

Minutes

Point Roberts Public Hospital District

Wednesday February 14, 2024

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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

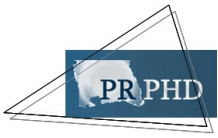
Introduction of Guests:

Dr. Sean Bozorgzadeh, Deborah Shields, Dr. John Anwar

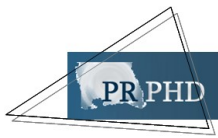
Public Comment: Dr. John Anwar introduced himself to the commission. He is a physician in Point Roberts and wants to submit a proposal to operate in the clinic after the current contract with SuperTrack expires and is subject to renewal. Dr. Anwar asked when the commission would begin accepting proposals.

Stephen responded that it is not something that is done on a regular basis but it could be done at a meeting. There is a deadline by the end of June that if a party wants to not renew the current agreement, the commission will have to take action before then. The contract would continue to run until the end of the year and during that time the commission would have to select a new provider. If there isn't anything on the table, no action would be taken and the current contract would renew. Stephen said if Dr. Anwar wants to provide a proposal for the commission to think about as an alternative, he could do so at the March, April or May meeting for them to take under consideration. That would then set off a process for PRPHD to decide whether to renew the current contract, and if not to then put out a request for bids. Stephen suggested that Dr. Anwar let them know in advance so it could be put on the agenda and the public would be informed and could listen in as well. Dr. Anwar responded that the proposal is ready and they will submit it at the March meeting.

Dr. Bozorgzadeh asked if there needs to be a reason such as not being satisfied with the service for Stephen to put the contract up for bid. Stephen said not necessarily, they could find the proposal interesting or not interesting and they could mull it over at some point but there wouldn't be a termination for cause where the commission is saying SuperTrack has done something wrong. Dr. Bozorgzadeh brought up the contract having an assigned process that either SuperTrack or the commission has to state they want to cancel by June 30th and he thinks that vendors shouldn't be presenting proposals now. Stephen responded that they will not be making a decision to select anybody based on Dr. Anwar's proposal and that they are just learning if there is somebody who seems to want to provide service. Dr. Bozorgzadeh said that he feels the district needs to honor contractually the obligation as a public servant and that the proposal process should be advertised to multiple vendors to bid on and



SuperTrack should be given notice that the PRPHD is accepting proposals from everyone.



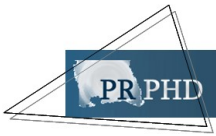
John Anwar and Deborah Shields are wanting to put in a proposal and Dr. Bozorgzadeh said it should be based on the need of the constituents and if they are not satisfied with the clinic then it should be declared that it will be opened up for a bid process in June.

Stephen explained that if at the March meeting Dr. Anwar provides the proposal, it will not trigger anything. If the commissioners decide there is something really appealing then they would presumably give notice at some time before the end of June about not renewing the contract and to put out the RFP to solicit vendors and to let the community know. Everyone will have the chance to put forward a proposal and he hopes that SuperTrack would be one of them. Dr. Anwar is a member of the public and he or anyone else can come to the commission at any time to inform them of something that might be beneficial for the community to hear. Dr. Bozorgzadeh responded that he understood the RFP process has to be fair and it has to be unbiased but John is not presenting himself as a member of the public, he is a vendor stating that he can provide services to Point Roberts. He also felt that Stephen was saying that the commission will wait and look at the proposal and then give notice. Stephen said he was surprised to learn recently that John is providing medical services in the Point already and that he lives here part of the time so in a broader sense he is a member of the public.

John Anwar interjected that his primary residence currently is Point Roberts and he has a right to come to the commission to say he is interested in becoming a vendor when the RFP process opens up. It's a free market and if he didn't speak up, the commission may never know that there is another vendor interested and they might not open up the bidding process. Dr. Bozorgzadeh said that the need of the community has to be declared by the commission publicly that they need your services. He feels that the commission is changing the process.

