1. Meeting Materials

Documents:

FEBRUARY 2, 2015 BOARD MINUTES - APPROVED.PDF
FEBRUARY 2, 2015 BOARD MINUTES - DRAFT.PDF
FEBRUARY 2, 2015 BOARD MEETING AGENDA.PDF
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2015
(Due to severe weather conditions the Jan. 26, 2015 meeting was rescheduled to Feb. 2, 2015, and rescheduled again to Feb. 3, 2015.)

Present:  David Ormsby, Chairman; Thomas Saccardi, Secretary; Lloyd Bankson; Louise Puschel; Karen Sadik-Khan; Larry Simon, Steve Soler

Staff:  Ray Augustine, Director of Financial Operations; Lynn Bausch, Deputy and Director of Nursing; Allen Brown, Executive Director; Jack Hornak, Facilities Director; Linda Marini, Administrative Assistant; Scott Neff, FNW Development Director; Frank Walsh, MD, Medical Director

Also:  Art Norton, BET

Mr. Ormsby opened the meeting at 5:10 PM in the TNW Board Room.

Medical Director’s Report - presented by Frank Walsh, MD

Dr. Walsh reported on two infectious disease issues that had arisen over the past 4-6 weeks:

1. Flu – 93.2% of our residents were vaccinated. We had 7 cases of the flu in this facility (all 7 had received the vaccine): 1 resident was hospitalized (has since returned to TNW and doing well); 1 case was hospitalized after recovering from the flu (a dementia patient requiring further hydration); and the others all did well and remained here at TNW. Carol Kellogg, RN, Infection Control and Prevention, did a terrific job isolating the cases, for example, on one floor where there were 3 cases, including a staff member. Everyone on that floor was given Tamiflu as prophylaxis, and no residents left the floor. We currently have no active cases here at Witherell, although it continues to be apparent in the community.

2. Gastroenteritis – we had 21 cases here at Witherell (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, which persisted for 36 hours). Of all the nursing homes that Dr. Walsh goes to, TNW had the lowest number of incidences by far. Once again, Carol Kellogg and staff did a great job in isolating the cases and preventing a further spread in the outbreak.
Medical Director's Report – (cont’d)

Dr. Walsh reported that the Rehab unit continues to do very well. While elective surgeries (i.e. hip/knee replacements) decreased over the holiday season, we admitted some significantly sicker residents, which does put an additional strain on the nursing staff.

Ms. Puschel comments on her recent, very positive, personal experiences with the Rehab unit, and states that the staff is “absolutely fabulous”.

Review/Approval of Minutes of December 15, 2014

After review by the Board, and the notation of 1 modification, a motion to approve the minutes of December 15, 2014 was made and seconded; the minutes were adopted by the Board.

Chairman's Report – presented by David Ormsby

Mr. Ormsby reported the following:

- Tonight, 2/3/15, at 6 PM the First Selectman will present the Budget for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Included in this Budget is our request for $1.562M for capital requirements for Nathaniel Witherell.
- On Monday, Feb. 9th, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM, TNW has been invited to appear before the BET Budget Committee to defend/explain our Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Plan.

Executive Director’s Report – presented by Allen Brown

Mr. Brown reviewed the supplemental reports included with the Board package this month:

1. December 2014 Admissions Report – there were 56 admissions for the month (50 ST, 6 LT). Mr. Brown notes that admissions averaged 31/month before the renovation and have increased to over 52/month since late July/early August of 2014, when the new Rehab unit opened. Typical length of stay is approximately a month; recently, length of stay increased due to admissions of more medically complex cases over the holidays when there were less elective orthopedic cases (i.e. knee/hip replacements).
2. Admission QA Report, July 1, 2014 through Dec. 31, 2014 – During this time period there were 291 admissions, which is a 61% increase from the same time period for 2013 (175 admissions).
3. Short Term Rehab Satisfaction Survey Results, 4th Quarter 2014 – Mr. Brown is pleased to report that the results of this survey continue to be extremely favorable.

STEAP Grant – Witherell’s request for a modification to the STEAP contract has been accepted and a replacement contract received. The approved projects to be completed under this grant (repointing of the admin building, repaving the north parking lot, greenhouse, courtyard and security upgrades) can begin after design work is finished and bids are received. We may be able to proceed with the security upgrades without going out to bid,
Executive Director's Report – (cont'd)

using Security Specialists, who have Single Source approval status from the Town Administrator. Mr. Hornak and Mr. Brown will be meeting with Mr. Jim Latham, Senior Buyer, TOG Purchasing Department, to discuss further.

CFO recruitment update – The Finance Committee met with the two candidates identified by TOG HR and felt that neither one was sufficiently capable of providing the needed leadership in this job. LeaderStat, a national search firm specializing in health care executive search, is being retained to assist with the ongoing search.

