

**South County Health District  
Regular Meeting March 1, 2025  
Catherine Creek Community Center, Union OR**

**Call to order** 10:55AM by President Susie Wirkkala

**Roll Call:** Present –Debbie Clark, Susie Wirkkala, Chris Power, Beth Callison, Gerry Zastrow and District Manager Adina Ferguson.

**Approval of 2/1/2025 Minutes:** Gerry Zastrow make a motion to approve the minutes as written, Chris Power seconded. Vote to approve was unanimous.

**Financials:** Financials were reviewed. Board reviewed debit card transactions and income statement for the month.

**Conflict of Interest Statements:** Per the new SCHD Ethics guidelines the following statements were made:

**Debbie Clark:** I have a conflict of interest in that our District Manager, Adina Ferguson is my daughter. I also have a potential conflict of interest in that I hold the purchase contract for our new clinic property.

**Adina Ferguson:** I have a conflict of interest because board member Debbie Clark is my mother.

No other conflicts were stated.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Remote Access to Meetings:** Debbie Clark explained that Oregon State law requires that the public have a virtual option for attending board meetings. To date there have been no request for this service. The district is not able to provide the service at this time because we don't have space at the clinic to hold a meeting. Once we get the new building done, we will have the equipment and space needed and should start the conversation on how we plan to provide the service to the public.

Three options were discussed: Facebook streaming, Zoom-type virtual meeting option and telephone conference call. There will need to be research done on each option as to cost, suitability to our needs, retention law for any recording and need for additional employees to operate the equipment used.

Debbie noted that the board could direct the District Manager to start gathering information on our options. The board opted to wait until after the Ethics Commission training to get their input on the best way to comply with the requirement when we have so little interest from the public for the service.

**Return to the regular meeting schedule:** Debbie Clark moved that, with the worst of the winter weather behind us, the board resume its last Tuesday of the month at 4PM schedule. Gerry seconded. The board voted unanimously to resume its normal schedule.

**Subscription to Grant Watch:** The board discussed the cost of continuing to use a grant consultant when there are so few opportunities with the federal decision to freeze grants which also impacts state grants. Nick DuCote can still assist us when federal grants are once again available, but Debbie suggested the board subscribe to a grant service and we can write our own program grants in the meantime. The cost is \$199 per year for unlimited access. It shows all available grants and allow you to schedule your submissions so you don't miss a deadline. Gerry offered to assist Debbie in looking for grants. Beth Callison made the motion to try the service for one year to see if it is worthwhile. Chris Power seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

#### **INFOMATIONAL ITEMS:**

**Status of Business Oregon Loan:** District Manager shared that she has received the application from Business Oregon. We are now assigned a representative in Pendleton to assist us and Brian McDowell will still help us get what we need. She has contacted a local contractor to help us put together the budget for the process

**NEODD Seminar:** Debbie noted that she and the District Manager attended a seminar put on by NEODD on business development. The presentations included funding opportunities and marketing. Adina felt that she got some great ideas on getting more exposure for the clinic through Google Business and other media. It was good to touch base with Lisa Dawson, as she has been a great supporter of the district.

**Fundraisers:** Debbie shared that the Community Center has offered to sponsor our fundraiser in August to help us tap into their community support base. The group discussed other options. Debbie shared her work putting together a chart of in-kind donations that can be used for grant submissions. Ford Family wants to see more evidence of community financial support. They were not aware of the Clarks \$29,000 donation toward the building and other in-kind donations and had initially told Nick that we would not qualify for assistance, so Debbie will track volunteer hours and other in-kind donations. District Manager Adina put our a donation jar on our counter asking for a dollar to show support for the clinic. She is also gathering signatures on a petition.

Adjournment was 5:02PM

**Next meeting is Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:00AM**