

# **DRAFT September 24, 2019 WMCSHCD BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

## **OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE WHITE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES SPECIAL HEALTH CARE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING**

**September 24, 2019 3:00 P.M.  
St. Johns City Hall Council Room  
70 East Commercial Street  
St. Johns, AZ 85936**

Members of the Public Present: Debbie Skousen, Kelly Waite, and Adrianna Marquez, North Country HealthCare. Ron McArthur, Summit HealthCare CEO, Doug Gilchrist, COO Summit HealthCare, and \*\* Adam Patterson, MD, Casey Heap, MD and Travis Heap, PA, Summit HealthCare. Greg Was, WMRMC, Jean Kirk and Robert Vallejos, SJEMS, Paul Ramsey, Manager, City of St. Johns, Mayor Spencer Udall and Tony Raykovitz, Joe Greene and Chuck Humphreys St. Johns City Councilmen, and Chris Chiesl, Community Development, City of St. Johns. Beverly Campeau, Rocky McGuffin and other members of the communities whom did not sign the attendance log.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jerry Campeau at 3:00 P.M.

2. Roll Call: Jerry Campeau, Linda Martin, Derek Kidwell, Marilyn Slaughter and Sandy Crabtree were present. Dana Overson, Administrator also present.

3. Call to Public: Councilman Tony Raykovitz voiced support of the sale of the St. Johns Clinic to Summit HealthCare based on the need for a continuous regular doctor for the community.

4. Approval of Minutes of Directors Meeting held on September 19, 2019. **ACTION REQUIRED. ACTION TAKEN: Sandy Crabtree moved to approve the minutes. Marilyn Slaughter seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

5. Presentation from Summit HealthCare. Jerry Campeau thanked Ron McArthur for submitting a proposal, answers submitted and their interest in the St. Johns Clinic. Mr. McArthur introduced his staff present and thanked the District Board for the opportunity to present their proposals to the board. Ron McArthur gave an overview of the clinics and specialty care Summit currently offers throughout the region as well as Summit's corporate support to communities. St. Johns is the only area Summit does not serve currently and they look forward to providing healthcare in St. Johns. He stated that on the financial side of the offer to purchase the building, Summit would be partnering with NexCore whom they currently work with on their projects in Show Low. They are prepared to pay the full market appraised value of \$810,000. Mr. McArthur reviewed the services and providers Summit HealthCare would bring to the community as of November 1, 2019 should they be the successful entity to purchase the Clinic. Dr. Adam Patterson would be the anchor provider, with the addition of Dr. Casey Heap and Travis Heap, P.A providing services on a rotating basis as well as E-visit (telemedicine) capability followed by specialty providers as the community needs were identified. RHC licen-

