

Board of Commissioner's Meeting**September 2, 2020****Superintendent's Report****Sunrise Ridge Lease**

I had a conference call with 3 members of the Sunrise Ridge Board of Directors recently regarding lease of the clinic building. On the call were Greg Martin, Mike Maddingly and Dan Connolly. They indicated a preference for leasing the building to the Vashon Health Care District and having the District lease to the new provider. The current lease rate for Neighborcare Health of \$3500 per month is well below what they need to maintain the building, which is what Neighborcare expected them to provide. When CHI Franciscan leased the building from Sunrise Ridge, they provided all maintenance. Sea Mar has indicated that they would likely provide some level of maintenance. I need to identify from them what their capabilities are in this regard. Current outstanding maintenance items identified by Neighborcare include replacement of ceiling tiles, need for a water filtration system, and possible need to improving the air conditioning unit.

Board Education

The following is a topic from the Ask MRSC resources service:

The District is holding a remote public hearing on a matter of public concern and would like to know if it is required to allow submittal of questions by chat. It would like to request they provide their name also...is that allowed?

There is no requirement in state law to allow the use of the chat function when holding a remote public hearing through a meeting application such as Zoom. In fact, allowing chat creates additional issues that local governments need to take into account.

For remote meetings, it is a policy decision whether to turn off a "chat" feature during public meetings. If the feature is on and used, then the contents should be retained as public records and included as part of your official record of the meeting.

There are several potential problems with using a chat feature during a council meeting. First, not all participants and attendees have access to a chat feature. Those calling in via phone would be excluded from that part of the meeting. Second, chat notes are potentially disruptive because they are like passing notes or texting during the meeting.

Some remote meeting platforms have a "hand raising" feature that can be used instead of "chat" during a public comment period. Turning off the chat feature addresses these concerns

provided individuals attending the public hearing can otherwise speak during the public comment period.

Regarding providing names, the OPMA ([RCW 42.30.040](#)) provides that an agency cannot require a meeting attendee to provide his or her name as a condition of attending. However, speaking during public comment or a public hearing is different. Agencies commonly ask individuals speaking at a public meeting to provide their names.

If the District decides to use the chat feature, from a legal standpoint, it can ask users of the chat feature to identify themselves, since by using the feature, they are essentially speaking at the meeting.

Communications

I spoke briefly with Baruch Roter, MD, who has filled in in the clinic in the past. He reinforced the concerns expressed by many patients about phones not getting answered or people on hold for 20 minutes at a time. In fact, he felt that this one issue has represented almost all of the complaints that he has heard. He is familiar with Sea Mar and has a positive opinion of them.

Committee Reports and Old Business

External Relations

Update on Provider Discussions – Since our last board meeting, I communicated with a representative of the hospital-based provider and informed them that we were initiating negotiations with Sea Mar. They appreciated the follow-up.

I had a follow-up meeting with Sea Mar. Attending the meeting for Sea Mar were Mary Bartolo, Exec. VP, Dustin Greer, CFO, and Jesus Sanchez, COO. Topics on the agenda were the timeline for assuming operations, joint communication from Sea Mar and District to employees, plans for hiring current employees and providers, equipment needs, and need for an MOU and Support Agreement. In the meeting, Sea Mar felt that they were pretty agile and to the extent possible will be looking to make the transition between providers as seamless as possible. They also stated that at this point they are not planning any staffing changes. They will be in touch with Neighborcare to identify equipment that Neighborcare is willing to sell to Sea Mar at a fair market value. We discussed the need for a communication to clinic employees as well as a possible meeting for clinic employees with Sea Mar executives to answer questions. These will need to be coordinated through Neighborcare Health. Regarding an MOU, it is likely we will be trying to put this in place as soon as possible. In discussing the subsidy, Sea Mar is now leaning towards a fixed monthly subsidy per month. At this point it is likely they will request a subsidy of around \$100,000 per month. I have requested a proforma financial projection from them to support their request.

Finance

Legal Expenses – I communicated with Brad Berg and he will get us an invoice for services provided to VHCD to date.

Vouchers Approval – Request approval for VHCD vouchers.

District Credit Card - I have requested Commissioner Wolczko to initiate obtaining a credit card through the District's bank.

New Business

1. Letter to 34th District Legislators

In a conversation with Sharon Nelson, former State Senator, she indicated that in a conversation with Rep. Eileen Cody, Rep. Cody said she needed a letter from the Commissioners.

2. Community Engagement

Lee Ann will introduce Marcie Rubardt to discuss their committee's thoughts on a format for a community Town Hall sometime around the end of September. Lee Ann would like to set a date for the Town Hall at the meeting so we can post it on our calendar.

