

SPECIAL COMMISSIONER MEETING OF August 31, 2020

The Caribou County Commissioners met for a special meeting on August 31, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. Those in attendance, Commissioner Chairman Phil Christensen, Commissioner Mark Mathews and Commissioner Bryce Somsen. Also, in attendance were Caribou County Clerk Denise Horsley, Deputy Clerk Tisha Young, Caribou County Prosecutor Doug Wood, IT/GIS Supervisor Jacob Farnes, Jackie Barthlome, Dawn Corbett, Frank Chadwick, Wes Brown, Duayne Sims, Mark Steele and Dillion Liechty.

The meeting opened with Caribou County Commissioner Christensen giving the pledge of allegiance.

Caribou County Memorial Hospital/Living Center Discussion:

- Commissioner Christensen opened the meeting by asking the audience if anyone would like to speak on record today.
- Duayne Sims asked why the memorandum of understanding that was drafted by the Caribou County Hospital Board wasn't given to the Caribou County Board of Commissioners. Duayne said he feels like this issue has been laying dormant for too long.
- Commissioner Mathews explained that the Commissioners have been actively following the discussions, but the pandemic put things on hold.
- Doug Wood said as a citizen of Caribou County, he has discussed the issue with many people. He feels the enormity of the decision. He understands the financial and emotional end of this decision. Doug agrees with Commissioner Christensen that this issue needs to be put up for a vote. He believes this would be the most ideal way for the citizens to get their opinion heard. He knows that the Commissioners have been inundated with letters from members of the community. Doug believes this issue demands input by citizens of the county. The simple fact is the decision involves up to \$30 million, so it mandates this kind of attention. Doug said this is his thoughts and feelings as a citizen of Caribou County, but not as the Caribou County Prosecutor.
- Jackie Barthlome said her understanding is the hospital will fall under a non-profit organization. She asked what will happen to the nursing home? Commissioner Christensen said the nursing home will fall under county control. Commissioner Christensen further explained that at this point no definite decisions have been made.
- Commissioner Mathews said the wording is confusing on the proposed agreement because the hospital wants the entire facility; however, Caribou County will maintain the ownership and management of the nursing home. He doesn't believe this document is ready to be adopted and signed. Commissioner Somsen agreed with Commissioner Mathews.


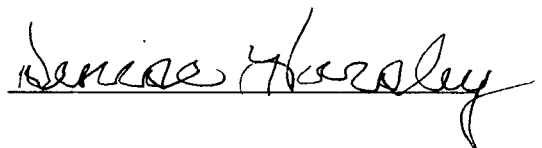
- Dillion Liechty said factors with building code and state code will have to be considered. Doug Wood stated that he has been reviewing some of the codes involved.
- Jackie Barthlome voiced concern about the employees that could lose their jobs.
- Denise asked Dillion about the statement in the agreement that the hospital will only have 5 inpatient beds. Dillon's response was that is the proposed minimum amount.
- Mark Steele stated that most of the individuals that he has spoken with would rather our community not be without the nursing home.
- Jackie Barthlome explained that she doesn't understand why the HVAC systems can't be separate between the nursing home and the hospital. Dillion Liechty stated the biggest concern is the building infrastructure is not safe.
- Commissioner Somsen stated that he understands that many citizens don't like the thought of losing the nursing home facility.
- Wes Brown asked if the figures have been ran to determine what it is going to cost the tax payers to construct a new hospital. Commissioner Mathews said it will result in a 21 percent increase in taxes.
- Commissioner Somsen explained that he welcomes any public input at this point. Commissioner Somsen is also leaning towards the idea of running a bond on an upcoming election.
- Commissioner Mathews suggested that financing companies be contacted to see what funding is available.

Other:

- The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m. The Caribou County Board of Commissioners will meet September 14, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. for regular meeting.

Signed: Phil Christensen, Commissioner Chairman

Attested: Denise Horsley

**Caribou County Commissioner's Agenda
Special Meeting Date: August 31, 2020**

Time	Name of Person/Party Concerning	Phone Number
3:00 PM	Nursing Home/Caribou Memorial Hospital Discussion/	
3:15 PM	May go into Executive Session I.C. 74-206€	
3:30 PM		
3:45 PM		
4:00 PM		
4:15 PM		
4:30 PM		
4:45 PM		

Other Business: Executive Session I.C. 74-206
