

HEALTH DISTRICT

-Continued from PAGE ONE and providing space for those services if they wanted to care for their patients, stay competitive and survive in the medical field.

"To add new services, we need space," said Mahoney, who suggested the advisability of a feasibility study, adding that a feasibility study would be required if the district applies for a USDA loan.

Parker said that the rebuild or remodel of Pioneer Memorial Hospital would be hard to justify, considering the "declining population" in south Morrow County, adding, "I just can't see what the overall value would be."

The board had received a bid for a feasibility study from WIPFLI, certified public accounts and consultants, which was in the neighborhood of \$50,000-\$60,000, discounted from \$70,000. The scope of work would include developing a plan of finance and completing a USDA application, providing assistance securing construction financing "with guidance as needed" and "providing ongoing support for ensuring that financing is completed and documentation is correct." Houser and Mahoney said that they were confident in completing a USDA application if that is the option they select.

The board did not make a decision concerning the hospital options, continuing discussion on the possibility of having a feasibility study done, but agreed to proceed with the remodel of the Irrigon Clinic, which could be as high as \$500,00-\$900,000.

"50,000-60,000 for a feasibility study sounds incredibly expensive to me," said Parker. "I don't need a feasibility study to tell me that's (remodeling the Irrigon Clinic) a good idea."

Board member Joe Per-

ry, Heppner, echoed that sentiment.

The district has already received \$150,000 from the Columbia River Enterprise Zone toward funding the Irrigon Clinic remodel. CEO Bob Houser said that he had met with a grant writer and indicated that there are around \$400,000 in grants toward that end that the district could apply for. They also mentioned the possibility of seeking funding from the Howard and Beth Bryant Foundation.

Perry asked other board members if they had received any feedback on rebuilding or remodeling the hospital. When no one else said they had, he remarked, "Well I have," saying that some people had emphatically told him that they would not support a \$17 million tax levy.

"There are a whole lot of options, rather than passing a bond," commented Houser. Other options to help fund a hospital rebuild or remodel could include obtaining a USDA loan or a bank loan.

Regarding statistics, Pioneer Memorial Hospital, a Critical Access Hospital, generated \$599,941 in hospital inpatient revenue, inpatient ancillary revenue and outpatient revenue, combined, in February, and \$4,719,719 over the past year. Home health and hospice, located at PMH, brought in another \$30,543 the past month and \$239,651 the past year.

The district received an additional \$168,350 from tax revenue the past month and \$1,268,249 over the past year.

The three clinics, Pioneer Memorial Clinic in Heppner, Irrigon Clinic and Ione Community Clinic, brought in \$146,937 in February and \$1,260,628 over the past year.

Operating expenses for the hospital, clinics

and home health and hospice for the past month included \$445,072 in salaries and wages; \$146,578 in employee benefits and taxes; \$29,423 in professional fees, \$76,755 in supplies and minor equipment; \$1,626 in education; \$5,426 in repairs and maintenance; \$843 for recruitment and advertising; \$62,967 in purchased services; \$47,728 in depreciation; \$12,863 for utilities, phone and propane; \$8,539 for insurance; \$333 for taxes and licenses; \$6,147 in interest; \$1,003 for dues and subscriptions; \$7,214 for travel; and \$7,434 in other expenses. Over the past year, the district showed \$7,224,389 in operating expenses.

"The hospital has a lot higher expenses than the clinics," countered Parker.

The district employs 94 full and part-time people, mostly in south Morrow County, including 10 employees at Pioneer Memorial Clinic, four at the Irrigon Medical Clinic and one at the Ione Community Clinic, not including the providers, such as doctors, physician's assistants and nurse practitioners, some of whom work both at the clinics and the hospital. The PMC employee count includes a medical assistant who works both at PMC and ICC. The employee count does not include Emergency Medical Services volunteers.

Also at the meeting, the board:

-discussed the possibility of meeting with Columbia River Community Health Services in Boardman, to inquire if there is anything MCHD can do to complement the services CRCHS offers. CRCHS is a federally-funded clinic serving the migrant population, but is also open to the general public.

"How can we help each other?" asked board mem-

ber Aaron Palmquist, Irrigon.

Houser said he would contact the CRCHS executive director Mindy Binder and board Chair Lynn Prag. -learned from Houser that the procedure room, which has been under remodeling to be able to allow the district to again conduct upper and lower endoscopy (colonoscopy) procedures, is expected to be completed and services to be resumed by July.

-approved a marketing proposal from Pacific Companies for an advertising package to attract physicians to the district. Houser asked the board to accept the proposal from Pacific Companies "not to exceed \$16,624."

