



WORKSHOP MINUTES

BOARD OF WRIGHT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JUNE 8, 2021

Christine Husom	District 1
Darek Vetsch	District 2
Mark Daleiden	District 3
Mary Wetter	District 4
Michael Kaczmarek	District 5

DATE APPROVED: [DATE]

Members Present: Husom, Vetsch, Daleiden, Wetter, Kaczmarek

Others Present: Lee Kelly, Alan Wilczek, Matt Fomby, Greg Pickard, Frank Petitta, Lindsey Meyer, Schawn Johnson, Brian Asleson, Lindsay Salo, Ryan Kotila, Heather Lemieux, Sean Riley, Tim Dahl; **Attending Remotely:** Elizabeth Clow, Nicole Goenner (Health Partners), Elizabeth Tobias (Health Partners), Marisa Bauza (Health Partners), Greg Kryzer, Steve Jobe, Lori Pawelk, Michelle Miller, John Holler, Tammi Vaith, Mike MacMillan, Marc Mattice, Brian Lutes, Christine Partlow, Sarah Grosshuesch, Tanya West, Bill Stephens, Jami Goodrum Schwartz, Kimberly Johnson

THESE MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORMAT AND REQUIRE APPROVAL BY THE COUNTY BOARD

I. Health Partners Clinic Discussion

Elizabeth Tobias, Health Partners, went over the presentation/handouts that were given to the board regarding the Well @ Work on-site Health Partners Clinic which will be located in the new Government Center. The presentation included the layout of the clinic, services and capabilities, medical supply storage, lobby waiting room, and exam room. She discussed the feasibility analysis and explained that some businesses use utilization incentives to get their employees to use the clinic.

Daleiden asked how many staff will be on-site. Tobias said there will be one Clinician on-site three days a week. It will either be a Nurse Practitioner or a Physician's Assistant. Vetsch asked what the timeframe for opening the clinic would be, at the ribbon cutting or a later date? Tobias explained due to the logistics of opening a new county building the Health Partners Clinic would be opened around April 2022.

Wetter asked for clarification as to where labs get sent to and how long it will take to get the results. Nicole Goenner, Health Partners, explained that the Well @ Work Clinic will follow the same process as all other Health Partners Clinics. Near the end of the clinic day a carrier will pick up all lab specimens and bring them to Health Partners Central Laboratory. However, any pathology specimens would then go to Regions Hospital to be processed. The labs will start being processed the same evening. Any patient that is signed up for online patient services could start seeing results the same day, the majority of the results will be back within 24 hours. If it is something that takes longer to process or grow, it could potentially be longer. Goenner stated there are some specimens that can be processed on-site such as a strep test, a pregnancy test, or a urine test. The clinic will have some on-site generic antibiotic medications that patients will be able to leave the clinic with, if needed.

Vetsch said if the County incentivizes employees to use the clinic and there is a control point on claims costs it will help with renewal premiums the following year and that is where the savings truly come into play.

Kaczmarek said about 1,500 square feet is set aside in the new Government Center for the clinic. He asked what the construction cost would be to get the clinic setup the way it needs to be. Facilities Director Alan Wilczek said the county is not outfitting the clinic with much, it's just the structure itself. Kaczmarek asked for the amount it's going to cost to outfit the clinic. Daleiden explained to Kaczmarek that the county is not providing anything

except the space. Vetsch added that the county stands to save hundreds of thousands of dollars on potential health insurance renewals by being able to control cost factors for services.

Kaczmarek asked what the \$315,000 entails for running the clinic. Tobias explained the biggest cost is the Clinician which is a salaried position with benefits. There is malpractice insurance covered under a monthly administrative fee that Health Partners charges. The administrative fee also covers the people managing the medical oversight with the Medical Director, medications, labs, supplies, flu shots and anything else needed to provide care.

Kaczmarek asked how Health Partners was selected as the provider for this clinic. Vetsch explained that Health Partners is one of the companies that has been doing this type of clinic the longest. Daleiden added that Health Partners is also the county's insurance provider. Daleiden said he's sees this as a benefit and savings to employees, maybe not tomorrow or even next year but sometime in the future.

Wetter asked what the clinic hours will be because a lot Urgent Care and Emergency Room visits are after normal business hours. Goenner said they work with the county to see what the best fit for the county will be. Some of these types of clinic open at 6 a.m. and close at 6 p.m. very few are open 8 a.m. and close at 4:30 p.m. Well @ Work Clinic's provide access during the day and try to provide care outside of those traditional times. Vetsch said there are 24 hours a week of appointment times based on the \$315,000.

