

Orcas Island Health Care District
Board of Commissioners - REGULAR Meeting Minutes
REMOTE BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, January 5, 2021
5:00 – 7:00 pm

Commissioners Present (via Zoom):

Art Lange
Diane Boteler (joined at 5:18)
Patricia Miller, Secretary
Pegi Groundwater
Richard Fralick, President

Staff (via Zoom):

Anne Presson, Superintendent

Commissioners Absent:

None

I. Call to Order

President Fralick called the first meeting of 2021 for the OIHCD to order at 5:00 pm. He noted 4 of the 5 Commissioners were present and Commissioner Boteler would join later. The District's Superintendent was also present.

President Fralick added one item to the Agenda, which will come after the Clinic Updates. He asked Superintendent Presson to provide a report from the Vaccine Policy Group.

II. Public Comment

Superintendent Presson reported there were no Public Comments received via email prior to the meeting.

III. Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda contained the December 1, 2020 Regular Board Minutes and two AP Voucher Reports. Since Commissioner Groundwater had a question on the subsidy payment to UW that was contained on the AP Report, action on the Consent Agenda was postponed and would be revisited later in the meeting.

IV. Clinic Updates

- a. **OFHC** – Aimee Johnson and Shila Wachtel provided a detailed overview of how the newly launched mobile testing was going. Discussion continued around the volume of tests being delivered, which was significant. The Board was reminded that the funds were given to the Rural Health Clinic for the specific purpose of supporting the community's COVID testing efforts. Since OFHC will be wrapping up operations once Island Hospital takes over clinic operations, the funds available must be used before that date. OFHC will continue to monitor the program to ensure they can maximize the impact and value to the community.

OFHC also reported that it applied to the State to become an approved provider for the COVID vaccine. Representatives from San Juan County are helping to get the application expedited. The County's goal is to have patients vaccinated by their provider, and they are also looking at the tremendous volume and how to best support the entire community. OFHC has reached out to retired RNs who are still licensed and interested in supporting the vaccine effort. Commissioner Fralick asked how far the CARES funds are expected to last in light of the higher-

than-expected demand. Aimee reported that the group is going to be looking at results from the first 5 clinics, which have tested over 200 people, to come up with some estimates. There is a sense that demand was exceptionally high around the holidays and is likely to moderate. They feel the next week should be indicative of where the ongoing demand will fall.

Discussion continued around the insurance billing and whether insurance companies will pay for the test if the person has no known exposure and/or is asymptomatic. OFHC wasn't sure how that might be handled and was encouraging people to contact them if they run into issues and OFHC will help with the cost. Finally, there was a recognition to continue to put communication out to the community to set expectations and advise of any change in testing protocols.

Rick Hughes, owner of Ray's Pharmacy, was asked to provide a brief update since he has also applied to the State to be an approved provider for the COVID vaccine. The Pharmacy is looking to fill holes that aren't being addressed by the clinics or county.

- b. **UW Medicine** – Mark Bresnick from UW Medicine provided a vaccine update. The Clinic staff is scheduled to be vaccinated on Friday, 1/8, and UW will use their extra 9 doses to support the County's effort. They are working with the County to identify other health care providers who are eligible in group 1a. UW continues to conduct testing every week based on medical criteria.

In regard to how UW will manage vaccine for their patients, those details are still being determined. They were able to confirm that they will vaccinate their own patients and are willing to help with the larger community effort but would need to be provided with the vaccine since they are only anticipating enough for their currently registered patients. Mark doesn't expect to have additional details until the end of January.

The Board thanked OFHC for their creativity and UW Medicine for sharing their extra vaccines.

- c. **SJC Vaccine Policy Group** – Superintendent Presson provided a brief summary of the outcome of the discussion that was held earlier in the day with this group. As of this week, the County received 800 doses of the Moderna vaccine. They are launching a regular, ongoing vaccine cycle which has them hosting a vaccine clinic on Orcas every Friday. Last week they provided 40 vaccinations for EMS and health care workers at OFHC. The County expects to be through the first dose for everyone eligible in Phase 1a by the end of next week. The priority population for Phase 1b could start by the end of this month, and county-wide that represents over 4,000 residents. There are still a lot of unknowns and the County is working with the providers to determine numbers for each of the four tiers in Phase 1b. The State has created an online tool called Phase Finder, which will help people self-identify what phase they should be in.

