

Minutes

Point Roberts Public Hospital District

Wednesday April 12, 2023

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Stephen Falk, Commissioner (via Zoom)

Attending:

Commissioners: Stephen Falk, Sara Oggel, Noel Newbolt

Superintendent: Barbara Wayland Financial Advisor: Paulette Ladner Recording Secretary: Farrah Carsten

Introduction of Guests:

Dr. Sean Bozorgzadeh, Alexandra Wiley, Virginia Lester, Pat Grubb– APB, Judy Ross

Public Comment: None at this time.

Approval of Prior Minutes:

Approval of minutes from previous PRPHD Regular Meeting (March 8, 2023)

<u>Motion</u>: To approve minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

Financial Report:

Financial Report:

Paulette Ladner presented the financial report. Current month payables \$20,854.43 / Payroll is \$3,234.00

There is 1 item to note: The Partners Group for Directors and Officers Insurance = \$4,270.00

Bills presented for approval as follows:

Bills paid:

03/31/23 – SuperTrack Urgent Care PLLC = \$16,000

03/31/23 – Point Roberts Bookkeeping = \$280

03/31/23 – Point Roberts Press = \$50

04/02/23 - Whatcom County FD #5 = \$245.34

04/01/23 - Whidbey Telecom = \$9.09

04/07/23 – The Partners Group = \$4,270

Payroll as follows:

Barb Wayland – Superintendent = \$1,740

Grace Hettinga – Cleaner = \$672

Farrah Carsten – Secretary = \$480

Stephen Falk – Commissioner = \$114

Sara Oggel – Commissioner = \$114

Noel Newbolt – Commissioner = \$114

<u>Motion</u>: To approve warrants and payroll for prior months' expenditures as presented. **Motion carried.**



The Whatcom County Auditor's office sent Paulette a letter about submitting ballot measures from the 2023 ballots, in regards to resolutions. She will send the notice to everyone tonight.



Clinic Medical Director Update:

The clinic numbers are higher than last year. Alex was unable to send the numbers out for February but will forward them tomorrow.

In order for Quest to have a phlebotomist in Point Roberts, they need to have at least 50 lab tests a day. Dr. Bozorgzadeh has a meeting scheduled with Quest this Friday @ 1:30 pm to convince them to make an exception for Point Roberts. He will update Barbara on the results from that meeting.

Stephen asked about Northwest Labs because they could have a better working relationship with FedEx than Quest did. Dr. Bozorgzadeh responded that for the benefit of the Point Roberts community, Quest should be the number one choice because Quest is the lab that PeaceHealth General Hospital uses and a lot of the patients receive care in Bellingham for different specialties, consultations, and hospitalizations. There is more integration between PeaceHealth and Quest. If Quest is not willing to do this then Dr. Bozorgzadeh agrees that Northwest Labs should be approached.

Covid is still around however it's a completely different situation now due to the vaccines and Paxlovid. The mask requirement was lifted in healthcare facilities effective last week but SuperTrack is still being cautious by asking patients if they have symptoms and if they've been tested for Covid. The team has been instructed to bring the patients to the parking lot for rapid antigen testing. If the patient is negative, they will be seen in the clinic. If positive, it will be a telemedicine appointment and prescriptions will be called into their pharmacy.

Stephen mentioned that today was originally planned to be the first of the hybrid district meetings rather than ZOOM. He learned from the public records of open meetings group in the State Government that meetings should at this point have a physical component so that people who don't want to or can't use an online system can have a place to physically join the meeting. An executive decision was made to resume with ZOOM due to the current Covid cases in Point Roberts. The district can try the hybrid approach in May even though no one has to change their actions.



Superintendent's Report:

The Partners Group (director and officer insurance): Barbara spoke to the agent because the bill wasn't received in time and he was not aware that the bills are paid through Whatcom County and are needed in advance for approval at the meetings. The Partners Group will pay the premium payment to Chubb and the county will reimburse them with the payment the commissioners just approved at this meeting. Barbara asked the agent to flag our account in a way that next year the bill would be sent a month in advance so that Paulette and the county would have enough time to issue the payment. Barbara also asked Paulette to flag her calendar for the bill next year. The next step is to look at the smaller policy due date and consolidate it with The Partners Group.

<u>Parker, Smith & Feek:</u> There was an error in the Pay To section of a check that was issued. Parker, Smith & Feek received the check instead of the insurance company. They cashed the check and issued a payment to the insurance company on PRPHD's behalf.

Replacement vacuum cleaner for clinic: In the past Heather brought her own vacuum cleaner. Barbara requested approval to purchase a basic vacuum cleaner for the clinic.

<u>Motion</u>: To approve the purchase of a clinic vacuum cleaner for up to a total of \$200. **Motion passed.**

Other:

Request for extension of clinic renewal contract to 2 years:

SuperTrack had requested to amend the agreement from a 1-year renewal term to a 2-year renewal term. The main issue was flexibility on their end for hiring people on a 12-month basis. Alex said this is correct and that their stability and predictability is good for them. In the time since the last discussion Stephen has heard pros and cons on both sides of the issue but it hasn't caused him to change his prospective and still prefers to leave the arrangement as is, on a 1-year renewal term.

Having worked in the medical field for several years, Barbara is in agreement with the position of SuperTrack because there has never been a greater shortage of people to do the work in which they are trained for and qualified. To limit SuperTrack to having such a short time to offer a job puts them in a position of having people entertain other offers before they look at theirs. Barbara wouldn't like to see that happen to the providers and she feels that we are very lucky to have three physicians who come to Point Roberts to see our patients and we should do everything we can to make them feel we value them and want them to stay.

Noel was in agreement with Barbara and stated it needs to be resolved as soon as possible.



Sara would like to stay in the 1-year contract but would like to postpone the vote to next month after seeing what gets resolved with the lab issues.

Alex asked what would the advantage be if PRPHD were to contract with Quest labs on their own. SuperTrack is not affiliated with Quest in anyway apart from being a client but the Hospital District could become a contracted entity with Quest. Alex suggested that if the commissioners would consider meeting with Dr. Bozorgzadeh to see if writing a contract between the district and Quest Labs is possible then Quest would come in to make the facility up to their standards. Barbara didn't see how that would be any different than what Dr. Bozorgzadeh was planning to do at the upcoming meeting on Friday. By letting the meeting proceed the district will see what the outcome is with Quest Labs and then with Northwest Labs and if nothing comes of it, then the district will relook at the issue.

All 3 commissioners were in agreement to table the discussion to May's meeting.

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday May 10 th , 2023 @ 7:00 pm via ZOOM	
Meeting adjourned: 7:40 p.m.	
Minutes approved verbally at th	e following month's ZOOM meeting
Stephen Falk	Sara Oggel
Noel Newbolt	Farrah Carsten