

Dissolution of hospital district to be addressed at June 25 meeting

Written by Wauneta Breeze
Thursday, 21 June 2012 16:06 -

By Russ Pankonin

The Imperial Republican

A resolution to dissolve the Chase County Hospital District will be the main topic on the agenda of the hospital district's board meeting Monday, June 25.

The meeting will be held at the county courthouse conference room beginning at 2 p.m. Monday.

Chairman Eddie Nichols of Wauneta said they have all the legal documents in place to approve the dissolution at the meeting.

That resolution will then be forwarded to the county commissioners.

Hospital district board members will follow up to take care of any other issues needing to be completed to fully dissolve the district and disband the board.

Voters approve district in 2010 election, dissolve it in 2012

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The goal of a petition drive in 2009 was to establish an elected hospital board of trustees.

However, to do that, the only method allowed in state statute was to create a hospital district.

The petition drive to put the hospital district question to Chase County voters was successful. In the May 2010 Primary, voters decided 629-566 to create a hospital district in the county.

The commissioners appointed a five-member district board in September, 2010. That board then began researching the ramifications if the district were to take over the hospital operation.

After a great deal of legal research, the district board found it would cost an estimated \$200,000 to \$400,000 to transfer the hospital into the district.

Following a series of public meetings by the board last summer outlining those options, a group of citizens started another petition drive to instead dissolve the district.

That petition drive was also successful and the question of dissolution appeared on the May 2012 Primary ballot.

This time, voters dissolved the Chase County Hospital District by a large margin. The vote was 727 for dissolving the district to 175 against.