

Hospital administrator submits resignation

By Amanda Miller
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The Cheyenne County Hospital Board met on Thursday, March 27. It was announced that Judy Rockwood, chief executive officer of the hospital and director of nursing, was resigning.

Mrs. Rockwood began her report by encouraging everyone to fill out the rural health task-force survey. The hospital is hoping for a good response, as this will also count for the community needs assessment that the hospital must complete every three years. She

also said a tornado drill had been held on March 4 that went well.

The cement pad was poured on the west end of the hospital where the MRI truck parks. The city still has not agreed to help pay for part of the expense, but the hospital had to proceed because they do not want a broken water main, she said. This parking area will be out of service for three weeks. The city has allowed the trucks to park in the street during this time.

Mrs. Rockwood then handed out her letter of resignation. She said that she has enjoyed her time here

and loves this community, but she will be getting married. She will be starting a new position as chief nursing officer at Rice County District Hospital in Lyons. Her last day with Cheyenne County Hospital will be April 23.

Les Lacy, vice president for Great Plains Health Alliance, then explained what the process will be when the chief executive officer resigns. Great Plains will begin a search for Mrs. Rockwood's replacement. The Rawlins County Health Center in Atwood, that Great Plains manages, just hired a new administrator. Therefore there is currently a pool of applicants. If necessary, an interim administrator can be put in place until a new one is hired. The top candidates will be brought to the board. However, the final decision on who will replace Mrs. Rockwood is Great Plains Health Alliance's.

Mrs. Rockwood told the board that Brenda Hays has accepted the director of nursing on an interim basis.

Commissioners ask serious questions

By Karen Krien
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The Good Samaritan Village administrator brought his financial report to the Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting on Monday.

Jeff Paulsen, administrator, said there had been a loss of \$10,766 in February. This brought on a lengthy discussion about whether or not any of the profits at the facilities stayed in the county or went to the Good Samaritan Society.

Brett Poling, commissioner, said that in January there was a profit of \$5,370, and in February, there was a loss of \$10,766. Instead of having to pay \$5,396, the difference between the January profit and the February loss, the county is paying the full loss of February.

Mr. Paulsen was unsure how this was calculated but thought it might go into a line account and, at the end of the year, it is dealt with.

Dr. Poling wanted to know exactly what was up with the money made and asked Mr. Paulsen to check into it. Karan Thadani, county attorney, will also do some checking.

We are responsible to the residents of Cheyenne County and their tax money, said Ernie Ketzner, commissioner.

Dr. Poling was also concerned that the maintenance personnel had no real direction. He suggested that this be discussed in executive session at the next meeting.

Mr. Paulsen reported on the apartments, noting that Apartment 10 was now completely renovated and ready to rent. The maintenance crew is working on Apartment 3.

He plans to advertise an open house showing two of the apartments. There will also be an incentive to encourage people to rent the apartments.

Earlier in March, there had been a water leak in one of the apartments. Mr. Paulsen said the damage caused by the water was being repaired. Dave Wright is putting in the carpet but, before he laid it, Mr. Wright said, since there were older people living in the apartment, the floor needed leveling, which he has completed.

The west entrance of the nursing home has been under construction as Roger Jensen, contractor, renovated the porch, putting on a roof, railings and steps. Mr. Paulsen said the contractor said he had about five more days left before the work will be completed.

Mr. Paulsen said the new heating and air conditioning equipment had not arrived. He had called CB Heating and Air Conditioning, Colby, and had been informed that it was supposed to have been shipped and will be in St. Francis by the end of the week.

He said the staffing is going OK but they will have one registered nurse who will be leaving. Right

now, they have enough certified nurse aides.

Mr. Paulsen has been the interim administrator in the Good Samaritan Society nursing home in Goodland. He will be training a new administrator for that facility.

