

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF
CARBON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
Monday, September 21, 2009
Jeffrey Memorial Center, Rawlins, Wyoming**

A special meeting of the Board of Carbon County Commissioners commenced Monday, September 21, 2009 at the Jeffrey Memorial Center in Rawlins, Wyoming to discuss the Memorial Hospital of Carbon County. Attending the meeting were Chairman Terry Weickum; Vice Chairman Jerry Paxton; Commissioner Charles Young; County Attorney Cindy DeLancey; County Treasurer Cindy Baldwin and County Clerk Gwynn Bartlett.

Attending the meeting on behalf of the Memorial Hospital of Carbon County were Mike Reed, Rex Baldwin, Art Canaday, Paul Zamora, and Dr. David Cesko.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by David Throgmorton, Facilitator. Commissioner Charles Young joined the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

Mr. Throgmorton asked each Hospital Board member and County Commissioner to explain what they see as the key point of disagreement between the two Boards and what each thinks the best possible outcome for the Community.

Mr. Throgmorton discussed the perceived rift between the Boards. There was further discussion by Chairman Weickum that the Hospital Board failed to meet the statutory requirement of 18-8-107 to report to the Commissioners when asked. He clarified that he would like to see the Hospital Board Chairman or another designated board member come in person to the Commissioners with monthly reports in writing. Mr. Baldwin discussed the financials and further stated that the Hospital Board looked into outside management two years ago and therefore felt it was a waste of time to attend the Commissioners recent meeting where an outside management company presented. Mr. Throgmorton clarified that the monthly financial report is necessary and required by law and that the format of which will be reported to the Commissioners can be decided at a later time. All parties agreed. There was further discussion of financial issues, including audits, billing issues, current and past employees, referring physicians, and funding from other counties for their hospitals.

Commissioner Paxton suggested that the Hospital Board attend public meetings along with the Commissioners to explain to tax payers why the County should fund the hospital. Mr. Canaday agreed to do this.

Mr. Throgmorton clarified, and the Commissioners agreed, that the only way the Commissioners will feel comfortable assisting the hospital financially is that a new management team is brought in.

After more discussion of the general financial situation, Chairman Weickum clarified that the County can not give the hospital its total operating budget each month as that would deplete the entire County budget. Mr. Canaday suggested the easiest, fastest solution is that the Hospital determines its needs for the next six to eight months, and that the County assumes a bank loan for what might be needed. He added that the hospital may not be able to pay the loan back and that the County may have to. Mr. Throgmorton asked if the Hospital had an estimate of what the hospital might need to run for the remainder of the fiscal year, including any income they anticipate receiving. Mr. Canaday stated they do not have this information, but are capable of putting it together. There was discussion of collections and bad debt and the issues that arise from this.

Mr. Throgmorton summarized various items listing that the Hospital must do more financial reporting to the Commissioners, the legal interpretation of the terminology of "maintenance" in the statute, exploration of an external management as a long-term solution, the need for comparative data of hospitals throughout the state, the possibility of loans or bonds to assist with the current financial situation, and that the formation of a hospital district should be explored.

Mr. Throgmorton declared a recess at 8:00 p.m. and reconvened at 8:05 p.m.

Mr. Throgmorton stated he is convinced that the Commissioners will not be satisfied unless there is a complete and total outside financial view of the hospital records or a complete overhaul of hospital management. He stated from the hospital's side he thinks the Hospital Board has been working hard to alleviate the issues before them and the day to day issues have sucked up the bulk of their time. He stated he thinks the next step for the Hospital is to hammer out a business plan for the remainder of the fiscal year to submit to the Commissioners. Mr. Throgmorton stated he would soon submit a report to both boards on the direction he thinks the situation should go.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

-s- Kathy Turner, Deputy Clerk

Approved this 6th day of October 2009

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CARBON COUNTY, WYOMING

-s- Terry Weickum, Chairman