

Special Meeting Minutes Point Roberts Public Hospital District

June 20, 2020

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 1 p.m. by Stephen Falk, Commissioner (via Zoom)

Attending:

Commissioners: Kandace Harper, Stephen Falk, Richard Dennis
Superintendent: Barbara Wayland
Recording Secretary: Farrah Carsten

Guests:

Dr. Sean Bozorgzad, Deborah Shields, Dr. Ming Lin

Stephen Falk:

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss and possibly come up with a solution to take any action before the end of this month to not automatically renew the current provider contract with SuperTrack. If we take no action, the contract will renew January 1, 2021 for another year. If we do take action to give notice to SuperTrack to cancel the contract effective December 31, 2020, we will put out a contract to bid for the January turnover.

If for some reason we can't come to a conclusion, we could have another Special Meeting

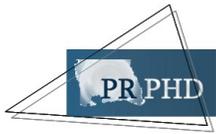
Richard Dennis:

Just to make sure we are clear on the terminology, we are not talking about terminating the contract but rather to let it expire under its expressed terms which is December 31, 2020. Or alternatively whether we allow the automatic rollover to kick in & extend it for another year.

For me the touchstone for our decision we have to make is what will allow the clinic to provide the best service to the community? We received a lot of comments from the community that has a lot of interest in this clinic.

The comments from people to allow the automatic renewal provision kick in allowed me to make 3 points:

- SuperTrack has satisfactory performance, hasn't generated complaints, deserves another year, in some cases people thought 5-10 years
- Does Shields Company have financial stability in order to perform the kind of services we need
- It's too risky to make a change, particularly at this time with changing providers



People that were in favor of sending the termination letter allowed me to make 3 points:

- A desire for a community based & local provider
- Some were in favor for new services that were proposed
- Others thought it would be good to emphasize primary care versus urgent care

Our job is to decide what's going to provide the best services to our hospital district community. I'm persuaded that the ideas raised in the Shields Company Proposal are good ideas and that they deserve consideration & if implemented will it provide a better level of service to us.

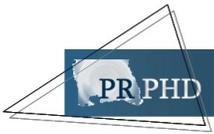
I want to make sure my thinking is not misunderstood. I want to address some other concerns that were raised. With respect to whether or not there was satisfactory service or complaints, I am not making any comment at all about that. What I am saying is that I don't think that is an appropriate test for what we should do. The test is what's best for people that live in our district and use those services. We need to look at what kind of ideas would be better.

We've got a 2-year contract. I think 2 years is a good time for us to be looking at whether we can improve services. That doesn't mean existing services were bad but can we make them better. We have a limited time to do that if we allow the contract to go for another year.

The other comments in regards to whether Shields Company has the viability to perform the administrative or financial capability, I feel that's not an appropriate decision for us to do today. We're talking about whether we do the rollover or not.

If we were to allow a new contract when it comes time, that becomes exceptionally relevant. We can look at their ideas and say those are good ideas but you better be able to prove to us and I will be as harsh as anybody as to whether or not Shields Co. can deliver With respect to SuperTrack we have experience with them, we know their viability to provide services and questions I would have for them is (not at this time) what changes can they provide for enhanced services for our district.

We need to do this in a rigorous side by side comparison of proposals and to get there we need to send the notice of non-renewal out. This carries some risk. SuperTrack might decide to not pursue a new contract with us. There no guarantees about anything. My best hope and the best outcome is to get 2 strong proposals or more. Again, nothing should be misconstrued as a criticism or complaint about SuperTrack. I want them to submit a 2-year proposal. To do wonderful things they may have more things in mind for enhancing our services than Shields Co. I want to hear that. We need to approach this with courage, not with the fear of risk. Courage that we can get the best proposal for services for our district.



Kandace Harper:

Our goal as Commissioners is to keep the clinic doors open and provide the best service to the community. Recently I've acquired more information and would like the opportunity for us to meet with both entities assuming they would submit proposals to us. And meet with them to ask more questions or get more information. We can do this before June 30th or ask both entities to submit proposals.

Stephen Falk:

We are not deciding today who will be our provider on January 1st, 2021, that's a future decision to be made. Richard pretty much echoed my thoughts exactly. The only way we can decide if we go with a new idea or stick with the current provider is to give the notice of nonautomatic renewal & requests bids from both of these parties as well as anybody else that would come forward. We have no guarantees.