Music & Memory – this program which involves delivering music to residents in the form of personalized playlists via iPod shuffles, has gotten off the ground. According to Lynn Mason, Witherell’s Certified Music Therapist who is leading this program, we’ve purchased a laptop for music downloading, received the start-up equipment from Music & Memory, and we’ve identified our first resident/participant for the program. Also, many thanks to the Friends of Nathaniel Witherell for the support they have given this program.

Building Committees Report

TNW Building Committee – presented by Jack Hornak

This committee last met on January 22nd. Discussion points at this meeting were:
  1. Board Room renovations – the necessary upgrades discussed totaled approximately $66,600.
  2. The underground storage tank in the courtyard has been remediated. The estimate for this remediation was $65,000.

Town Building Committee, Project Renew – presented by Steve Soler

Mr. Soler reports that there are two remaining outstanding contracts to be settled; S/L/A/M and Turner Construction. Once these contracts are settled the Building Committee will be finished.

Mr. Soler has learned that a contractor from Port Chester, Mr. Lou Larizza, would like to donate the garden deck (materials and labor). He maintains fond memories of TNW having had a family member here at one time. Ms. Puschel reminds the Board that we’ve also received a very generous donation for the garden from Hortulus, and another from Bill Gallagher of Summer Rain, who will be donating the sprinkler/irrigation system.

Mr. Soler explains that through the design of the building, the Building Committee aimed at building a ‘high performance structure’ by installing high performance mechanical systems. As a result we received two grants: 1.) $74,199 from Connecticut Natural Gas for gas conservation efforts, and 2.) $313,269 from Northeast Utilities for energy efficiency. As reimbursement-type grants, before we can receive these reimbursements from the utility companies, we still need to upgrade/replace the windows and change the lighting.
Finance Committee Report – presented by Lloyd Bankson

Mr. Bankson expresses his sincere thanks to Mr. Ray Augustine for his 13 years as the Director of Financial Operations. He has done an incredible amount for Nathaniel Witherell, and in addition to his normal job function, Mr. Augustine also did a tremendous amount of work for Project Renew. He will be sorely missed.

Although Mr. Brown and Mr. Cossifos present encouraging statistics regarding census on the short-term rehab unit, Mr. Bankson notes it’s necessary at this time to direct our attentions to the long-term unit. Going forward, Mr. Brown will be reporting on long-term census to the Finance Committee monthly.

Resident Life Committee Report - presented by Lynn Bausch

Ms. Bausch is happy to report that in general, the residents are very happy lately. The minutes of the Residents Council show that the numbers of resident complaints has decreased significantly over the past year.

This year’s Super Bowl party last Sunday was a huge success – “one of the best ever” reports the Recreation staff.

During the snowstorm last Monday, Gary Kahn provided music on the individual units which was extremely well received.

Upcoming events will include Casino Day, dancers from the Y, and the Bob Button Orchestra that practices here some Saturday mornings. They’re a real treat for the residents and staff alike.

Friends of Nathaniel Witherell - presented by Karen Sadik-Khan

Ms. Sadik-Khan reports that the Friends’ Annual Appeal is coming to a conclusion and was successful in soliciting contributions from 271 donors.

The broadbased community appeal that went out to approximately 28,500 households in Greenwich in support of Project Renew in early December, has brought in contributions from 150 donors thus far. Ms. Sadik-Khan notes that Harrison Edwards, the public relations firm working with FNW, believes that this response, to this kind of an appeal, is very impressive.

The 2015 Celebrity Golf Tournament will be held on Wednesday, September 16th at The Griff.

New Business – none

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 PM

These minutes were approved at the
February 23, 2015 Meeting of
The Nathaniel Witherell Board of Directors.
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New Business – none

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 PM
Revised
This meeting was rescheduled from Monday, January 26th, due to severe weather conditions.

Board Meeting
Monday, February 2, 2015
Time:  4:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
Place: The Nathaniel Witherell Board Room

AGENDA

1. Medical Director’s Report – Frank Walsh, MD
2. Review/Approval - Minutes – Dec. 15, 2014 – Chairman
3. Chairman’s Report – David Ormsby
4. Executive Director’s Report – Allen Brown
5. Committee Reports:
   a. Building Committees
      i. TNW Building Committee – Jack Hornak
      ii. TOG Building Committee, Project Renew – Steve Soler
   b. Finance Committee – Lloyd Bankson
   c. Resident Life Committee – Lynn Bausch
6. Friends of Nathaniel Witherell – Karen Sadik-Khan
7. New Business
8. Adjournment

Beverages and light refreshments will be served

Next Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 23, 2015

cc: Town Clerk