

Morrow County Hospital Board of Trustees
Special Meeting Held with Morrow County Commissioners

March 11., 2019

Call to order by Chairman Pat Drouhard at 7:00 PM

Members present

Dr. Trago, Olen Jackson, Brad Wood, Pat Drouhard

Guests: Attorney Jon Christenson and newly appointed Board member Earl Desmond

Chairman Pat Drouhard read an opening statement

Discussion regarding the future of healthcare in Morrow County following the agenda as presented by the Morrow County Commissioners

Meeting adjourned 8:00 PM



The Future of Healthcare in Morrow County

I speak on behalf of the Board of Trustees of Morrow County Hospital (MCH).

I suspect that the MCH Board and the Board of Morrow County Commissioners share the same vision for the future of healthcare in Morrow County; we both seek a health care system that meets the needs of the community, is stable, sustainable and that can grow with unforeseen and unknown demographic changes to Morrow County.

We find ourselves in similar positions of responsibility. Each commissioner is elected by citizens and is entrusted to make decisions on behalf of those citizens. Collectively, you look at a situation, opportunity or problem, and use your best judgement to agree on the best path forward. Your best judgement is based upon personal experience, observation of fact, law, expert advice, observed trends, financial constraints and reality.

Each MCH trustee is appointed by the commission and is charged and entrusted with overseeing the operation of the hospital and in a larger sense, healthcare for the citizens of the county. Trustees receive no compensation for their service; the benefit from their service is the same as every other citizen's; the health care identified in my first paragraph. We make decisions using the exact same process as you.

I suspect that we both subscribe to Mark Twain's admonishment to "Always do right. This will gratify a few people and astonish the rest."

The Morrow County Board of Trustees have spent 18 months in its mission to do the right thing with regards to health care in Morrow County. We began with an ad hoc committee of board member and doctors to discuss and look at the future of MCH. We had an independent analysis of our finances conducted by the auditors that will also be auditing the books this year. We engaged a national firm that handles hospital acquisitions and mergers, and which took the board through a request for proposals from several major hospital systems in Ohio. We signed a letter of intent to enter into an affiliation with one of those systems, and are currently negotiating an agreement for consideration. The parameters of that agreement involves:

The sale of the physicians' practices will provide an estimated \$2 million boost to MCH's operating bottom line. The board seeks to insure the expansion and upgrade of those practices and wants to make sure that as doctors leave or retire, replacements are made by OhioHealth. In essence healthcare will be enhanced in each community where the primary cares exist.

The Board is committed to keeping the hospital open and viable for as long as is feasibly possible. If and when it believes that is no longer possible, then it will take steps to engage OhioHealth's commitment to move forward with a new health care facility that meets the needs of Morrow County.

With regards to OhioHealth's commitment to construct a new facility when that day comes, the Board seeks to ensure that the changed demographics and resulting needs are considered by OhioHealth as it moves forward with plans for that facility.

To Mark Twain's admonishment, we are working to do what is right.