SPECIAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Meeting Minutes - March 14, 2016

<u>MEETING NO. 2016-14:</u> The Special Meeting of the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly, in joint session with the Bartlett Regional Hospital Board, held in the Assembly Chambers of the Municipal Building, was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Mary Becker.

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Assembly Present: Mary Becker, Jamie Bursell, Maria Gladziszewski, Loren Jones, Jesse Kiehl, Jerry Nankervis, Barbara Sheinberg (teleconference), Kate Troll and Debbie White.

Assembly Absent: None.

Hospital Board Members present: Nancy Davis, President; Brenda Knapp, Robert Storer, Mary Borthwick, Lauree Morton, Dr. Cate Buley and Marshal Kendziorek.

Staff Present: Kim Kiefer, City Manager; Mila Cosgrove, Deputy City Manager; Amy Mead, Municipal Attorney; Laurie Sica, Municipal Clerk; Chuck Bill, CEO, BRH; Alan Ulrich, CFO, BRH; Sally Schneider, Chief Behavioral Health Officer; Billy Gardner, Chief Clinical Officer; and Dallas Hargrave, HRRM Director.

II. AGENDA TOPICS

A. Joint Discussions with the Assembly and Bartlett Regional Hospital Board of Directors

Nancy Davis, Board President, thanked the Assembly for the opportunity to meet. She said that the communications over the years between the two entities have improved. Introductions were made around the table.

Chuck Bill explained that Bartlett Foundation moved its office from the Bartlett House to the Juneau Medical Center Building in the fall of 2015 and does not have a rental arrangement with Bartlett Hospital as required by CBJ and CBJ guidelines. A recent appraisal identified a monthly rate of $2319.45 per month for the 987 square feet. Any deviation from a fair market value lease requires approval of the Assembly. Recognizing Bartlett Foundation as a supporter of Bartlett Hospital, the community and the region, BRH leadership recommends a $1 (one dollar) annual lease for the space.

<u>MOTION</u>, by Troll, to approve a $1 annual lease for the Bartlett Foundation for the Juneau Medical Center facility space rental. Following discussion, and hearing no objection, it was so ordered.

Mr. Bill said CBJ Code Title 40 identifies the hospital entity and its authority/powers. The code section has not had a significant review in 30 years. The board and staff have gone through an exhaustive process to review the code to assist their operations and parallel the other board titles. They have involved CBJ law, medical staff and the BRH board in the review. The amendments will be coming forward to the Assembly for review. In the future they plan to review the code every 2-3 years.

The Board, Assembly and staff discussed the process of review of Title 40.

Mr. Bill spoke about the shared services agreement with CBJ, including the shared HR Director. The agreement was up at the end of the year and was due for renewal. He spoke with Ms. Kiefer at length and they have determined that continuation of the agreement makes sense. BRH is CBJ and the employees share resources. The other pieceof shared services is CBJ laws staffing and this is still a work in progress. We have discussed ways to streamline. Almost all of our contracts were not in the right format for CBJ and we have reviewed hundreds of contracts to get them through the appropriate approval process. We have put a contract manager in place at BRH and this will help.

Mr. Bill spoke about various financial topics. Mr. Ulrich shared information for 2016 financials year to date.

Jesse Kiehl joined the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Mr. Ulrich spoke about the implementation of the medi-tech software system. The hospital's busy season follows the tourism season and the revenues will show that. Linda Thomas is chair of the BRH Finance Committee and under her leadership they have analyzed trends.

Ms. Troll asked if more elective surgeries were happening here than being done in Seattle, and if there was information on that. Mr. Bill said that much of the surgeries are becoming out-patient. They don't have good information on how many surgeries were going out of town, it was more anecdotal information. He was hoping to get more accurate data going forward.

Ms. Sheinberg asked about "charity care" in the budget on line item 12. She asked if this number should be declining due to added affordable care insurance and medicare. Alan said that reflected the write-offs for those qualifying that are not making payments. BRH was under budget and one of the things that was effecting them was the ability to enroll people into medicaid. As we review the 2017 budget we see more people shifting into an insured product of some kind.

Ms. Troll asked about efforts to attracting more patients to the hospital from local as well as regional sources. Ms. Buley works at the SEARHC clinic and is seeing less of a need to transfer somewhere else because they are self pay and she believed that the trend was to improve services based on the affordable health care act. Mr. Bill said they were also seeing a need to do additional physician recruitment.

Mr. Bill spoke about medicaid expansion and reform. About 2000 new enrollees are from the Juneau Service area - we don't know how much they will use our services and we don't know the reimbursement from the state, but it will definitely effect Rainforest Recovery Services.

Mr. Bill said Sharon Fischer is the chief of staff. BRH leadership was collaborating with the medical staff so we can be proactive and respond to changes in situations.

The Rural demonstration project pays for some hospital costs and the program has "sunsetted." They applied for and were approved as an isolated sole community hospital status. The program has been authorized by the U.S. Congress for renewal and more information would be forthcoming.

Alan updated the group on the ongoing CIP program. Working with Mr. Bartholomew, we submitted information for a multi-year project, with specific projects not previously presented to the Assembly. Remodeling of the operating room, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Unit (CAMHU), and Information Services were some of the projects.There is a contract in place to do the feasibility study for the CAMHU, they have done the needs analysis, and then we should be able to make recommendations to the board.

Ms. Bursell asked if there was adequate facilities to address opiate addiction that has become a problem. Mr. Bill said the facilities are not adequate. Rainforest Recovery addresses alcohol. The state house added $30 million to its budget for these needs and BRH hopes to develop that capability.

Ms. Troll asked if there was any consideration of re-evaluating program needs to change the focus at Rainforest Recovery to address the opiate addiction problem. Ms. Buley said as a member of the medical staff they had discussed this and had seen Rainforest focus on alcohol and we need to focus on all addictions. The medical staff has brought this concern to the board. There are not a lot of providers, only two provide replacement medications in Juneau and they are insufficient to provide to the need. BRH is working on care transition plans and will start with the mental health unit to provide for patients as they leave the facility to their homes.

Mr. Jones said the federal government has released some extra funds for this issue - potentially to Front Street clinic. Mr. Bill thought this was relating to the distribution of narcane.

Mr. Bill discussed the hospitalist program and said there would be a full time physician in house in May through the summer. We have discussed this for some time and this allows doctors to spend more time in their offices with their patients and keeping an in house physician on staff to make rounds. They will have admitting privileges.

Ms. Troll said that when she came on to the Assembly there was some turmoil at the hospital and there seems to have been a great turn around on this issue.

Mayor Becker thanked the Hospital Board and staff for the information and work on behalf of the community.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Assembly, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Signed:__________________________	Signed:______________________________
Laurie Sica, Municipal Clerk	Mary E. Becker, Mayor