

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 22, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by Mayor Collins. Members present: Jack Evenson, Terri Collins, Jon Buyck & Mark Schreck. Members Absent: Lucas Olson. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Finance Glen Pederson,

The special meeting today is a joint City, Swift County, and Swift County Benson Healthcare Services meeting to discuss the Hospital's options of staying independent or affiliating with a larger hospital organization.

Mary Ellen Wells, interim CEO for the Benson Hospital, thanked all for attending, reviewed the agenda and discussed the trend of rural hospitals merging and affiliating in order to survive. Swift County demographics for the hospital service area were presented. A map of rural hospitals showing those independent vs. those affiliated was reviewed. She remarked how few small hospitals are still independent.

Market trends and a study by Clifton Larson Allen evaluating the Hospital's future were reviewed. Their proprietary analysis points to affiliation in order to remain in business.

The Hospital is faced with investments over the next three years of \$4,905,000.

- New Electronic Medical Records \$1,600,000
- Building Maintenance \$1,550,000
- Emergency Entrance/Lobby \$950,000
- Medical Equipment Replacement \$805,000

The next steps with affiliation would be to hold more employee forums, employee benefit studies, a district board meeting to make a final decision to begin negotiations by May 23, 2019 and finally district, city and county approvals.

There was a time of questions and discussion. The Benson City Council members along with the Swift County Commissioners were all in agreement affiliation was the next step for Swift County Benson Health Services, and gave their approval for the Hospital Board to pursue this option.

There being no further business to come before the Council upon motion by Schreck, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to adjourn the Council meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk