

The Terry Town Council held a public hearing for the purpose of hearing comment on the Town and County's overall community development needs (public facilities, economic development and housing needs). The following people were in attendance: Council Members Cindy Bond and Peter Leyva as well as Clerk Lynn Schilling. Mayor Rolane Christofferson and Burt Keltner (Chief Administrative Officer, Prairie Community Hospital District) presided over the meeting. Members from the public present were Don Haver, Larry Bond, Kael Keltner, Isis Keltner, Lance Kalfell, and Lizzy Robertson (Terry Tribune).

Burt Keltner provided an overview of the purpose of the public hearing. No members of the public had comments at this time. Burt Keltner then discussed the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) program and how the hospital had utilized that program through the County and Town in 2015 to complete upgrades necessary to keep the hospital open. Currently, they would like to again apply for CDBG program funding to support funding an expansion project that would add four (4) rooms, with three (3) more beds along with much needed space for a meeting room and storage. He also discussed the need, and desire, to have the ability to care for our elderly population close to home. With the additional beds, he estimated an increase in gross revenue of \$16,000 per month if the hospital were to maintain a minimum of 89% occupancy rate. Currently, the hospital maintains an average of a 97% occupancy rate. He briefly discussed the hospital's designation as a "critical access hospital." With that designation, the hospital can only have a capacity of 25 swing beds. However, they plan to have the other rooms plumbed so that they could easily transition to having additional beds should their designation allow. Larry Bond asked some questions clarifying the bed capacity and anticipated revenue. Lance Kalfell inquired about the status of the sidewalk project that the Hospital Foundation has been fundraising for. Burt Keltner stated that the Foundation has raised close to \$9,000 for the sidewalks. He further explained that they had taken the plans and estimates received on the sidewalk project and scaled it to what they could complete in-house, reducing the estimated cost down to \$9-10,000. However, they would like to complete the expansion project prior to commencing with the sidewalk project. Lance Kalfell suggested some local organizations that have been supportive of the grant application process in the past. Council Member Cindy Bond inquired as to what role Prairie County had within the process. Burt Keltner explained that they also are applying for grant funding on the hospital's behalf and held their two (2) public hearings last fall. Larry Bond asked about the current status of the local ambulance service. Burt Keltner asked if there were any further questions or comments as to the proposed expansion project. Upon determination of no further comment, he explained that the hospital had made adjustments to create a new position of an ambulance service coordinator and filled that position. He further explained that the position is employed by the hospital but the ambulance service itself is still owned and operated by the County and the two (2) entities have a memorandum of understanding in working together to operate the ambulance service. He stated that the ambulance service has been operating well with the coordinator in place.

Burt Keltner stated that there would be another public hearing in two (2) weeks, on March 7th, at 5 p.m. Having no further comment, questions, or public comment the public hearing was adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

ATTEST;

Lynn Schilling, Clerk

Rolane Christofferson, Mayor