

Village holds special meeting to discuss insurance plans

Written by Wauneta Breeze
Thursday, 31 October 2013 21:06 -

By Sheri Hink-Wagner

The Wauneta Breeze

The Wauneta Village Board met Friday, Oct. 25 for a special meeting to discuss insurance offerings for the nursing home and village.

Board member Rick Einspahr provided background information regarding the plan as the nursing home's insurance agent.

Einspahr informed the board that agents and brokers are encouraging all current groups to stay with their current health insurance plans until the next renewal due to uncertainties in the industry in light of the national healthcare reform act.

The nursing home's health insurance plan currently costs the facility \$8,899.88 per month. The new monthly cost after renewal will go down by roughly \$600 per month, to \$8,315.95.

The special meeting was called due to a Nov. 1 due date from the insurance company for renewal acceptance or changes to the plan.

Currently the nursing home's plan has a July 1 renewal, which will move to Dec. 1 if the village decides to renew the plan.

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Page Johnston, village board member and a member of the nursing home committee, said he had spoken with nursing home administrator Lisa Kisinger about the plan. Johnston reported that Kisinger stated the staff has been happy with the health insurance offered by the facility. He added that Kisinger was happy the insurance costs would be going down as well.

Board members present were in agreement that staying with the current plan is the best course of action at this time, but they were unable to vote since only three board members, Tony Cribelli, Page Johnston and Rick Einspahr, were present for the meeting. Einspahr stated he would like to abstain from the vote since he helped prepare the quote.

Board members decided to call another special meeting the week of Oct. 28 to vote on the issue. They indicated notice of the special meeting would be posted around town.

Outside company hired for Medicare/Medicaid billing

Village board members also voted to approve a contract with HHS Solutions to provide Medicaid and Medicare billing services at the facility for a short time.

The need for an outside biller is needed due to the staff person currently performing Medicare and Medicaid billing is leaving the nursing home to pursue other interests.

Johnston explained the contract is written so that either entity, the nursing home or HHS Solutions, can cancel the contract with 30 days notice.

He went on to explain that the nursing home only plans to use the outside biller until a new billing clerk can be hired and trained.

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HHS Solutions is a sister company to Rural Health Development, the firm hired to provide day-to-day management of the nursing home.

Comprehensive Plan/NIFA funding

Board members also discussed the possibility of requesting bids for an update to the village's Comprehensive Plan.

After discussion, board members decided to wait to apply for Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA) until the next application period next summer.

In the interim, board members plan to discuss the upcoming update at their regular meetings to get a better idea of what they would like the plan to entail, allowing them to receive better and more accurate bids for services.