approved 5/7/2024~

**Regular Board Meeting**

**Tuesday, March 26, 2024**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Board Room & Microsoft Teams Conference Call**

**Board Members Present:**

Clint Cook – Bigfork Township  
Greg Cook – Koochiching County Unorganized  
Kurt Fredrickson – Stokes Township  
Carol Gilbertson – Itasca County At-Large  
Gordon Rahier – Pomroy Township  
Sally Sedgwick – Wirt Township  
Dan Sursely – City of Big Falls

**Board Members Remote:**

Teresa Kittridge – Marcell Township  
Marie Lovdahl – Itasca County Unorganized  
Larry Salmela – Carpenter Township  
Heidi Watson – Koochiching County At-Large

**Board Members Absent:**

Tom LaMont – City of Effie  
City of Bigfork – Vacant

**Staff Members:** Darla Anderson, Dr. Ed Anderson, Nelly Becker, Samantha Beckner, Heather Bibeau, Heather Boessel, Annette Buckingham, Kyle Buckingham, Alex Cleath, Sara Elioff, Katie Gilbertson, Nikki Jones, Karlee Mann, Heidi Powell, Patty Rich, Jennifer Rissanen, Londa Storlie, Renee Tower

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**Others:** Nate Compo, Lin Cook, Jack Hillstrom, Nathan Hough, Dawn Kern, Gene Rajala, Bruce Sampson

*Chairman Clint Cook called the regular monthly board meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.*

*The meeting opened with prayer.*

**A. Community Comments**

Bruce Sampson, community member, asked if Scenic Rivers Health Services is experiencing decreases in patient volumes. Dr. Ed Anderson reported that he is not aware of significant changes. Darla Anderson will follow up with Scenic Rivers Health Services about the concern.

**B. Approval of Agenda**

A **motion** to approve the agenda as presented was made by Carol Gilbertson, seconded by Sally Sedgwick. The motion passed unanimously.

**C. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes 2/27/2024**

A **motion** to approve the February 27, 2024, Regular Board meeting minutes as presented was made by Carol Gilbertson, seconded by Sally Sedgwick. The motion passed unanimously.

**D. Information, Discussion and/or Action**

**1. Prior CEO Evaluation/Expectations**

At 9:07 a.m., a **motion** to close the meeting to evaluate the performance and expectations of Aaron Saude was made by Carol Gilbertson, seconded by Greg Cook. The motion passed unanimously.

Closed session attendees: Clint Cook, Greg Cook, Kurt Fredrickson, Carol Gilbertson, Teresa Kittridge, Marie Lovdahl, Gordon Rahier, Larry Salmela, Sally Sedgwick, Dan Sursely, and Heidi Watson

At 10:02 a.m., a **motion** to reopen the meeting was made by Carol Gilbertson, seconded by Gordon Rahier. The motion passed unanimously.

Teresa Kittridge made a **motion** to implement the mutual separation agreement with Aaron Saude pending attorney review and to

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authorize the board chair to finalize any documents required, seconded by Greg Cook. The motion passed unanimously.

**2. Finance Committee Report**

The Finance Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, March 19.

**3. Financials**

Darla Anderson presented the financials and accounts payable for February 2024.

It was noted that “Observation Days” was not included on the February dashboard but will be added to the March dashboard.

A **motion** to accept the financial report for the month of February was provided by the Finance Committee, seconded by Dan Sursely. The motion passed unanimously.

**4. Accounts Payable**

A **motion** to ratify the accounts payable for the month of February was made by the Finance Committee, seconded by Greg Cook. The motion passed unanimously.

**5. Lab Billing Education**

Darla Anderson provided education on Bigfork Valley’s lab billing.

**6. Credentialing**

Dr. Ed Anderson presented the following credentialing applications for consideration:

Privileges without a provisional status:

- Derek Dyess, MD (vRad)
- Thomas Fiorito, MD (vRad)
- Aaron Wright, MD (vRad)
- Katrina Metzger, LGSW (Senior Life Solutions)
- Allison O’Dell, LICSW (Senior Life Solutions)

Greg Cook made a **motion** to accept the applications as presented, seconded by Dan Sursely. The motion passed unanimously.

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**7. Department Introduction – Pharmacy 340B**

Dr. Heather Bibeau, pharmacist-in-charge, provided an overview of the 340B drug program.

Bigfork Valley Pharmacy has been a contract pharmacy for Scenic Rivers Health Services since 2005.

Patients must be seen at Scenic Rivers Clinic to be eligible for the 340B program.

Dr. Sara Elioff, director of inpatient and outpatient pharmacy, is working with Darla to see if the Inpatient Pharmacy could utilize 340B.

There was discussion about the Retail Pharmacy being closed on Saturdays.

Dr. Heather Bibeau provided an overview of the recent Change Healthcare cyberattack and its impact on the Bigfork Valley Pharmacy.

**8. Governance Committee Report**

Carol Gilbertson provided an overview of the Governance Committee meeting that was held on Tuesday, March 19. The committee discussed board education and the Finance Committee Charter.

**9. Interim CEO Report**

Darla Anderson reported that MN High Value Network’s strategy meeting is scheduled for April 28 – April 30, 2024, in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Darla received a phone call from Representative Pete Stauber’s office about future legislation and asking how they could help hospitals like Bigfork Valley.

The laundromat will be operational soon.

The discount graphs will be changing on the next financial report.

CliftonLarsonAllen is in the process of conducting the financial audit and there will be some adjustments.

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#### **10. Board Governance Training**

Proposals for Governance Development Services and Strategic Planning were briefly reviewed. Discussion ensued. No decision was made.

#### **11. Employee Appreciation**

Kim Houwman “Howie”, Nicole Becker, Billy Olson, Joseph Jacobson, Jerry Denny, and Dr. Merritt were nominated to receive employee appreciation gift certificates for outstanding job performance. A **motion** to approve the nominations was made by Sally Sedgwick, seconded by Greg Cook. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **12. Strategic Discussion**

There was discussion about the possibility of operating an ambulance service under Bigfork Valley.

It was reported that Itasca County recently wrote a letter supporting Grand Itasca Clinic and Hospital’s congressionally directed spending request to fund the expansion of their Obstetrics Clinic. A copy of the letter will be sent to the Board.

#### **13. Board Meeting Agenda Topics for Next Month**

It was suggested that the following topic be added to next month’s agenda:

- Villa and Nursing Home Busing Update

Darla reported that MN High Value Network’s strategy meeting is scheduled for April 28 – April 30, 2024, in Scottsdale, Arizona and conflicts with the April board meeting date.

Due to the MN High Value Network’s strategy meeting date, the Regular Board Meeting previously scheduled for April 30, 2024, was rescheduled for Tuesday, May 7, 2024.

#### **14. Open Discussion**

The meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:22 p.m. and it reconvened at 12:53 p.m.

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At 12:53 p.m., there being no further business a **motion** to adjourn the meeting was made by Carol Gilbertson, seconded by Dan Sursely. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Renee Tower, Executive Administrative Assistant.

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