Stephen assured Dr. Bozorgzadeh that they are not doing the process in reverse because if they were to find this proposal appealing it would only lead to putting out an RFP to get proposals eventually and in March it isn't a proposal they are providing, it's a presentation. The commission is not inviting it, it has come to them and they can put it to a vote if need be. Stephen recalled what happened a few years ago when the Shields Company approached them and gave a presentation at one of the meetings causing them not to renew the contract and RFP's were sent out. The timeline of that process resulted in the commission making a decision to stick with SuperTrack.

Dr. Bozorgzadeh still disagreed with Stephen and stated he would review the transcript of this meeting. He also said that he would discuss this with the county to get their opinion or legal advice on this case. Dr. Bozorgzadeh asked the commission if they were satisfied with the services SuperTrack has provided for the community. Stephen responded yes in general and that any issues that have arisen in the past were discussed at meetings. Dr. Bozorgzadeh then asked if the commission feels the need to put out a proposal request or feel the need for a vendor to provide medical services at the Point.



Stephen responded he could only speak for himself and that he is will to hear what John has to say, the commission hasn't taken a vote on it. His personal opinion is that if John has a good proposal, then he is willing to hear it, it doesn't mean that Stephen is feeling any dissatisfaction. Noel said that as far as she was concerned, she thought SuperTrack been doing a great job. Sara said she has had heard issues with the services provided on Mondays from people within the community but not necessarily with him. Her feeling right now is that they are listening to Dr. Anwar who has something he would like to present and it doesn't mean that the commission has an issue with the current services provided and are accepting anything yet. She wants to leave it up to Stephen on the legal issues and to determine when to have this presentation.

Stephen stated that he doesn't think the commission is bound by the language that Dr. Anwar used and he may have said it in a certain way but what Stephen heard was that he wants to make a presentation about something he would propose to offer. If the commission doesn't find it interesting that will be the end of it. If they do find it interesting it will lead to lots of discussion. Either way they will have to vote on whether or not to renew the contract. If no action is taken that means the contract keeps going. If action is taken to not renew the contract, the RFP will be put out and a formal proposal will be received from John, hopefully SuperTrack and anyone else who comes forward in response to the RFP.

Approval of minutes from previous PRPHD Regular Meeting (January 10, 2024)

Motion: To approve minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

Financial Report:

Paulette Ladner presented the financial report. Current month payables \$18,428.56 / Payroll is \$3,338.28

There are 2 items to note: Whatcom County Admin services 4th QTR Payroll Services = \$190 and Whatcom County Auditor's Office General Election cost = \$1,113.61

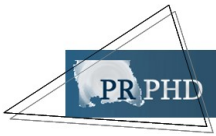
Bills presented for approval as follows:

Bills paid:

- 01/31/24 – SuperTrack Urgent Care PLLC = \$16,000
- 01/01/24 – Point Roberts Bookkeeping = \$700
- 01/01/24 – Point Roberts Press = \$50
- 01/31/24 – Point Roberts Fire Distr. #5 = 288.36
- 02/01/24 – Whidbey Telecom = \$54.42
- 01/04/24 – Whatcom County Admin Svc = \$190
- 11/07/23 – Whatcom County Auditor's Office = \$1,113.61
- 12/29/23 – Bellingham Business Machine = 14.20
- 02/01/24 – Bellingham Business Machine = 17.97

Approval of Prior Minutes:

Financial Report:



Superintendent's Report:

Joanna Castiano who is the program coordinator for the AWPHD is planning a non-hospital member focus group for strategic planning for March 6th. The reason for this taking place is that the members of the association who are not hospitals but are public customers can strategically plan on what can be done to better their individual clinics. Barbara will be attending and will report on what was discussed at the next meeting.

Barbara received a notice and took the opportunity to attend a telehealth conference about hypertension which she found interesting.

In the upcoming month she is going to research the specifics on the role of the records officer. With the approved policy on file now, she has questions as to certain aspects on how this should be done. She will provide a report at the next meeting. Barbara believes the current policy needs to be adjusted to include the new regulation regarding saving the meeting recordings for 5 years. It needs to be placed into the record.

Other:

N/A

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday March 13th, 2024 @ 7:00 pm via ZOOM

Meeting adjourned: 7:41 p.m.

Minutes approved verbally at the following month's ZOOM meeting

Stephen Falk

Sara Oggel

Noel Newbolt

Farrah Carsten