V. Committee and Work Group Reports

- a. **Transition Work Group** – There was agreement that the weekly reports Superintendent Presson was sending to the Board were very helpful and should continue. Commissioner Miller expressed a strong desire to see Island Hospital's Milestones in advance of the next Board meeting on the 19th. There was discussion to clarify who would participate on the interview panels for the Clinic Manager and Providers. After discussion there was consensus of the

Board to have Superintendent Presson and Commissioner Lange on the Clinic Manager panel, and Commissioners Boteler and Lange on the provider panels.

- b. **Building Committee** – President Fralick reported there were some performance issues with the gutters and he is working with Esary to address. Commissioner Groundwater reported that she received the information needed from Sustainable Connections on what still needs to be submitted to them to get the rebate.
- c. **Legal Committee** – The issue of whether the Board needs to revisit current counsel was discussed. Commissioner Groundwater clarified the consensus of the Board when last discussed was to continue with Don Black on all issues not related to Island Hospital, which should be the majority of issues. If something does arise between the two organizations, both will need to seek alternative counsel.

There are two outstanding issues that remain with the Lease Agreement, and the Committee is working with Superintendent Presson to get those resolved prior to the next Board meeting.

- d. **Staffing Committee** – The Committee is working on the goals for Superintendent Presson and hopes to run those by the Superintendent and be able to bring a draft back to the next meeting. Commissioner Groundwater asked the Commissioners to send any feedback and/or suggestions to her so she can incorporate into the draft.
- e. **Finance Committee** – Commissioner Miller indicated there was no report.

VI. Old Business

- a. **SJC Community-Based Long-term Care Network Planning Grant** - Superintendent Presson provided a brief overview of progress on the grant. The kickoff meeting was well attended by all three PHDs and EMS agencies, as well as a few key community leaders.

VII. New Business

- a. **Request for Support** – The Board considered a request from Ray’s Pharmacy to purchase a lab grade refrigerator and freezer. As was shared earlier, the Pharmacy is now able to deliver vaccines and has recently started delivering the shingles vaccine. Last week, they applied to the State to be an approved provider for the COVID vaccine. The Pharmacy is looking to expand capacity but to scale up it is seeking financial support to cover the purchase of a freezer.

Commissioner Groundwater questioned if there is a need and wants to ensure the equipment will still be needed once we get through this initial COVID vaccine effort. Commissioner Boteler also questioned the need for additional capacity with childhood vaccines, and Rick replied that the County has asked the Pharmacy to assist in that area for the past 8 years. Discussion continued and the Board felt it might be possible to redirect the lab grade refrigerator and freezer that were purchased for OFHC once the clinics merge. Superintendent Presson said she will ask Island Hospital if they are able to accommodate what is expected without that equipment.

There was a consensus of the Board to have the Pharmacy return with a more formal proposal.

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VIII. Operations Report

Superintendent Presson did not have anything further to report beyond what she shared earlier in regard to her efforts with the clinic transition activities.

IX. Election of 2021 Officers

The annual election of Board Officers occurs in January. President Fralick thanked everyone for their service over the past 2 ½ year and 70 meetings. He also indicated he would not run for another term and opened the floor to nominations.

Commissioner Miller nominated Commissioner Lange as President for 2021. Commissioner Boteler seconded. President Fralick asked for any additional nominations. Hearing none, he asked for a vote. VOTE 5:0:0 for Commissioner Lange to serve as Board President for the one-year term of January through December 2021.

Commissioner Lange nominated Commissioner Miller as Secretary for 2021. Commissioner Boteler seconded. President Fralick asked for any additional nominations. Hearing none, he asked for a vote. VOTE 5:0:0 for Commissioner Miller to serve as Board Secretary for the one-year term of January through December 2021.

All of the Commissioners thanked President Fralick for his leadership. Commissioner Lange expressed his appreciation for helping move the Board to realize their goal. President Fralick shared that it was an exciting time for the community, and he felt the Board was on the cusp of pulling off something very important with the consolidation and creating a strong financial base. He looks forward to Commissioner Lange’s leadership.

Before moving to Public Comment, the Board revisited the Consent Agenda.

MOVED by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Lange to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. No further discussion. VOTE 5:0:0. MOTION CARRIED.

X. Public Comment

There were no Public Comments submitted at this time.

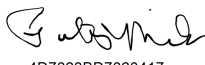
XI. Upcoming Meetings

The next Regular Board meeting will be January 19th via Zoom.

XII. Meeting adjournment

MOVED by Commissioner Groundwater, seconded by Commissioner Boteler to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 pm. VOTE 5:0:0. MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes approved this _____ day of _____, 2021.

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Attest: Patricia Miller, OIHCD Board Secretary

2/25/2021

Date signed