Kaczmarek wanted to know how many employees live in Wright County that would be paying taxes to contribute to offset the cost that is not covered by usage. Vetsch asked Kaczmarek what the correlation of the number would show. Human Resources Director Schawn Johnson said there are roughly 750 employees in Wright County and approximately 400 live in Wright County. 99 percent of the Wright County employees are in-network which means they use Health Partners. Tobias added that the analysis only looked at employees and not their dependents and spouses so the numbers would most likely go up regarding utilization of the clinic.

Kaczmarek wanted to go on record saying, looking at the potential cost for the taxpayers, the speculation of usage, the availability of existing services in the area and the feedback he has received from his constituents, that he does not support moving forward with the Well @ Work Clinic and he would make a motion. Daleiden reminded Kaczmarek that the Board doesn't make motions at workshops. Vetsch interjected saying there is already a contract for three years with Health Partners for the Well @ Work Clinic.

Kaczmarek wanted to know if an employee puts in a request for time off for appointments are supervisors going to steer them to the Well @ Work Clinic. Vetsch said by law the county cannot tell employees where to get medical care.

RECOMMENDATION: Informational only.

II. Charlotte/Martha Subordinate Service District

Assistant County Attorney Brian Asleson reviewed the minutes from the last Charlotte/Martha Subordinate Service District Advisory Committee Meeting. This district was formed in 2001 and the sewer project came, in 2002. The City of St. Michael reached out because there were issues with the failing septic systems. The reason the Charlotte/Martha district was formed was because the south half of Lake Charlotte and all of Lake Martha are in the township and not in a city that has sewer capabilities. The county adopted a role of services charges on the parcels that are hooking up to the project. There is a shortfall in the fund which is used to make bond payments. Asleson said he believed the shortfall was around \$40,000, with the last bond payment being due in 2022.

The Advisory Committee was formed in 2019. The original recommendation was a \$3,000 assessment to each of the parcels that are either hooked up to the sewer or had a stub that could be hooked up in the future. The \$3,000 assessment was going to be spread out over a three-year period with no interest which would result in a little

overage. There has been discussion about using the overage for future repairs to the system. People who use the system pay a monthly or quarterly fee to the City of St. Michael which covers the service they get and grinder pumps on parcels that have gone out. The lines on the street are owned by the county which is why staff thought a maintenance fund would be a good idea.

One option would be a one-year assessment in the amount of \$2,511 that would be paid once. The second option would be an assessment of \$2,854 spread out over three years. Both of those options would require a public hearing before the County Board. The Advisory Committee decided it doesn't want to set up a maintenance fund at this point.

Daleiden said he was of the understanding there were two reasons for the shortfall. One reason was people paid it off right away which caused a lack of interest collected. The second reason was some development never occurred that was expected. Asleson said there were probably a few other reasons too. There was an unexpected bill in the amount of almost \$70,000 to the city that had to do with commendation costs for the line that came out to the area. Also, interest rates plummeted in 2008. It was refinanced in 2011 and the savings were passed on to the residents.

Kaczmarek wanted to know how the amount of the assessments was determined. Asleson said the base cost is the same for everyone the only factor is how far residents live from the road. Auditor/Treasurer Bob Hiivala said he would recommend assessing 40 basis points which is the short-term interest rate, so the assessment amounts can be fixed. Vetsch said it should be high enough that it would cover it. Finance Director Lindsey Meyer said without knowing what is going to happen and depending on how the residents are going to pay it back, will depend on how much money they are borrowing for this year, next year, the year after that and what the interest rates are because the County need to recoup the costs.

RECOMMENDATION: The Board recommends setting a meeting after getting preliminary numbers for the assessment. After that a public hearing will be set up and a final decision will then be made.

III. 2022 Budget

Hiivala gave the Board information for the projected 2022 budget. Vetsch said he has concerns with the numbers Hiivala has for the 2022 budget. Vetsch said he would like to wait to discuss the budget until the numbers are more accurate because he doesn't want anyone to latch on to these numbers.

Hiivala asked Vetsch if he was concerned that the 2021 tax rate was incorrect. Vetsch said he was concerned and couldn't figure out where Hiivala came up with that rate. Hiivala asked Assistant Finance Director-Property Tax Operations Tammi Vaith what the tax rate for payable 2021 was. Vaith said the tax rate for payable 2021 was 43.719.

