

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Pullman Regional Hospital Date: 6-3-2020

Observer Reporting: Judy Stone Length of Meeting: 2 hours by Zoom

Members Present: All present remotely

Members Absent: None

Others Present (e.g., media, public) unknown

Business pertaining to League Positions or topics of interest

COVID-19: Regular surgery and Same-Day Surgery are returning towards normal levels although many people express fear of being inside the hospital. There is a large backload. Patients are tested for coronavirus 2 days before scheduled surgery and then self-quarantine at home until surgery. Employees are not being routinely tested and they wear N95 masks if a patient has not been tested. The hospital has >4000 N95 masks and are able to “repurpose” them one time, which they won’t do unless the stockpile of new masks gets low. The hospital is working on a COVID immunization policy for employees.

Clinics are seeing an increase in demand of patient care needs, and are expected to be back to normal operating hours by July 1st.

Clinical Report: CCO Jeannie Eylar reported that **workplace violence** has been increasing, as it is across the U.S. Most often the person being violent is a patient under the influence of some chemical.

Financial Report: For YTD FY-2020, ending April 30, 2020, the overall net gain was \$5823, compared to last year’s YTD net gain of \$1,412,755. The hospital is still expecting a \$10 M loss for 2020. Payroll deferrals end 6/5/2020.

District Boundaries Recommendation from the Strategic Planning Committee: “The Board of Commissioners develop a process to reach conclusion regarding the expansion of Hospital District boundaries that includes public input, a review of the legal description of the proposed annexation, the development of proposed resolution, the conducting of public hearings, and considering the possibility of having a ballot issue on the November 2021 General Election. Also, that this process be initiated to be able to reach a conclusion in early 2021.”

Process & Protocol: Everyone shared laughter over muting and unmuting during the meeting.

Your additional comments/opinions: I believe the issue of enlarging the Hospital District boundaries is one our League should pay attention to.