Audit and budget

Brian Thompson and Travis Vrbas, representatives for Mapes and Miller, an accounting organization from Norton, discussed creating an audit and budget for Cheyenne County. Currently, Mapes and Miller service the counties of Osborne, Phillips, Decatur, Grant, Norton, Rooks, and Trego. No decisions were made.

Road and bridge

Dave Flemming, public works director, said the Kansas Department of Transportation had paid the county \$100,000 for the short highway that runs through Wheeler. He also said there is \$91,897 in federal funds available. The road to Parks needs overlay. He had talked to several companies but it is estimated that it will cost about \$500,000 for the overlay. Even if he put the \$100,000 and \$91,897 together, there was still over \$300,000 needed. The commissioners agreed to put the money back and hold off on the overlay of the road.

They agreed not to allow a farmer to move a fence on county property southwest of town. If they allowed him to move the fence and farm on county land, they said, it would open a "can of worms" and the next farmer would want the same privilege.

The pressure washer at the shop needs replaced. Mr. Flemming presented bids but no decisions were made.

Veterans' artwork

Keary Carman, St. Francis, thanked the commissioners for their support of his business by allowing a business incentive. He explained that the business will actually be a place for displaying veterans artwork and will not be housing veterans as he had originally planned.

He had some artwork and a letter explaining the art, which he read to the commissioners.

New deputy clerk

Deb Lindsten, deputy clerk, asked for 10 minutes of executive session. Following the session, Dale Patton, commissioner, announced Scott Houtman has been hired to become deputy clerk. He will begin April 1.

The commissioners reviewed the resignation letter from Deb George, who has been working in the appraiser's office. No decision was made on hiring a replacement.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 15, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.

Personnel changes at hospital

By Amanda Miller
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The Cheyenne County Hospital Board met on Thursday, March 27, to find there was going to be changes in the personnel. Judy Rockwood, chief executive officer of the hospital and director of nursing, announced her resignation. Tisha Loker was hired as the new clinic manager and Brenda Hays has accepted the director of nursing on an interim basis.

New clinic manager, Mrs. Loker comes to Cheyenne County Clinic from the McDonald area, where she has previously managed a chiropractic clinic in Colby. Mrs. Loker began on April 1.

Hospital management

Last month, NewLight Healthcare, a hospital management company, gave a presentation to the board. The county commissioners had asked the board to look and compare other options to Great Plains Health Alliance, which is the current leasing com-

pany. The hospital lease with Great Plains Health Alliance is up on Dec. 31, 2015. There is a 60 day termination notice in the agreement.

The hospital is currently a leased hospital with Great Plains Health Alliance. NewLight Healthcare would manage, not lease, the hospital. Being a managed hospital puts more responsibility and liability on the board members. The board makes more decisions on the inner workings of the hospital, such as hiring personnel, with a leased hospital.

NewLight Healthcare is a full hospital management service out of Austin, Texas. They have clients in over 20 states currently, but none in Kansas yet.

After some discussion on NewLight Healthcare by the board members, they went into executive session. When they came out, it was decided the board would contact NewLight Healthcare to discuss what the next step would

be with their management company.

Department head reports

Director of Cardiopulmonary/Respiratory Therapy Jason Johnson began the new department in August of 2013. He began seeing patients in September.

Mr. Johnson explained the procedures that can now be done at the hospital to the board members. These include a cardiac rehabilitation, pulmonary rehabilitation, intubation when the certified registered nurse anesthetist is unavailable, as well as respiratory treatments and many others.

Brenda Hays, the trauma coordinator as well as clinical nurse specialist and infection prevention nurse, also gave a report. Mrs. Hays prepared the Level IV Trauma Center application, which was approved and a large recognition for the hospital.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held Thursday, April 24 at 3 p.m.

