

Minutes

Point Roberts Public Hospital District

Wednesday May 8, 2024

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Stephen Falk, Commissioner (via Zoom)

Attending:

Commissioners: Stephen Falk, Sara Oggel, Noel Newbolt
Superintendent: Barbara Wayland
Financial Advisor: Paulette Ladner
Recording Secretary: Farrah Carsten

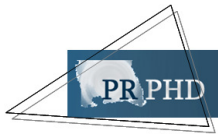
Introduction of Guests:

Dr. Sean Bozorgzadeh, Alexandra Wiley, Pat Grubb – APB, Virginia Lester, Allison Calder, Vic Riley, Shannon (Tomsen) Riley, Elisabeth Mason, Shivé Marshall, Deborah Shields, Tom Nordorf, Liz Otwell, Holly Robinson, Judy Ross, Jacquelyne Kinsey, Stephen Wilson, Lucy Williams, Rose Hawayek, Donna Kroetsch, Mike Hendon, Christina Tersakian, Deb W., Erin, Margot, Pam, P. Kelly, Larry

Public Comment: Lucy Williams (widow of former Commissioner & Chair, Dr. Richard Williams) spoke about how Dick taught ethics at USC and how it was extremely important to him. She said two commissioners constitutes a quorum, Dick's rules were important and laws are important. There aren't secret meetings held unless it's announced and publicized according to the rules of this committee. These are public elected officials and the public votes these people into office to serve the public. Lucy stated that years ago there were 2 presentations, one from SuperTrack and one from Deb Shields. Deb Shields did not convince the commissioners at that time that she had financial backing for the clinic. (Internet connection was lost). Furthermore, she expressed that Dick would have been upset at what was going on and she suggested for the public to vote commissioners out of office that are not working for the public.

Larry, Rose Hayawek, Mike Hendon, Donna Kroetsch and Christina Tersakian also voiced their support for SuperTrack.

Vic Riley (one of the founding commissioners of the district), mentioned that he and his wife Shannon occasionally publish (articles) to their website The Small Point Bulletin (<https://smallpointbulletin.com/>). They both published a story on Sunday evening in regards to commissioner Falk conspiring with Deb Shields to replace SuperTrack since 2020, out of the view from the public, the superintendent and the other commissioners for the benefit of Deb Shields. Vic stated that Stephen Falk has made himself answerable to Deb Shields rather than to the public, thus making it a violation of the oath of office for him to be impartial. Vic went on to state that now that the public are aware of this conspiracy, any motion and vote to let the SuperTrack contract lapse in order to consider an inferior competitor would be a transparent attempt to use their positions as public officials to benefit Deb Shields.



They would challenge the validity and legality of any such vote. Vic feels that Stephen's actions have put the district and each commissioner at risk. and that he has demonstrated he is unfit for office and must resign.

Shannon (Tomsen) Riley expressed her disappointment with Stephen Falk and said that he has made his disdain for Dr. Bozorgzadeh abundantly clear and now they know why. She said that while Dr. Anwar might be a fine doctor, he is not the doctor for Point Roberts. She asked if any of the commissioners actually vetted Dr. Anwar because she researched his background and found that he failed to qualify for medical school in his country of Egypt. Instead, he went to medical school in the Bahamas which he should have been proud of. But when Dr. Bozorgzadeh asked him about his schooling (which each of the commissioners should have been asking in the public mtg), Dr. Anwar became very angry and defensive to the point that a public member had to interrupt and ask the commissioners to mediate. Shannon stated Dr. Anwar doesn't know WA State laws regarding physician assistants and Dr. Anwar claimed they are independent providers which is incorrect. Shannon went on to say that Dr. Anwar made incorrect claims in regards to pediatric care because he is an internist and cannot see patients under the age of 18 and Deb Shields failed to correct him on that. Shannon felt that Dr. Anwar's cavalier attitude was willing to put the district at substantial risk for lawsuit.

Elisabeth Mason mentioned that she was the one that spoke up during the last meeting not to criticize Dr. Anwar but because she felt that Stephen Falk doesn't know how to run and moderate a meeting. She felt it was totally unprofessional and only responded now because Shannon stated she interrupted the meeting.

