



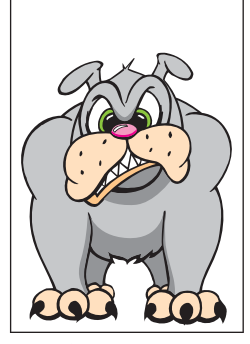
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700 Stearns Place will now offer 24-hour services on an "ala carte" basis to accommodate both assisted living and existing independent residents

Board approves new plan for 700 Stearns

By Ellarry Prentice

At their meeting last week, the Paynesville Area Hospital District Board of Directors approved a new plan to transition 700 Stearns Place from an independent senior housing facility to one offering 24-hour assisted living services on an "ala carte" basis.

The board approved the transition on a vote of 11-2 at their regular meeting on Wednesday, March 30, in the packed Blakely Room at the Paynesville Area Hospital. Board members Ross

Amundson, Bob Brauchler, Lois Johnson, Joe Musel, Sarah Olmscheid, Rich Philabaum, Diane Rothstein, Christy Swafford, Joe Stephanie, Donald Thomes, and chief of medical staff Dr. Randy Zimmerman voted in favor of the transition, while board members Marlys Houk and Lois Roback opposed the motion. Board member Deb Vogt was absent.

Per the board's decision, 700 Stearns Place will now offer "dual status," allowing both independent and assisted living residents. Independent

residents will be able to continue living at 700 Stearns Place with the option to purchase additional services. Fees for the services will be structured "ala carte," so that each resident can choose, based on their need, any additional services they wish to receive.

Assisted living services are currently offered at 700 Stearns Place, though are limited to an eight-hour window. To accommodate residents with greater need, PAHCS recommended offering those services on a 24-hour basis.

Brauchler, nearing tears,

explained that his grandmother moved into 700 Stearns Place the first year the facility opened and was forced to find other arrangements eight or nine years later, when her health declined. He said he couldn't understand how she lived next to the hospital and that a nurse couldn't come over and check on her.

Ever since, he's been bringing up adding services at 700 Stearns Place, said Brauchler, who made the motion to offer 24-hour services so people can stay longer and have a higher quality of life.

Amundson also read a letter written by Gayle (Anderson) Teskey, a family member of a 700 Stearns Place resident, in support of the change. Teskey's letter explained all of the things her family has to be thankful for, such as her mother's decision to move into 700 Stearns Place, where she had the ability to be independent and had a community to support her after her stroke.

On Friday, March 25, when Teskey and her mother met with administration to dis-

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Briefs

Hosch to hold townhall meeting

Rep. Larry Hosch (R-St. Joseph) will hold an annual townhall meeting on Saturday, April 9, from 10 to 11 a.m. in the council chambers at Paynesville City Hall.

Annual talent show on Sunday

The annual Talent Showcase 2011 – featuring local talent in a benefit for auditorium equipment – will be held on Sunday, April 10, starting at 5:30 p.m., in the auditorium at Paynesville Area High School. Advance tickets – available at www.paynesvillece.com – are \$9 for adults and \$6 for students.

Happy Birthday!

Mary Winther – born on April 6, 1911 – turns 100 today

By Michael Jacobson

Mary Winther – who was born on April 6, 1911, and moved to Paynesville in 1931 – enjoys her bird's eye view of Paynesville. Originally, she lived on the third story of the Pilon Hospital, where she worked, and since August 2009 she has lived on the third floor of Washburne Court, which stands on the same lot as the former hospital.

"I love Paynesville, I really do," said the community's latest centenarian, who turns 100 today.

Winther, who suffered a stroke last week and is temporarily living at the Koronis Manor, was born in Lester, Iowa, where her parents farmed. She was the second youngest of eight Lens kids.

Her father farmed, first near Lester and later near Tyler, Minn., and near Grass Valley, Minn. "We had everything. We had chickens, pigs, cows. I had ducks," recalled Winther of their farm.

She still remembers her father purchasing a seven-passenger Studebaker – "We had all those kids, you see" – but he had trouble driving, being more accustomed him-



Photo by Michael Jacobson

Mary Winther – born on April 6, 1911, in Lester, Iowa – has lived in Paynesville since taking a job at the Pilon Hospital in 1931. She worked nearly 50 years in town, retiring in 1970.

self to steering horses.

When she was seven, in February 1919, Mary survived a burst appendix. She felt ill on a Friday, and her family called the doctor, who suspected appendicitis. On Tuesday, the doctor returned and

turned the living room into a make-shift operating room and performed an appendectomy, but her appendix had already burst.

After being home for two weeks, but not improving, she was transferred to McKennan

Hospital in Sioux Falls. She was carried on a stretcher a half mile to a hand cart on the railroad and then taken to the depot in Lester, where she was loaded onto a baggage train for Sioux Falls. She stayed in the hospital for five

months, with her doctors calling her the "Miracle Child."

She had a second operation in April, where seven inches of her intestines were removed, and had several more operations to rid her abdomen of infection.

She once visited one of the doctors who had cared for her in Sioux Falls, who was surprised to see her. Though long dead, those doctors would be really surprised that she has reached 100 years, she said. "No, I don't think he'd have ever believed it."

