

VASHON HEALTH CARE DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular meeting minutes – Dec. 18, 2019, Vashon Presbyterian Church

Commissioners present: Tom Langland (president); Don Wolczko (secretary), LeeAnn Brown, Eric Pryne
Excused: Wendy Noble

CALL TO ORDER

Tom called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Swartz suggested an optional sign-in sheet for those attending board meetings. He also suggested the district consider placing a box in a public place on the island for suggestions or comments. Bill also suggested the number of people in attendance be noted in the minutes. He said the Vashon Senior Center has asked him to serve as its liaison with the district.

Jeff Schnelz asked if any clinic supported by the district would provide dental services. He asked if a clinic would provide reproductive health services, including vasectomies and abortions. He asked if the district would provide or subsidize medical airlift services.

Joanne Herbert said any clinic supported by the district should have a geriatric specialist on staff.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Don presented for approval minutes of the board meeting of Dec. 11, 2019. Don moved, and Eric seconded, that the minutes be approved. The motion was approved, 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS – COMMITTEE REPORTS

STAFF AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE: LeeAnn reported the committee had concluded hiring a superintendent is the district's highest staffing needed. She said the committee has reached out to other public hospital districts seeking superintendent job descriptions and other information, including their arrangements for legal counsel, bookkeeping and legal counsel. LeeAnn said the committee plans to reach out to other districts, including Orcas, and the Municipal Research and Services Center as it fine-tunes a job description for the district's superintendent.

Tom said the committee believes hiring an interim superintendent is important in order to meet the district's near-term needs.

TECHNOLOGY AND FACILITIES: LeeAnn reported the committee believes creating a website is the district's top technology priority at this point. She said that, on the district's behalf, she had purchased a domain name for the district: vashonhealthcare.org. She also said Eric Langland had agreed to volunteer his time and skills to create a website for the district.

LeeAnn also circulated a list of potential website pages for commissioners' review.

She said the committee will look into acquiring a post office box for the district after Jan. 1.

FINANCE: Don reported on the committee's efforts to obtain funding for the district's operations in 2020, as the district will not be able to set a property tax levy until tax year 2021. He said the committee had contacted several commercial banks, but learned they generally don't lend to public entities.

Don said he had met with Mike Smith, King County's chief investment officer, to discuss an interfund loan. He said that, while the county generally requires repayment the following year, Mike indicated a longer term was possible. Don said the loan would operate like a line of credit; the district would have to

repay only what it actually draws. He said the county would charge interest at the investment pool rate, currently 2.1 percent.

Don said any loan would require the approval of the county's Executive Finance Committee, which meets monthly. As part of any application, Don said, the county would require from the district a financial statement, indicating the district's projected revenues and expenditures for the loan period. He said producing such a document is the committee's highest current priority.

Don also said he had received information from Mike Smith about what's required for the district to appoint King County as its treasurer.

Tom said the committee also is exploring establishing a foundation or similar vehicle for accepting charitable contributions to the district.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS: Eric reported on the committee's initial meeting with Neighborcare Health, operator of the Vashon clinic, on Dec. 18. Representing Neighborcare were its chief executive officer, chief operating officer and chief development officer. Eric characterized the meeting as cordial and light on specifics. He said Neighborcare did not ask for financial support for the clinic, and did not indicate when it would. He said the committee and Neighborcare's representatives agreed to meet again in January, and that Neighborcare indicated it wants to work with the district.

Don asked how the Finance Committee should address the current uncertainty surrounding any district support for the clinic in the budget it is preparing for the King County interfund loan application. Eric suggested Don inform King County of the situation and ask for guidance.

Eric also reported the committee had met the week of Dec. 9 with state Rep. Eileen Cody. Topics included the possibility of an appropriation in the state's 2020 supplemental budget to help with the district's 2020 financial needs, and preserving the \$3 million the Legislature appropriated in the 2017-18 capital budget to improve the Vashon clinic or build a new clinic. Eric said the committee is scheduling similar meetings with state Rep. Joe Fitzgibbon and state Sen. Joe Nguyen, and has reached out to April Putney, County Executive Dow Constantine's director of intergovernmental relations.

Eric also said he had reached out to the Municipal Research and Services Center for information and guidance on the possibility of converting any short-term loan for 2020 operations to a longer-term instrument.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom opened a second public comment period. Several members of the public engaged commissioners in a discussion about Neighborcare and the clinic.

Joanne Herbert suggested a GoFundMe campaign to help with the district's 2020 finances. She also suggested commissioners visit other districts to obtain information on their operations.

Jane Neubauer noted that, once the district has a website, it will need someone to maintain it.

NEW BUSINESS

Tom noted that the district's current bylaws call for regular board meetings on Wednesday nights, and that they be held on Thursday nights when Wednesday is a holiday.

Tom suggested that schedule be modified so there are no board meetings during Thanksgiving week or the week between Christmas and New Year's. There was consensus that the bylaws should be modified to that effect, and that a resolution to that effect should be considered later.

LeeAnn moved, and Don seconded, that the board meeting scheduled (per the bylaws) for Dec. 26 be cancelled. The motion was approved, 4-0. The board's next meeting will be Jan. 2, 2020. Committees will continue to work over the holidays.

Don noted that the district must submit a proposed statement of revenues and expenditures to King County by Jan. 6 in order for any interfund loan application to be considered by the Executive Finance Committee at its January meeting.

Eric said state law requires the district have a seal, or logo, and circulated a proposed resolution designating the graphic from the Protect Vashon Health Care campaign as the district's seal. He noted that the campaign had agreed to donate the graphic to the district.

Don and LeeAnn suggested the graphic be modified to include text or other features. There was consensus that adoption of a seal, or logo, be postponed to a later date.

ADJOURNMENT: Eric moved, and LeeAnn seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was approved, 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Pryne
Commissioner