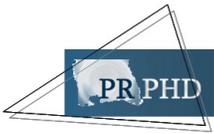
Dr. Sean:

In 2018 Unity Care was close to shutting down & no one was wanting to take over & run a clinic like Point Roberts. However, putting a team together to start a clinic it's not an easy thing to do especially because of the specific requirements Point Roberts has. You have to have very compelling reasons to want to take away a contract that has been performing and is stable. I respect people wanting to be entrepreneurial & wanting to do their thing. However, I don't think that's a journey Point Robert's people want to take & accept the risks.

For us the first year was putting out fires & putting things in place, the second year was to stabilize. For us to know that we may or may not get the contract makes it more difficult for us to plan & try to continue to work and improve the care for the people of Point Roberts. We believe it's right thing to open this at this time

I was listening to all the comments and requests for primary care. The rural health status is something that was standing in the way of people to come in for non-routine & urgent visits. This was something that was a directive that was given by the Commission to move towards a model that actually improves the access to care for everybody. Limited to preventative care or chronic illness we also wanted the clinic to provide care for acute episodic issues.

Please keep in mind preparing & pulling together a team of administrative, IT, nursing is not an easy thing so when you talk about taking risks, Point Roberts has already taken that risk. In reference to what Kandace said about meeting with us & submitting a proposal before sending the notice of non-renewal, it's something I support. We can sit down and point out all the details to the Commissioner's & for the other Company to sit down and do the same.



Barbara Wayland:

The reality is that the decision has to be made by the 3 Commissioners. I agree with Kandace. My concern is not whether or not the Shields Co. is prepared to go with the new company or whether or not SuperTrack can continue to fulfill their contract and bring all the things that we would like to have. It's unfortunate that we are in the middle of a pandemic which has limited what everybody can do just by the virtue of movements and be in place where we are all sitting together.

My concern from the standpoint of the contract is that if for any reason (playing devil's advocate here) SuperTrack decides not to reapply & for any reason the Shield's Co. was either not able to afford or something happened & financially it didn't work out, I know what we went through trying to get someone before. None of the major systems now want to take on outlying rural clinics. It's not a popular thing to do. I'm thinking a year from now is a better time to put forth this question. Because we would have more time and a pre-Covid world. I think another year would have been better.

**Stephen, Kandace,
Richard:**

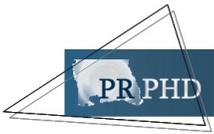
The 3 Commissioners went on record for everyone listening & for the public that this has been an extremely difficult decision and position that they've been put in. It's not been easy & they've anguished over this. Their interest is in the clinic and for the community. It's a very difficult decision no matter which way they go. Stephen asked Dr. Sean if he would tell them whether or not he would submit the bid.

Dr. Sean:

We want you to do a good job & it takes a whole army to support the clinic from billing, administrative people, nursing and we know that this takes effort to put in place. Honestly, I can't sit here and say. If you open this up, the way it is unfolding given the current pandemic situation and where Point Roberts is located. I think that Richard is talking certain things to put into the contract.

We are open to a performance evaluation and you can let us know if our performance is not satisfactory.

There are no backups for additional testing or advanced testing. We have 4 doctors & a team of 7 that provides backup services for Point Roberts clinic. Patients can come down and get an MRI's, CT Scans etc. done the same day and we can get medications that are needed. I understand that Dr Lin is a good ER physician but as he said himself if people are not dying, he's not interested in taking care of them. He's not really a primary care physician. One week a month he is not available and he may or may not be available. For us we have more than multiple layers of backup. If the provider at Point Roberts can't get a hold of me, they can get a hold of Dr. Lary at Lakeway or the provider @ City Home Village. To dismantle what exists wouldn't be successful.



Dr. Lin:

I am somewhat of a Covid expert. This Covid is not going to go away and border issues is going to be a big problem. Who is providing your service right now? It's Deb, Virginia and these are people of Point Roberts. And when you think about it, this is the mainstay of your clinic. It's the people that work there that actually live there. For Providers to go back and forth during this Covid crisis, it's going to be a little difficult. If you're afraid SuperTrack is going to pull out because it's not financially beneficial, we are a group of doctors and providers that actually live in Point Roberts. It's less likely that we would fail because we care about Point Roberts, as opposed to a financial benefit. Who is more of a stable group? I would say it's the people of Point Roberts.

Motion: Hospital District to give notice to SuperTrack of non-renewal of current contract by June 30th deadline (so it does not automatically renew on January 1st, 2021).

Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:51 pm p.m.

Special Meeting: Tuesday June 23rd, 2020 @ 1 pm

Regular Meeting: Tuesday July 14th, 2020 @ 7 pm (TBA)

Minutes approved verbally at the following month's ZOOM meeting

Stephen Falk

Kandace Harper

Richard Dennis

Farrah Carsten