Perry County Commission

Mike J. Sauer, Presiding Commissioner Jay P. Wengert, 1st District Commissioner Keith A. Hoehn, 2nd District Commissioner

Jared W. Kutz, County Clerk

321 N. Main Street, Suite 2 Perryville, MO 63775 Phone: 573-547-4242

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February 1, 2022

Perry County Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees
Stephen Rozier, Chairman
Greg Unger, Vice Chairman
Beth Guth, Secretary and PCHS Sec
Darrell Niswonger, Vice President & PCHS Treas.
Patrick Naeger
Perry County Health Systems Board of Directors
Dr. Keith Moeckel, President
Kay Taylor, Treasurer
Dr. Linda Buerck
Chris Wibbenmeyer, PCHS CEO

Board Members and Mr. Wibbenmeyer,

Today the County Commission received written correspondence from several of our communities' largest employers seeking our assistance. The assistance they are seeking is obtaining answers to questions they have related to your boards response to the non-binding request for information (RFI) sent out in the fall of last year.

The concerns of these local and regional leaders allude to support of one potential RFI proposer you may have received over another. However, the more important matter; as it relates to this Commission, is the transparency by which this process has been conducted.

Your organization is one of the largest employers in our community, your buildings carry our county name and the services you provide are critical for a community to thrive. While we understand the nature of proposals, confidential information and negotiations, since you have a publicly elected board, our citizens are entitled to know what could potentially be happening inside the walls of the facilities they own.

The aforementioned letter advises of a meeting that was held today, inviting you and the Commission to attend. While we were unable to attend due to conflicts in our schedules, we are adamant in our support of the premise of the meeting - that the affiliation process of our local hospital should be held in a transparent manner allowing input from our citizens.

On October 21, 2021 publicly elected board member Steve Rozier and PCHS CEO Chris Wibbenmeyer presented a statement and requested the Commission and County Clerk sign non-disclosure agreement related to the RFI process and the Commission obliged by signing the agreement, with the assumption we would be kept abreast of the process. However, to date we have received no official update, and although we do have a meeting planned for later this month, we are quite surprised to hear PCHS may have already made a recommendation to the PCMH Board of Trustees and that the Trustees may take action on it.

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Chapter 205, R.S.Mo. also requires the County Commission to approve any lease or the sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the hospital.

The current lease related to the facilities of Perry County Memorial Hospital is effective through June 1, 2028 and to the best of our knowledge any amendments, modifications, alterations or terminations of that agreement between the Perry County Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees and Perry County Health Systems requires the approval of the Perry County Commission.

The Perry County Commission's top priorities related to the services of Perry County Memorial Hospital is ensuring the ongoing delivery of quality healthcare services in Perry County for our residents, protecting the jobs at Perry County Memorial Hospital and throughout the community and ensuring that any process affecting Perry County Memorial Hospital is transparent and one that provides our citizens an opportunity to give input and ask questions about the future of the county's hospital and healthcare system.

We look forward to working with you and please contact us directly with any questions or contact the County Clerk to arrange an earlier meeting date.

Sincerely.

Mike J. Sauer

Presiding

Commissioner

County of Perry, MO

Jay P. Wengert

Assoc. Commissioner - Dist 1

Keith A. Hoehn

Assoc. Commissioner - Dist 2