Vetsch apologized to Hiivala for not being able to sit down beforehand and look at the numbers but he was booked with meetings the previous week. County Administrator Lee Kelly said they have been gathering information but there are still a lot of variables in play for 2022 that have not been defined yet.

Vetsch said there's some missing information on the revenue side that is inflating the taxes. It needs to be figured out, so the numbers are fairly accurate. Daleiden said he would like this information ahead of time so when the board decides what meeting to discuss it at, board members can review it beforehand.

RECOMMENDATION: Vetsch will meet with Hiivala, Meyer and Vaith to go over the numbers and estimates to ensure accuracy before the next meeting.

IV. Compost Facility follow-up from May Workshop

Wilczek said at the last workshop the Board asked him to get proposals for engineering services. Wilczek reached out to engineering consultant TKDA for the structural aspect. TKDA was the engineer for the original construction project for both the structural and civil side. TKDA gave a proposal to do a review of the hangar building for the current condition and for the potential option to enclose the hangar to make it a drive-thru. The proposal included the structural condition assessment reporting the potential feasibility for \$8,000.

For the civil side of the project, Wilczek reached out to Wenck, which is part of Stantec-the county's civil engineer on all the county's construction projects over the past several years. Wenck looked at the site and put together a proposal for the civil side and on the 29.3 acres to do a constraints analysis to find out limitations on the site from a retention basin runoff and a filtration area. There are a lot of components to the trash and compost site. Wenck proposed doing constraints analysis as well as a schematic layout for the fire training center that was discussed at the last workshop. Wenck would determine general turn radius for trucks, what size site would fit in the area and still be able to keep the traffic flow. The proposal came back at \$5,000 from Wenck.

Wilczek said if the board wants to go beyond that there can be site analysis done such as ground boring and environmental testing/analysis. There would be another proposal at that point.

Wilczek said he would support moving forward with Wenck if the Board is still interested in moving forward with the site analysis and TKDA to do the structural analysis of the hangar building.

Daleiden asked if Wenck could do the structural analysis of the hangar building. Wilczek said he didn't believe they specialize in doing structural analysis. He also said TKDA would be a good firm to go with because they originally designed the structure.

Kaczmarek asked about the current building at the compost site. Daleiden said if the hangar can be enclosed the other building can be eliminated altogether.

Kaczmarek said he did some research and found there are approximately 10 boats being stored at the compost site. Some are owned by Wright County, and some are owned by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Kaczmarek said he recommends giving the DNR notice that Wright County is looking to get rid of the free rental space, and if it chooses to, it can pay to store the boats.

Kaczmarek said in regard to the fire training facility, when he was at the Emergency Management Safety (EMS) meeting, they were trying to put a steering committee together but there wasn't a lot of interested generated. There was concern from some of the smaller fire departments about leaving the city with equipment to attend training.

Vetsch said he would recommend having a letter sent to the DNR, stating something to the effect that if the DNR is storing equipment at the compost facility site they are storing it at their own risk and the county does not assume liability. Assistant County Attorney Greg Kryzer clarified that the Board would like to draft a lease agreement, that if something happens to the boats the county is held harmless. He said it should be easy, and the DNR would need to sign the lease agreement.

RECOMMENDATION: Kelly will reach out to the Sheriff's Office and the Parks and Recreation Department to find out if the stored equipment at the compost site is still being utilized. Kelly will also reach out to the Fire Department Chiefs to find out if they are still interested in the fire training facility. Wilczek will move forward with getting the structural assessment with different options for the hangar and other building. He will wait for further instruction before getting the civil assessment. Kryzer will draft a lease agreement for the storage of the DNR boats.

V. Teams and County Board Meetings

Vetsch said Microsoft Teams is efficient for staff that don't need to attend board meetings in person. This has helped save time and money for the county because staff are able to listen to the meeting and still able to do other work such as answer emails and phone calls.

RECOMMENDATION: The Board recommended keeping Teams available for staff that don't need to attend in person. However, if a staff member has a Timed Agenda Item, that person will need to attend the meeting. YouTube Live will be for residents that want to stay informed. If a resident wants to speak at a meeting they will still have to email or call Administration to be put on an Agenda and will need to attend in person.

The meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

County Board Workshop Minutes submitted by Angie Fisher, Administrative Specialist

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