Houser said that Pacific Company representatives visited MCHD facilities in Heppner and Irrigon, spending time with providers to gather information, and are putting together an advertising package targeting physicians 60 years and younger in Oregon, California, Washington, Idaho, Utah, Montana and Wyoming and including foreign physicians.

-learned from Houser that Dan Sharp has been named maintenance supervisor, replacing Carl Lauritsen who is to retire on March 30, with a retirement potluck set on March 30 at Pioneer Memorial Hospital. Sharp has been with the district in the maintenance department for four years.

-learned that the district hired Daron Havlik, from the Scappoose area, to replace Sharp.

-approved hiring an additional maintenance person, rather than contracting the service out. Mahoney said that the cost to hire an additional employee would be in the neighborhood of \$31,600; however, that amount would be offset somewhat as the district now pays around \$20,000 in contract work, which would then be discontinued.

-learned that the district has also hired: Jimmy Wimer, an x-ray, CT, ultrasound, Dexa Scan and echo-cardiogram tech, to fill the PMH radiology department manager position, effective this month. Betty Hickerson, director of the PMH laboratory, had been temporarily fulfilling that role. Brenda Potter, a registered nurse from Stanfield, has been hired to become a Home Health and Hospice nurse, replacing Lani Pryor, R.N., who resigned earlier this year.

Play proceeds benefit local family



Sheridan Tarnasky presents the proceeds from "A Rose in Bloom" to Rachel and Asher Schonbachler. The cast of the play voted to give the donations received during the performances—a total of \$771—to Eric and Rachel Schonbachler to help in Asher's fight against leukodystrophy 4H Syndrome. -Contributed photo

-learned from Houser that Pioneer Memorial Clinic has received a grant for \$25,554 from Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization for further development of the "Adolescent Well Care" project started in 2016. PMC also received an additional \$27,303 grant from EOCCO for the "Clinical and Claims Data Aggregation" project. Houser said that part of the funds from this grant may be used to offset hiring of an additional IT tech employee in this budget year.

EOCCO is a group of health care providers in eastern Oregon that "work for people on the Oregon Health Care plan," according to their statement. Besides Morrow County, EOCCO includes Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Lake, Malheur, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa and Wheeler counties. It is administered by GOBHI (Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc.), and Moda Health.

-heard from Houser that the Boardman Home Health/Hospice office has been completed.

"Signage for the front of the building has been ordered and will be put up when completed," he said.

He indicated that the office will begin to be used around the first of April if phone and internet connections have been completed.

-learned from Houser that the district has interviewed a quality improvement candidate and is working out the details for possible employment. The potential hiree, whose husband is a respiratory therapist and who has also been interviewed by MCHD, would replace Luz Martell, who resigned.

-heard from Houser that a part-time respiratory therapist, quality improvement staff, two RNs, an IT tech, and EMT-A or EMT 1, a marketing/public relations staffer and additional maintenance staff are still needed.

-received the following profit loss statement through February: \$777,422 in gross patient revenue, \$2,095 for bad debts and \$145,713 in contractual and other adjustments, plus \$168,350 in tax revenue and \$29,574 in other operating revenue for \$831,728 in total operating revenue, \$859,953 in total operating expenses and a \$12,019 non-operating gain for a \$16,206 loss for the month and a \$98,431 year-to-date loss.

-received the following report for February: five in-patient admissions, five swing bed admissions, seven observation admissions, 424 outpatient visits, 43 emergency room encounters, 1,606 lab tests, 96 x-ray/ultrasound tests, 21 CT scans, seven MRI scans, 13 EKG tests, 41 respiratory therapy procedures, 50 Home Health patient visits, four Hospice admissions, 2,144 drug doses for \$86,076 in revenue; Pioneer Memorial Clinic had 392 patient visits with 24 seen by a nurse, no new patients and 11 no-shows; Irrigon Medical Clinic had 219 patient visits with 25 new patients, 58 seen by a nurse and 22 no-shows; Ione Community Clinic had 27 patient visits, two new patients and one no-show; Heppner Ambulance had 15 page-outs with 13 transports for \$21,901 in revenue; Boardman Ambulance and 55 page-outs with 19 transports for \$29,155 in revenue; Irrigon Ambulance had 19 page-outs with 14 transports for \$18,917 in revenue; Ione ambulance had one page-out, but no transports; there was one flight.

Friends Helping Friends would like to acknowledge and thank the 2017 Remembrance Walk/Run Committee, Donors and Participants for participation & contributions.

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