



# Harlan County Board Minutes



SPECIAL MEETING 10:00AM October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Alma, NE 68920

The Harlan County Board of Supervisors met in special meeting Friday October 18<sup>th</sup> 2019 with Supervisors Chris Schluntz, Traci Dietz, Mike Clements, Cindy Boehler, Jeff Bash, Max Schultz, and Bill Hogeland. Also in attendance were County Clerk Janet Dietz, and County Attorney Bryan McQuay, County's NIRMA Attorney Patrick Vint.

Chairman Dietz called the meeting to order and stated that there is a copy of the open meetings act posted on the wall and will be followed by the Board. All stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Clerk posted the Agenda at the Harlan County Courthouse, Alma Post Office, Hogeland's Market, emailed Harlan County Journal, Harlan County website, and emailed to Harlan County Hospital.

Chairman Dietz opened the meeting with a statement from the Harlan County Board of Supervisors, "We are not here to close the Hospital, that is the last thing on our mind". Please be polite and speak one at a time.

Harlan County Hospital Board of Trustees, Bruce Beins, Chairman, Rick Calkins, Vice Chairman, Deb Neilson, Treasurer, Carol Calkins, Secretary, Jill Stolting, member, Rob Schmidt, member, and Emily White, member, and Mark Miller CEO were present to address the county board, also in attendance were members from the public, and hospital staff. Bruce Beins spoke that the Trustees would like to clear the air, stating that the hospital has had "unfunded mandates" that has affected their ability to make the Hospital bond payment. In doing so it would affect their cash reserves. Chairman Dietz asked if there was a phone call made to Supervisor Boehler offering to make the bond payment and who authorized it. Supervisor Chris Schluntz stated the same offer had been made by Bruce Beins. Nothing official was decided. Supervisor Mike Clements called for a motion to remove #2 item on the agenda, (consider continuing membership of the Hospital Board of Trustees.) Chairman Dietz called twice for a 2<sup>nd</sup>, with no 2<sup>nd</sup> offered motion died.

Patty Rebman spoke on the issues of Hospital's unfunded mandates, Great Plains Health purchasing group, computer system expenses. Several hospital employees spoke of having personnel issues that don't get resolved and incorrect billing issues.

Supervisor Hogeland spoke of the \$924,537 spent on salary and wages, hospital losses last (5) years, (per audit), not building the new clinic until having the funds, borrowing 1 million for the clinic.

Also discussed was the nurse staffing shortages, paying traveling nurses with so many living locally, of the almost \$925,000 spent on wages and benefits, furniture, how much went to nursing/recruitment, how many new administrative positions have been created, housing, fringe benefits, and other compensation were discussed but not made public.(reportedly CEO, \$195,000 and CFO, \$115,000.)

Vice Chairman, Hospital Trustees, Rick Calkins spoke of Dr. Finker not wanting any part of the removal of the trustee board( he was unable to be here).

Mike Clements also spoke for Dr. Long, as he is in support of the Hospital Board.



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Supervisor Hogeland spoke that this Board has learned that there is a toxic workplace, no trust, bullying, loss of staff, and no communication. Supervisor Hogeland spoke of not wanting any backlash to hospital employees.

Supervisor Boehler spoke of everyone needing to listen to all sides, have the information to make an informed decision as there is too much hearsay.

Supervisor Clements once again called for a motion to remove #2 item on the agenda, (consider continuing membership of Hospital Board of Trustees) Motion died for a lack of a 2<sup>nd</sup>.

After a very lengthy discussion motion was made by Bash, 2, by Schluntz to table #2, (consider continuing membership of Hospital Board of Trustee Members) and adjourn. Roll call votes, District # 2-Max Schultz-yes, District # 3-Clements-no, District #5-Bash-yes, District # 7-Hogeland-no, District # 1-Schluntz-yes, District # 4-Boehler-yes, District #6-Dietz-yes. (Clerk reviewed the roll call votes) With a vote of 5-yes, and 2-no. Motion carried. Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:25 pm. Next Board of Supervisor's meeting is November 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm.

Attest;

Traci Dietz, Chairman

Janet Dietz, County Clerk (seal)

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