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sure will be applied for as soon as a location is acquired as required to obtain such license. Summit will work with a sliding fee schedule until such license is set. Digital x-ray will be installed within approximately 120 -180 days and lab services will also be available when the clinic opens. Linda Martin expressed concerns with regards to Summit utilizing WMRMC services; Mr. McArthur assured the board that they do refer to the hospital in Springerville for x-ray and labs, Dr. Hamblin currently does procedures at WMRMC and Summit will continue to work with WMRMC. Mr. McArthur stated it was the providers who look towards the best interest and requests from their patients and there is no rule that they only refer to Summit providers. Dr. Heap expressed he has most x-rays and lab orders done at WMRMC. Ron MacArthur strongly expressed that they wanted to support the communities and local services they serve. Sandy Crabtree shared that one community member had complained that an MRI done at WMRMC wasn't good enough for her doctor and had to have it repeated at her cost. Dr. Heap said he has had that happen not only with WMRMC but also in Flagstaff and Tucson; the providers use their best judgement when ordering tests for their patients. Sandy Crabtree asked if Summit will be hiring locally for this clinic if they are the successful entity. Mr. McArthur as well as the Clinic Manager stated they would be posting jobs and hiring the best qualified with the intent to hire locally. Jerry Campeau inquired about Summit's General Psych Unit. Ron McArthur reviewed the Behavioral Health programs and explained counselors and mental health advocates are available at all clinics and will also be a service at the St. Johns Clinic. Summit does have Behavioral Health providers and support the Little Colorado Behavioral Health contract with Apache County. Summit utilizes Change Point for inpatient services. Jerry Campeau asked if the clinic lab and x-ray would be used at the clinic. Ron McArthur stated that they plan to begin with lab services, followed by x-ray capabilities within 120-180 days in order to install the proper equipment. Jerry Campeau inquired about Medicare Advantage plans. Ron MacArthur explained that although they were not insurance vendors, they do accept Medicare plans. Further, Jerry Campeau asked about a sliding fee scale for those patients that would be qualifiers for rural health clinic status. Ron MacArthur explained that in Heber Overgaard they were faced with similar challenges and Summit provided a sliding fee scale for that clinic until the RHC licensure was finalized. They plan to provide the same for this clinic. Linda Martin asked if a patient needs a specialist will a specialist come to the clinic? Ron MacArthur and Brandi Spires the Clinic Manager explained the specialists would be available, as needed on a rotating schedule. Linda Martin asked about the "Stand Alone Pharmacy" service. Ron MacArthur explained that in the Heber/Overgaard area the Silver Creek Pharmacy closed and left the community without a pharmacy. In answer to the community need, Summit acquired a pharmacy machine that is available for simple RX so the patients don't have to travel to fill their prescriptions. This service would only be provided if the community needed and the community expressed that need. They do not intend to and will not compete with local business or local services. Public questions and comments continued about the rural healthcare challenges.

6. Call to the Public: Spencer Udall, Mayor of the City of St. Johns expressed appreciation to the board for their service to the community. He expressed his commitment to the District; further, respectively requested the board's consideration to support Summit HealthCare. Paul Ramsey, St. Johns City Manager, explained the City intentions of

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Health Care Economic Development Grants that require health care services such as Summit can provide and therefore supports the Summit proposal. Dr. Adam Patterson reassured the board that he is committed to the City of St. Johns as a 5-generation family resident. He pursued his career focusing on rural health care and the underserved areas. He graduated in June and received the top residency award not only from academics but because of his mission to rural medicine.

7. Executive Session: Jerry Campeau explained the public was welcome to remain seated and encouraged everyone to do so for a brief recess so the board could discuss the proposals in executive session. **MOTION: Linda Martin moved to enter into executive session @ 3:53 pm. Derek Kidwell seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.**
  
8. Return to Public Session: The public meeting reconvened at 4:16 p.m., upon a motion by Jerry Campeau, seconded by Linda Martin; unanimously approved. **ACTION TAKEN: Jerry Campeau moved that each member of the board of the White Mountain Communities Special Health Care District, in order to move to a final phase of the sale of the St. Johns building vote for one of three options. Option 1: To proceed to final negotiations with North Country Health Care - Option 2: To proceed to final negotiations with Summit HealthCare - Option 3: DO NOT proceed to final negotiations of sale and extend current lease. Motion seconded by Linda Martin. Discussion: Derek Kidwell recused himself from the vote. Jerry Campeau explained the board members have never been asked how they intend to vote. Jerry Campeau called for a poll vote from the board. Linda Martin – Option 2 – Summit - based on providers thanking NCHC for their service to the community. Jerry Campeau – Option 2 – Summit – based on the needs of the advantages for the community. Marilyn Slaughter – Option 2 – Summit – based on the needs of the community. Sandy Crabtree – Option 2 – Summit – based on Sub-district 2 input and needs of the community. The vote to proceed to final negotiations with Summit HealthCare to purchase the St. Johns Clinic passes; four in favor, one recusal.**
  
9. Adjournment: Jerry Campeau moved to adjourn @ 4:23 p.m.; Linda Martin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes approved by the Board of Directors on: November 13, 2019