Approval of minutes from previous PRPHD Regular Meeting (April 10, 2024)

Motion: To approve minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

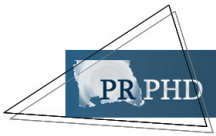
Financial Report:

Paulette Ladner presented the financial report. Current month payables \$17,250.64 / Payroll is \$3,247

There is 1 item to note: Reimbursement for \$29.35 for 3 months priority mail to SuperTrack for paychecks

Approval of Prior Minutes:

Financial Report:



Bills presented for approval as follows:

Bills paid:

- 06/01/24 – SuperTrack Urgent Care PLLC = \$16,000
- 05/01/24 – Point Roberts Bookkeeping = \$729.35
- 05/31/24 – Point Roberts Press = \$50
- 05/01/24 – Point Roberts Fire Distr. #5 = \$260.45
- 03/01/24 – Whidbey Telecom = \$0
- 04/01/24 – Bellingham Business Machine = \$20.84
- 04/04/24 – WA County Admin Svc = \$190

Payroll as follows:

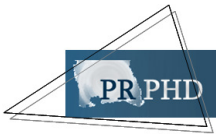
- Barb Wayland – Superintendent = \$2,001
- Farrah Carsten – Secretary = \$552
- Stephen Falk – Commissioner = \$114
- Sara Oggel – Commissioner = \$114
- Noel Newbolt – Commissioner = \$114
- Deanna Perkins – Cleaner = \$352

Motion: To approve warrants and payroll for prior months' expenditures as presented. **Motion carried.**

**Clinic Medical
Director Update:**

DATE	BY	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	PAID	BALANCE
01/01/24					
01/02/24					
01/03/24					
01/04/24					
01/05/24					
01/06/24					
01/07/24					
01/08/24					
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Dr. Bozorgzadeh took time to address the commission and the public. In view of all of the things that came out over the weekend the Dr. wanted to state that they did not sign up to get tangled in political and business agendas and that SuperTrack has reviewed the acts of certain members of the commission as a hinderance to their ability to deliver care to the people of Point Roberts. Although the environment is challenging, he wanted to assure friends, patients and the community to be rest assured SuperTrack will continue to deliver the most diligence and care until these issues are resolved.



SuperTrack was invited to come to Point Roberts to fill the vacuum that was left by Unity Care in 2018. Nobody was willing at the time to submit a proposal to provide medical services in Point Roberts but SuperTrack stepped up to the challenge and made the promise to make the clinic operational by January second of 2019. The timeline was pretty aggressive and SuperTrack didn't really promise that there will be no hiccups but they did promise the commission and the community that they would fix every hiccup that may appear to them.

Dr. Bozorgzadeh stated that he has talked to the people who helped them write the initial contract and they said yes, these activities can be considered in violation of the public open public meetings act. State ethics laws pertaining to public elected officials and state laws and governmental agencies and contracting. Not only would the Point Roberts community be harmed but SuperTrack and its employees would also be damaged. If these activities persist, the commissioners who are engaging in them as well as the hospital district will be at risk for significant financial liability.

Dr. Bozorgzadeh went on to say that they would like to show their commitment to Point Roberts and would like to continue to build on the foundation that has been laid. Noel thanked the Dr. for his comments.

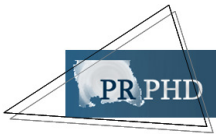
Superintendent's Report:

Barbara reported that as she was on the road she received many phone calls and that everybody knows what's been going on since it's been published. Many good comments from the people were expressed in this meeting and she will have a more detailed report next month.

Other:

Stephen said he has not read The Small Point Bulletin and that he only saw the headline that that he was involved in some conspiracies and he isn't sure about that. He stated he would not comment further on the conclusions people have tried to reach.

Noel stated that she had read the article, is disappointed and she supports the clinic and originally wanted a 2-year contract instead of a 1-year contract. She felt that the manner in which Stephen brought forth Dr. Anwar was done underhanded by not letting the superintendent or herself know that he was invited to the meeting for a presentation. She's a little "pissed" and feels that Stephen should read the report.



Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday June 12th, 2024 @ 7:00 pm via ZOOM

Meeting adjourned: 7:39 p.m.

Minutes approved verbally at the following month's ZOOM meeting.

Stephen Falk

Sara Oggel

Noel Newbolt

Farrah Carsten