

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT NO. 1 OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY**

**March 12, 2024**

In Attendance: Commissioners: Lois Robertson; Melanie Kiss, Becky Walrath; Lynnette Elswick; Susan Johnson; Executive Officers: Merry-Ann Keane, Kim Manus, Joseph Clouse, Jenny Smith Others: RaeLynn Wellman, Chris Emond

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Robertson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

READING OF LEGAL NOTICE:

The regular meeting legal notice was distributed as required.

The meeting was called to order and discussion about issues and concerns with removing the trees surrounding the accounting house was held. Merry-Ann reminded everyone that in order for the fire department to burn down the accounting house to make room for the parking lot the trees would first need to be removed. A member of the community that was bidding on the tree removal reached out to Chair Lois expressing concern with the removal of one tree that he finds sentimental. Joseph Clouse followed up with the forestry service to discuss the tree and confirm the age of the tree. He was advised the tree is only 100-150 years old rather than the 250 that was mentioned. He reached out to Dave North with the City to see if there are any restrictions on removing the tree. Dave advised that there are no restrictions in removing the tree and that the tree will need to be removed eventually as it is a hazard. He advised if the tree is not removed, it may die when the parking lot is created.

The fire department is confirming with the neighboring apartment owner getting their approval on moving forward with burning the house down. Board members wondered if there was concern on asbestos with burning down the house, it was confirmed that any asbestos would be removed prior to the burn. Vice Chair Lynnette inquired about having the house salvaged, controller Chris Emond advised this would pose as a liability especially when windows are removed the issue of people entering the home afterhours.

The cost of manual removal was put into question by Secretary Sue Johnson, thinking that the \$100k bid seemed too high, she contacted the city and was advised when they removed a building it wasn't that expensive. It was explained that this would be a prevailing wage public works project that would require permits and take time to take down. CFO, Kim Manus said she could investigate with the city further.

Photos of the tree were shared with the group. Controller, Chris Emond (who previously was a contractor that removed trees) explained that the tree is heavily weighted to one side, this is very problematic as it is an accident waiting to happen. Each member of the Board shared their thoughts, all wished the tree could stay Melanie thought it best to take it down now rather than in a couple of years when issues are caused. Becky could see the tree as a leaning hazard waiting to happen. Lynnette thought there is no choice but to take it down. There are many what if's and the tree needs to come down now. Sue mentioned she didn't think it would come down but said she could see the concerns and was okay with the decision. Merry-Ann advised that we could add new trees to the area. Lois agreed with this thinking this is a great idea. Kim explained that beatification is a requirement, just like when the clinic was added shrubs and trees were planted.

ACTION ITEM:

A motion was made, seconded, and approved by all members except for Susan Johnson to proceed with taking down the tree and staying on track with the public works project.

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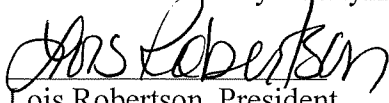
NEXT MEETING DATE

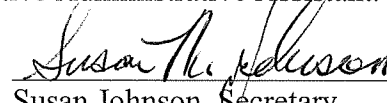
The next meeting will be March 28, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:32 p.m.

Minutes recorded by RaeLynn Wellman, Executive Administrative Assistant.

  
Lois Robertson, President  
Board of Commissioners

  
Susan Johnson, Secretary  
Board of Commissioners