

**Winnebago County Board
River Bluff Board of Directors Meeting**
River Bluff Health & Rehabilitation
4401 North Main Street, Finch Room
Rockford, IL 61103

Tuesday, July 15, 2025
3:00 PM

Present:

Frank Perrecone, **Chairperson**
John Butitta
Tim Delany
Teresa Gobeli
Lowell Ingram (arrived at 3:05 pm)
Jim Knutson

Others Present:

Patrick Thompson, Winnebago County Administrator
Steve Schultz, Winnebago County Chief Financial Officer
Laura Schaffer, Administrator, River Bluff Health & Rehabilitation
Laura Doise, Asst. Administrator, River Bluff Health & Rehabilitation
Maggie Lewis, HR Representative, River Bluff Human Resources
Patti Bigger, RBNH Auxiliary (for presentation)

Absent:

Bernice Marinelli, **Vice Chairperson**
Jay Ferraro
Bob Nieman

AGENDA:

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Approval of June 17, 2025 Minutes
- D. Public Comment– This is the time we invite the public to address the River Bluff Health & Rehabilitation Board with issues and concerns. We ask you to limit your comments to three minutes. Personal attacks or inappropriate language of any sort will not be tolerated. We will allow a maximum of five speakers on a first come basis with sign-up at the meeting. Speakers may not address zoning matters which are pending before the ZBA, the Zoning Committee, or the County Board. Personnel matters or pending or threatened litigation may not be addressed in open session. An individual may speak a maximum of three times per calendar year on the same topic. This prohibition shall include the repetition of the same topic in a statement on what is purported to be a different topic. After acknowledgment by the Chairman, please stand and state your name. Thank you.
- E. River Bluff Auxiliary Presentation
- F. Discussion Item – Administrators Report (Laura Schaffer)
 1. Census
- G. Discussion Item – Financial Report (Steve Schultz)
 1. Financial Statements (see attachment)
- H. River Bluff FY26 Summary Budget
- I. Other Matters
- J. Adjournment

Call to Order

Chairperson Perrecone called the River Bluff Board of Directors meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Chairperson Perrecone, yes. Mr. Butitta, yes. Mr. Delaney, yes. Ms. Gobeli, yes. Mr. Knutson, yes.

A quorum is present.

Approval of June 17, 2025 Minutes

Chairperson Perrecone called for a motion to approve the minutes of June 17, 2025.

Motion: Mr. Butitta. Second: Mr. Knutson.

Chairperson Perrecone called for any discussion, corrections, or additions.

- Discussion followed.

The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment

Chairperson Perrecone omitted reading the Public Comment Section of the Agenda due to there being no one present to speak.

Mr. Ingram arrived for the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

River Bluff Auxiliary Presentation

Ms. Bigger delivered an informative presentation about the background and activities of the River Bluff Auxiliary. She provided details about the gift shop and clothing store, and highlighted the Auxiliary and volunteers' contributions to improving the lives of River Bluff residents. A discussion followed on creative ways to recruit more volunteers. Board members are invited to attend the next Auxiliary Board meeting in September.

Discussion Item – Administrators Report (Laura Schaffer)

1. Census

Ms. Doise reported that the census currently reports 149 residents, including 120 on Medicaid, five on Medicare Part A, 29 with private pay, and 29 in hospice care (23 on Medicaid and six with Private Pay). The Managed Care Replacements are at 34.

Admissions

There were eight admissions for June 2025: one Medicare Part A, three Medicare Replacements, two Medicaid, and two Private Pay.

Referrals

There were 23 referrals in June, with 8 of them being admitted and 15 being denied. Ms. Doise reviewed the denials.

Quality Measures

Ms. Doise reviewed the facility's quality measures and discussed education efforts aimed at reducing incidents.

Staffing

Ms. Lewis reported that twelve new hires took place in June, along with nine terminations. Currently, there are two open RN positions, and the Business Office Manager position remains vacant, with interviews scheduled to continue. Management is actively working with Human Resources regarding staff on FMLA. As part of ongoing staff improvements, a meeting and a webinar are scheduled on FMLA best practices.

Call Light Project

Ms. Schaffer stated that the vendor for the call light replacement project reported all materials are anticipated to be ready for an August start date.

Security

Ms. Schaffer has been collaborating with Human Resources and Purchasing to enhance security at the facility.

- Discussion followed.

Ms. Schaffer was asked to present the Board with the best practices for staff and resident security at the next meeting and will examine industry requirements related to long-term care.

FY26 Financial Budget

The FY26 Financial budget revisions were submitted.

Monthly Operations

The 2025 Senior Expo was held on June 24, with media coverage. Approximately 175 participants attended.

Chairman Perrecone called for any questions on Ms. Schaffer's Administrator's Report.

- Ms. Schaffer will invite the Medical Director to attend the August Board of Directors meeting to discuss the current contract with River Bluff.
- CERMA membership includes free consulting, and CERMA's Human Resources representative's contact information will be provided to Mr. Thompson.
- Discussion focused on whether the recent Medicaid reform has impacted long-term care in nursing homes.

Discussion Item – Financial Report (Steve Schultz)

1. Financial Statements (see attachment)

Mr. Schultz reviewed the financial report for May, which is two-thirds of the way through the fiscal year. The balance sheet remains strong, and progress is being made. Mr. Schultz requested that the progress be shared with the staff. Discussion followed.

River Bluff FY26 Summary Budget

The Board was directed to the FY26 Summary Budget, specifically the summary page for the 2026 Budget. Mr. Schultz reviewed the budget and actual figures for 2026 and called for questions.

- Discussion followed.

Chairperson Perrecone called for a motion to report to the County Board that the River Bluff Board of Directors approves of the proposed 2026 Budget for the next fiscal year.

Motion: Mr. Delany. Second: Mr. Knutson.

Chairperson Perrecone called for any questions.

Chairperson Perrecone called for a vote on the motion to approve the proposed FY26 Budget.

The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Other Matters

- Medical Director Discussion to be added to the August Board Agenda.
- Ms. Schaffer to present Best Practices for staff/resident security at the August Board meeting.

Adjournment

Chairman Perrecone called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Mr. Butitta. Second: Ms. Gobeli.

Chairperson Perrecone called for any discussion.

Chairperson Perrecone called for a vote to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy K. Bleile
Executive Assistant