GRAYS HARBOR PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT NO. 2
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING
September 20, 2018

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT
Michael Bruce, District 2
Miles Longenbaugh, District 3
Melanie Sturgeon, At Large 2
Robert Torgerson, At Large 1 (via conf. line)
Becky Walsh, District 5
Maryann Welch, District 1

OTHERS PRESENT
Niall Foley, Executive Director Finance
Tom Jensen, CEO, GHCH
Teresa Ramirez, Executive Assistant

Members of the Public

ABSENT
Andrew Bickar, District 4

CALL TO ORDER

President Welch called the meeting to order at 7:27p.

President Welch reported that she would like to add the topic of Montesano De-Annexation to the Agenda under Old Business.

ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Walsh, seconded by Commissioner Bruce, and unanimously carried to add the topic of Montesano De-Annexation to the Agenda.

Public Comment – Agenda Topics
President Welch opened the meeting to members of the public for comment regarding topics listed on the agenda.

Jeff Cook; Mr. Cook heard an interview between Mayor Samuel and Kyle Pauley, in which Mayor Samuel commented on the lack of primary care providers in Montesano and surrounding area; however she only counted the physicians in her calculation. Mr. Cook understands that nurse practitioners in the rural setting should also be counted. He uses a nurse practitioner for certain issues and does not believe that nurse practitioners should be discounted as providers. There are three nurse practitioners in Montesano and three physicians, which by the standard calculations, has the area covered. Mayor Samuel has not defined the total area she wants included in the de-annexation; however, she downplayed the financial impact of the de-annexation.

CONSENT AGENDA

Submitted under the Consent Agenda were:

- District Board Minutes; August 28, 2018
- July Checks/Warrants; $35,148.62

ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Longenbaugh, seconded by Commissioner Walsh, and unanimously carried to approve the Consent Agenda.

COMMITTEE / CHAIRMAN REPORTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Montesano De-Annexation
President Welch proposed that the Board take no action on the informal request from the City of Montesano to de-annex from Public Hospital District No. 2. Mayor Samuel has indicated in many venues that she pursued options for 18 months before proposing de-annexation to her council. During that time, PHD No. 2 Board Chair and CEO received no communication from Mayor Samuel that included the concept of de-annexation, a new clinic, or residency program. Just this afternoon, Mayor Samuel indicated by email that she did not have complete information on the effect a de-annexation would have on PHD No. 2's finances. As Board Chair, along with Administration, we were only notified of the pursuit of options, such as de-annexation, by an email to the Board late Friday night, August 24th – less than four weeks ago. On our part, we must step back from a deadline threat and examine thoroughly the detriment that such a move would have on our organization, patients, providers, and employees. If the de-annexation movement proceeds, it will kick off a process by which de-annexation will be thoroughly examined, and the time to do that is prescribed by statute. In addition, this examination will be in public, not behind closed doors.

Commissioner Walsh echoed President Welch's comments, most especially that the Board and PHD No. 2 go through all the steps in the process in a deliberate fashion. The Board has a fiduciary responsibility to act on facts.

Commissioner Torgerson also echoed President Welch's comments, adding that the Board needs to consider the impact on the overall District when all facts have been presented.

NEW BUSINESS

Resignation
President Welch read a resignation letter from Commissioner Bob Torgerson, effective October 1st, 2018, as his family is moving out of the District. The Board needs to appoint a new Commissioner to the vacant seat within 90 days. Commissioners Bruce and Longenbaugh volunteered to vet candidates and to make a recommendation to the Board.

Public Comment – General
President Welch opened the meeting to members of the public for comment.

Jeff Cook; Mr. Cook continued commenting on his previous statements, that Montesano's de-annexation request is untimely and has come at a bad time for the hospital.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:41p.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 23rd day of October, 2018.

ATTEST:

Teresa Ramirez
Recording Secretary

Commissioner