

**Kennewick Public Hospital District**  
**Thursday, January 29, 2026 | Hybrid Meeting**  
**5:00 PM**  
**MINUTES**

**Attendance:** Mark Brault, Spencer Harris, Wanda Briggs, Rick Reil, Marv Kinney, Shannon Phipps, Erica Davis, Heidi Ellerd, Lee Kerr, Salem Thompson  
**Guest Nominees:** Grace Davidson, Ken Mey, Gary Long

**I. Regular District Business:**

**A. Approval of Consent Agenda**

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA INCLUDING THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 20, 2025 REGULAR MEETING. ALL IN FAVOR. NO DISCUSSION. MOTION CARRIED.

**B. Declare any known or perceived Conflicts of Interest with agenda items – NONE**

**C. Public Comment – NONE**

**II. NEW BUSINESS/REPORTS:**

**A. Commissioner Vacancy – Nominations**

There were three nominees for the open commissioner vacancy position 2. Grace Davidson, Ken Mey, and Gary Long. Each nominee was given the opportunity to address the commission and for the commissioners to ask questions of each.

**1. Executive Session RCW 42.30.110(1)(h)**

The Executive Session was called at 5:13 pm for 15 minutes with action to be taken afterward. Members of the public in attendance were placed in a waiting area or virtual waiting room.

At 5:28 pm the executive session was concluded, and the meeting was opened and the public in attendance were re-admitted to the meeting.

**2. Appointment of Commissioner –**

WANDA BRIGGS MOVED TO APPOINT GARY LONG TO THE COMMISSIONER VACANCY POSITION 2. MARV KINNEY SECONDED. COMMISSIONERS HARRIS AND PHIPPS VOTED NO. COMMISSIONERS BRIGGS, BRAULT, KINNEY, REIL VOTED IN FAVOR. NO FURTHER DISCUSSION. MOTION CARRIED.

**3. Oath of Office Administration – Oath will be administered at a later date at Heidi Ellerd's office.**

**B. Lee Kerr – Superintendent, General Update**

Lee spoke on the Columbia Valley Center for Recovery's anticipated grand opening in April and services to begin thereafter.

Currently, Franklin County is not providing participation as expected.

Benton County requested funds from the District for the new east entrance to the

transitional housing unit. A discussion followed about the amount to contribute, if any.

**C. Legal Report - Heidi Ellerd, Legal Counsel**

Updates – Records Requests – nothing new to report.

**D. Administrative Report, Salem Thompson, Board Coordinator**

Nothing new to report.

**E. Committee Reports/Recommendations**

1. Finance Committee – Spencer Harris/Erica Davis

a. Overview of November and December 2025 Financials – Erica Davis

b. Acceptance of November and December 2025 Financial statements

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 2025 AND DECEMBER 2025 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS PRESENTED. ALL IN FAVOR. NO DISCUSSION. MOTION CARRIED.

c. Approval of November and December 2025 payments and disbursements

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 2025 AND DECEMBER 2025 PAYMENTS AND DISBURSEMENTS AS PRESENTED. ALL IN FAVOR. NO DISCUSSION. MOTION CARRIED.

d. Treasurer’s Report – Spencer Harris –

The quarterly payment was made to Trios. Finance committee had discussion about the opportunity to contribute to the recovery center new east entrance project.

2. Governance Committee Updates – Mark Brault

a. General update

b. Resolutions

2026-1 Paul G. and Mabel Richmond Endowment Fund

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-1 AS READ. ALL IN FAVOR. NO DISCUSSION. MOTION CARRIED.

2026-2 Changing Dates of two Regular Meetings in 2026

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-2 AS READ. ALL IN FAVOR. NO DISCUSSION. MOTION CARRIED.

2026-3 Removing and Appointing Treasurer of the District

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-3 AS READ. ALL IN FAVOR. NO DISCUSSION. MOTION CARRIED.

2026-4 Designating the Reserve Fund as Surety For Self Insurance Program

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-4 AS READ. ALL IN FAVOR. NO DISCUSSION. MOTION CARRIED.

- c. Benton Franklin Recovery Coalition Breakfast – Opportunity to sponsor a table and have recognition at the upcoming event to support the current build of the Columbia Valley Center for Recovery.

The two donation options considered were Gold at \$5000 and Silver at \$2500. Both provide a table of 10 and recognition.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED TO SPONSOR THE UPCOMING BREAKFAST AT THE \$2500 LEVEL. ALL IN FAVOR. NO DISCUSSION. MOTION CARRIED.

- d. Contract updates:

Attorney Agreement for Services–

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE UPDATED CONTRACT FOR HEIDI ELLERD AS PRESENTED. ALL IN FAVOR. NO DISCUSSION. MOTION CARRIED.

Salem Snowdy Thompson Contract-

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE UPDATED CONTRACT FOR SALEM THOMPSON AS PRESENTED. ALL IN FAVOR. NO DISCUSSION. MOTION CARRIED.

- 3. Planning Committee – Wanda Briggs

- a. General update – After discussion, the committee recommends the District contribute \$324K for the east entrance of the recovery center.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED TO CONTRIBUTE \$324K TO THE COLUMBIA VALLEY CENTER FOR RECOVERY FOR THE EAST ENTRANCE AND TO AUTHORIZE MARK BRAULT TO SIGN AN MOU IN A FORM ACCEPTABLE TO LEGAL COUNSEL. DISCUSSION FOLLOWED. NO MAJORITY. MOTION FAILED.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED TO CONTRIBUTE \$250K TO THE COLUMBIA VALLEY CENTER FOR RECOVERY FOR THE EAST ENTRANCE AND TO AUTHORIZE MARK BRAULT TO SIGN AN MOU IN A FORM ACCEPTABLE TO LEGAL COUNSEL. ALL IN FAVOR. NO DISCUSSION. MOTION CARRIED.

- b. Wanda asked the District to contribute \$20,000 to fund the WSU scholarship fund for the new Social Work Degree program to be housed at the WSU Tri-Cities campus.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED TO PROVIDE \$20K TO FUND THE WSU SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR THE NEW SOCIAL WORK DEGREE PROGRAM AT WSU TRI CITIES CAMPUS.

Discussion followed.

ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

- 4. Adult Day Services – Rick Reil

- a. General update – Spencer Harris provided an overview of the proposed budget. ADS has upcoming capital needs, and the KPHD has the authority to provide operational support to ADS. It is suggested that KPHD provide an amount annually to support operations. This will be discussed at a later date.
- b. ADS 2026 Budget approval

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE 2026 ADS BUDGET AS PRESENTED. ALL IN FAVOR. NO DISCUSSION. MOTION CARRIED.

**III. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS** – Several noted it would be good to share with the public about the good work done here this evening. A good amount of money from the District has been allocated to worthy projects in the community benefitting a good cross section of the constituents of the district.

**IV. Upcoming items – NONE**

**V. BOARD MEETINGS/EVENTS/EDUCATION**

Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting – Thursday, February 26, 2026 @ 5:00 p.m.

**Close of Meeting 6:46 pm**