"I never thought I'd live this long," she added. "I should have died 90 years ago when I was eight. It's a great life."

Pilon Hospital

After graduating from Fulda High School in 1929, Mary studied business and accounting at St. Cloud Business College. She was hired by Dr. Pilon, who had a three-story hospital in Paynesville, in 1931.

"I was supposed to be 'office personnel,' but I was all over the place," she recalled. "I did it because the doctor told me to do. They taught me how to be a nurse."

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School facilities committee considering six project options

Ventilation work is not required by code, consultant confirms

By Ellarry Prentice

Following the delivery of a reduced contract buyout figure and confirmation that all of the ventilation work within the proposed \$16.5 million project is not required by state building code, the facilities and equipment committee is considering six options, including two options that involve no longer working with Johnson Controls.

Wanting to have a recommendation to the Paynesville Area School Board by their next regular meeting on Tuesday, April 12, the facilities and equipment committee proposed some new options for resolving the issue at their meeting on Tuesday, March 29.

The committee's new options are: move forward with the full proposed \$16.5 million project with Johnson Controls; move forward with the proposed project without adding dehumidification (\$15.3 million); move forward with Johnson Controls' new

Johnson Controls reduces buyout to \$370,129

At a facilities and equipment committee meeting on Tuesday, March 29, consultant Deb Metz announced that Johnson Controls' fee for terminating the signed contracts with the district has been reduced from \$972,726 to \$370,129.

"We really haven't questioned any of this," Metz told the committee when announcing the new buyout figure, which she and superintendent Todd Burlingame received during a meeting with Johnson Controls representative Larry Schmidt on Thursday, March 24.

According to Metz, Johnson Controls didn't provide an explanation on what work the company has already done

option to do improvements at the elementary school in 2011 and 2012 with dehumidification (\$8.358 million); move forward with Johnson Control's elementary school option without adding dehumidification (\$8.153 million); buy out the signed contracts and start over; and negotiate a buy-out figure for the signed contracts and start over (this final one suggested by committee member Paul Bugbee).

that hasn't already been turned over to the district.

Johnson Controls provided the following summary of the new buyout figure: project development, \$211,920; subcontracting, \$106,820 (including \$38,938 for security work already completed and \$25,669 for work by the public relations firm Himle Horner); and project management, \$51,390.

According to a handout from Johnson Controls, explaining the project development total, the company has put a total of 1,530 engineering hours into the project (at rates from \$90 per hour to \$180 per hour).

Metz said the explanation they received for why the buyout figure is over \$600,000 less

Consultant Deb Metz has developed a survey for the committee members to provide their input on the new options so they can begin formulating a plan and submit their recommendation to the school board.

The committee will hold a meeting on Thursday, April 7, to review the results of the survey and select one of the six options so a recommendation can be made to the school

is because – to avoid litigation – Johnson Controls has decided not to ask for all its anticipated profits in the \$1.7 million performance contract. Schmidt told them this cost is lower than allowable under the performance contract, where Johnson Controls felt they could further ask for all anticipated profits for that contract because it has no termination clause.

Johnson Controls has also decided not to charge the district any delay or interest charges thus far, said Metz of JCI's reasoning for lowering the buyout.

The question of what it would cost to walk away from the proposed project was asked by the district several

board at their meeting on Tuesday, April 12.

Superintendent Todd Burlingame said last week he would like the school board to make a decision on the proposed project with Johnson Controls at their regular meeting on Tuesday, April 26.

Reaction to new buyout

Stunned and concerned described the immediate reaction of community member

months ago and finally delivered in January without explanation. Back then, Johnson Controls, who has worked with the district since March, announced that the cost of terminating the signed contracts would be \$972,726.

If the district chooses an option from Johnson Controls – to do work at the elementary school in 2011 and 2012 (costing \$8.153 million) and delay work at the secondary school – the district's buyout for work done thru Nov. 23, 2010, should the district opt out of the project at the secondary school, would be \$215,379.

Bob Pederson when Metz announced that Johnson Controls had reduced the termination fee for the signed contracts from \$972,726 to \$370,129. (See box above.)

"I mean, does this cause concern to anybody? How can you possibly be that far off?" Pederson asked, noting that the buyout figure has been reduced by over \$600,000 without much explanation. "I don't even think this

number's right, but that's \$600,000!" said Pederson. "Are we saying they had no basis in fact for the \$900,000 number?"

"We would go back and question the hours and ask for some legitimacy data and back-up to this, however, you have to look at the ramifications," Metz responded, noting that Johnson Controls has decided not to ask for all anticipated profits in the performance contract and has not charged the district any delay or interest charges thus far. "Now we're just down to just what (they) have into it. So that's their new claim," she added.

When reviewing Johnson Controls' summary of the new buyout costs, secondary school principal Lorie Floura noted that Johnson Controls has done some work already, including replacing a DVR system for security cameras at the beginning of the school year.

"So that's worth \$38,000?" Pederson asked.

Pederson later commented that if it is this difficult to get a straight answer from Johnson Controls, why would the district ever consider working with the company. He said he can't even conceive of

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