

**MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL MEETING
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL OF SWEETWATER COUNTY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AND CASTLE ROCK HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

May 31, 2017

The Board of Trustees of Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County met in special session with the Castle Rock Hospital District Board of Trustees on May 31, 2017, at 5:30 p.m., with Mr. Richard Mathey, President, presiding.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Mathey called the meeting to order and announced there was a quorum. The following Trustees were present: Mr. Taylor Jones, Mr. Richard Mathey, Mr. Bob Scott, Dr. Barbara Sowada, and Mr. Ed Tardoni.

Officially present: Ms. Irene Richardson, CFO & Interim CEO; Dr. David Dansie, Medical Staff President; Mr. John Kolb, Sweetwater County Board of County Commissioners.

Guests: Castle Rock Hospital District Board of Trustees: Mr. Bob Gordon, Ms. Sandee Gunter, Mr. Reed Robbins, Ms. Patsy Sorensen, Mr. Dan Stanton; Ms. Bailie Dockter, CEO; Mr. Todd Toolson, CFO.

Mr. Mathey welcomed everyone and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Participants introduced themselves.

GOALS FOR WORKING TOGETHER DISCUSSION

Mr. Mathey said there was no specific agenda; the meeting was more exploratory in nature. Ms. Dockter said when the Castle Rock Board discussed having this meeting, their discussions quickly turned to how can we work together and partner together. This is a good venue to open communications. They want to move forward with a fresh slate in an effort to help patients. She said Castle Rock and MHSC are the two largest healthcare providers in the community. Ms. Dockter said Castle Rock operates a primary care facility and an ambulance service. She said they previously had a lease agreement with the Hospital. She said it was beneficial, easy and convenient for their patients. Specialties that came periodically were: Pulmonology, Nephrology, Hematology/Oncology, ENT, OB, Surgeons. She said they asked for Ortho but they would not come to Green River. She said some of evolution of services may have been due to an overlap of services Castle Rock offered. Ms. Dockter said they are looking for ways to enhance communications between providers and patients. She said Behavioral Health is a desperate need for their patients. She said Cardiology and Pulmonary would be beneficial. Ms. Dockter said the key is to be beneficial for both entities so that it can be sustainable. The group discussed the value of the previous affiliation agreement and felt it was more on paper than it was useful. Ms. Dockter said the feeling was it limited what Castle Rock was able to do or could offer. Mr. Stanton said getting the providers together is probably more beneficial than getting the boards together. He said it makes sense to work together whether we have a formal agreement or not. Ms. Gunter said we need to work to keep patients in the County.

Mr. Mathey said he knows what he was told as a new board member about the Castle Rock affiliation and feels it was not correct information. He said making out well economically is certainly not the end-all, most important thing in the relationship. Ms. Richardson said she thinks we can work together to send a lot of those specialties. We would need to fill the schedules of the providers to make it more economically practical. Ms. Richardson said we really struggled with the volume. She said maybe visits twice a month instead of weekly would be better. She said it would require good communication. We would need to make sure both medical staffs are working well together, collaboratively, and communicating.

Ms. Dockter said Castle Rock is struggling financially with their ambulance service. She said they lose about \$360,000/year on the service. They are trying to minimize the loss. She approached the Hospital's former CEO and Emergency Department Director in the past about Castle Rock's desire to be part of the ambulance rotation for out of town transfers. She was told they could not be included due to trauma designation requirements. Ms. Dockter said they are still very interested in seeking those patients. They were part of that rotation before but then it stopped. She said they are fully accredited by the State to provide services. If they can provide the same service, they would like the same consideration as other services. Ms. Richardson said she will investigate. Mr. Kolb invited Ms. Dockter to contact the County Ambulance Board to discuss the topic in more detail. He said ambulance service is a very complex issue so all parties need to be involved. Ms. Gunter said we need to educate people they have a choice.

Mr. Jones asked about the group from Star Valley seeing patients at Castle Rock. Ms. Dockter said an orthopedic group rents space from them. They come consistently and come back when they say they will. She said she can't say if the agreement would end based on the relationship with the Hospital. Castle Rock wouldn't want to limit access for their patients. Mr. Toolson said it's not driven by economics; it's really driven by patient care. They want their patients to have the best access for their care. Ms. Dockter said those patients currently travel to Star Valley for their surgeries.

Mr. Mathey thanked the Castle Rock Board for giving the MHSC Board a lot to think about and said he felt the meeting was very beneficial. The motion to give Ms. Richardson the authority to confer with Castle Rock in general and Ms. Dockter in particular to explore areas of collaboration was made by Mr. Scott; second by Dr. Sowada. Motion carried.

The two Boards and guests were invited to eat dinner before the conclusion of the meeting.


ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.



Mr. Richard Mathey, President

Attest:



Mr. Taylor Jones, Secretary