Public Notice

Petition filed; people should file defenses

First published in the St. Francis Herald, Thursday March 20th, 2014. (12, 13, 14)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CHEYENNE COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of

EVERETT R. EGGERS, Deceased

CASE NO. 13 PR 01

(Petition Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59)

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in this Court by Adam Deeds, duly appointed, qualified and acting Co-Executor of the Estate of Everett R. Eggers, deceased, praying Petitioner's acts be approved; account be settled and allowed; the heirs be determined; the Will and Valid Settlement Agreement be construed and the Estate be assigned to the persons entitled thereto; the Court find the allowances requested for attorneys' and expenses are reasonable and should be allowed; the costs be determined and ordered paid; the administration of the Estate be closed; upon the filing of receipts the Petitioner be finally discharged as the Co-Executors of the Estate of Everett R. Eggers, deceased, and the Petitioner be released from further liability.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before April 16, 2014 at 10:00 o'clock a.m. in the District Court, in St. Francis, Cheyenne County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition.

Adam Deeds,
Co-Executor

JAMES M. MILLIKEN, CHARTERED
James M. Milliken, #7001
101 W. Washington, P.O. Box 627
St. Francis, Kansas 67756
(785) 332-2101
Attorney for Co-Executors

Petition has been filed in county district court

Published in The Saint Francis Herald, St. Francis, Kansas, Thursdays, March 27, April 3, April 10, 2014. (13, 14, 15)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CHEYENNE COUNTY, KANSAS
FILED PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 59 OF THE
KANSAS STATUTES ANNOTATED

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
DARLENE FAY PETER
Case No. 14-PR-4

Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are notified that on the 19th day of March, 2014 a Petition for Issuance of Letters of Administration was filed in this Court by Timothy Lee Peter, one of the heirs of the decedent praying that he be appointed Administrator of the Estate; that he be granted Letters of Administration herein.

All creditors of the decedent are notified to exhibit their demands against the Estate within the latter of four months from the date of first publication of notice under K.S.A. 59-2236 and amendments thereto, or if the identity of the creditor is known or reasonably ascertainable, 30 days after actual notice was given as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

Timothy Lee Peter, Petitioner

VIGNERY & MASON LLC
214 E. 10th PO Box 767
Goodland, KS 67735
Telephone: 785-890-6588
Attorneys for Petitioner

Commissioners select new director

By Karen Krien
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The Cheyenne County Commissioners met Monday for a short meeting before traveling to Goodland to discuss emergency medical services with the Sherman County Commissioners. Dale Patton, commissioner, said the commissioners planned to discuss emergency services with Sherman County, and to also tell them that Cheyenne County had appointed a new director of Emergency Medical Services, so, at this time, they did not plan to use the services of Sherman County.

"I want to tell the commissioners how much we appreciated their efforts in helping us get our service going in the right direction. We want to be good neighbors - helping each other out whenever needed," said Mr. Patton. He noted that the county's 911 dispatch was recently covered by Sherman County for about 24 hours when a computer went down. "We really appreciated their help and we want to be able to work with them when they need help."

Terry Miller, county clerk, said a letter had been received from Janelle Bowers, emergency

medical service coordinator. She announced that she was resigning, but gave full support to the county's emergency medical technicians and new director.

After accepting the resignation from Bowers, they turned to Reid Raile, who, at an earlier meeting, had been appointed as the emergency medical technicians' spokesman. At the Monday meeting, the commissioners then appointed Mr. Raile as the interim Emergency Medical Services director through the month of April.

Mr. Raile is the information technology director at the Cheyenne County Hospital. He has turned in his resignation but, for the next month, he will work Mondays and Tuesdays at the hospital and Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at the emergency medical service office. He will be the full-time emergency medical services director as of May 1.

"Within the last two months," Mr. Patton said, "we have had some turmoil in our emergency medical service. I am proud of our emergency medical technicians. They do an admiral job."

They talked briefly about billing, with no decision being made.

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The Cheyenne County Taskforce for Healthcare Improvement needs the help of the entire community. Please complete the online survey at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DHY-HC> or contact Carol Sloper at 785-332-2104 x170 for a paper copy.

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