

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - SPECIAL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m. by Mayor Collins. Members present: Jack Evenson, Terri Collins, Jon Buyck & Lucas Olson. Members Absent: Mark Schreck. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Finance Glen Pederson, City Attorney Don Wilcox, Swift County Board, Swift County Benson Health Services personnel, and representatives from Carris Health and CentraCare Health.

The purpose of the joint meeting was to review and ask questions about the final draft of a Letter of Intent to form an Affiliation between the Swift County-Benson Healthcare Services and CentraCare Health. Approval of both the City and County Boards are needed before the Affiliation can take place. Dan Enderson and Melissa Thompson summarized their attendance at meetings held this past week with the City and County Boards to provide them with information prior to this meeting. A copy of the Final Draft of the Letter of Intent was provided to both Boards.

Dr. Cindy Firkins Smith, a physician with Carris Health, presented her experience since the formation of Carris in January of 2018 and how she sees the Affiliation with SCBHS working to improve health care services in the region.

Major terms in the Letter of Intent include:

- A new limited liability company named Carris Health-Benson would be formed
- The new company would lease all real and personal property from the Hospital District including the senior living facility, Residential Options, Inc.
- The District will maintain an Operating Committee to oversee operations
- One member of the Operating Committee will be appointed to the Carris Board of Governors
- The lease payments would be used to pay outstanding District Bonds.
- District employees would be retained subject to CentraCare employment protocols
- All services currently being offered by SCBHS will continue to be provided for 7 years after which they may be modified with input from the District Operating Committee.
- The ambulance service would be continued to be operated by CentraCare.
- The beginning date of the new operation would be January 1, 2020.
- Epic electronic medical records would be installed and operational by January 1, 2021
- Capital investments of \$5 million over 5 years would be made at the hospital.

Although no vote or approval was needed at this time no objections were made by either the City or County Boards to preclude the SCBHS board from continuing towards Affiliation. A final vote of approval will be needed around the December time period.

There being no further business to come before the Council upon motion by Buyck, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to adjourn the Council meeting at 6:55 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk