

Winnebago County Board
River Bluff Board of Directors Meeting
River Bluff Health & Rehabilitation
Winnebago County Administration Building
404 Elm Street, Room 303
Rockford, IL 61101

Tuesday, February 17, 2026
1:30 PM

Present:

Frank Perrecone, Chairperson
Bernice Marinelli, Vice Chairperson
John Butitta
Tim Delany (via Zoom)
Jay Ferraro
Teresa Gobeli
Lowell Ingram (arrived at 1:35 pm)
Jim Knutson
Bob Nieman (via Zoom)

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
Shawn Franks, Director, Facilities
Maggie Lewis, HR Representative, River Bluff Human Resources

AGENDA:

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Approval of January 20, 2026 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 that 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. ComEd Feasibility Study Incentives – Shawn Franks, Facilities Director
- F. Discussion Item – Administrators Report (Laura Schaffer)
 1. Census
- G. Discussion Item – Financial Report (Steve Schultz)
 1. Financial Statements (see attachment)
- H. Other Matters
- I. Next Meeting – Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 1:30 pm, Winnebago County Administration Building, 404 Elm Street, Room 303, Rockford, Illinois 61101
- J. Adjournment

Call to Order

Chairperson Perrecone called the River Bluff Board of Directors meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Chairperson Perrecone, yes; Mr. Knutson, yes; Mr. Butitta, yes; Mr. Ferraro, yes; Ms. Gobeli, yes; Ms. Marinelli, yes.

A quorum is present.

Chairperson Perrecone called for a motion to include board members Mr. Nieman and Mr. Delany in the meeting via Zoom.

Motion: Ms. Gobeli. Second: Ms. Marinelli.

Chairperson Perrecone called for a vote on the motion.

The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Nieman and Mr. Delany were welcomed to the board meeting.

Approval of January 20, 2026 Minutes

Chairperson Perrecone called for a motion to approve the minutes of January 20, 2026.

Motion: Mr. Ferraro. Second: Ms. Marinelli.

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

Chairperson Perrecone called for a vote on the motion.

The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment

Chairperson Perrecone omitted reading the Public Comment Section of the Agenda because no one was present to speak.

ComEd Feasibility Study Incentives – Shawn Franks, Facilities Director

Mr. Franks discussed the ComEd Feasibility Study Incentives. Solar quotes have been requested for all north campus facilities. The ComEd Incentives will be completed before pursuing solar energy. Projects at the north campuses are being completed. Upgrades to River Bluff will begin after the Call Light installation is complete.

Mr. Ingram joined the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

- A discussion followed.

Chairperson Perrecone invited Mr. Franks to return in August to provide an update on the ComEd Incentives.

Discussion Item – Administrators Report (Laura Schaffer)

1. Census

Ms. Doise reported that the current average daily census is 153 residents, with a peak of 156. There were 10 new admissions. There are 122 on Medicaid (80%), six on Medicare Part A (4%), 24 on private pay (16%), and 23 in hospice care (4 private and 19 Medicaid).

Admission and Referrals

Four admissions are open. There were 10 admissions; 23 were lost, and 25 were denied. Ms. Doise reviewed the losses and denials.

- A discussion followed.

Ms. Schaffer proposes presenting a plan at the March meeting to convert 25 rooms to private rooms.

Discharges

Ms. Doise reported 4 discharges in January and 7 deaths for a total of 11.

Census vs. Resident Days & Census Goal

There is little change from January; the census is currently at 157.

Grievances

Ms. Schaffer reported no grievances in January. There were two IDPH complaint surveys: one in January and another in February.

- A discussion followed.

Quality Measures

Ms. Schaffer reviewed the facility's quality measures. Clinical staff are working to improve the quality measures. Other quality measures were shared with the board.

Staffing

Ms. Lewis reported 13 new hires in January, including three RNs, three CNAs, and auxiliary staff. There were 8 terminations. The Reimbursement Specialist role became vacant in January, but as of today, a Unit Clerk has been promoted to the role. There are two CNA vacancies and several RN vacancies; a PM Cook was hired today. Applications for the Unit Clerk position are being accepted, and candidates are being interviewed.

Call Light Project

Ms. Schaffer advised that the call light replacement project is going well, with work on the Cardinal unit completed this week. The Dove unit is the only remaining unit to be completed.

Agency Usage

Agency utilization is stabilizing as staff return from FMLA leave.

Other Administrators Updates

A Union Management Task Force was established in January, and management will meet with the Task Force monthly. The annual Employee Satisfaction Survey will be distributed this week. Management focused on the annual cost report and is working with the auditor's business office to clean up Medicaid applications and potentially restructure the business office's operations. An affiliation agreement with UIC was signed for a Geriatric Residency program. Management met with Rasmussen College of Nursing and is reviewing an agreement to launch a nursing program for students. The annual skills program runs March 10-12, 2026.

Navigator Group Purchasing

Ms. Schaffer reported working with McKesson on a cost analysis of medical supplies through the Navigator Group.

IDPH Annual Survey

The facility is in the IDPH annual survey window.

Chairman Perrecone asked if there were any questions or follow-up regarding Ms. Schaffer's and Ms. Doise's Administrator's Report.

Discussion Item – Financial Report (Steve Schultz)

1. Financial Statements (see attachment)

Mr. Schultz reviewed page one (the summary page) of the December 2025 financial report. Mr. Schultz noted that temporary help utilization remains low and that accounts receivable and payables remain elevated, with modest improvement over the last month. Chairman Perrecone called for any questions on the financial report.

Other Matters

- The Office of the State’s Attorney settled a wrongful death lawsuit after mediation.
- The State’s Attorney’s office will be consulted for guidance on Closed Sessions.
- Regular meetings resume in April 2026 at River Bluff Health & Rehabilitation, with a new time of 1:30 pm in the Finch Room.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is on **Tuesday, March 17, 2026**, at **1:30 pm** in **Room 303** of the Winnebago County Administration Building, 404 Elm Street, Rockford, Illinois 61101. The Zoom link will be provided to board members who cannot attend in person.

Adjournment

Chairman Perrecone called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Ms. Marinelli. Second: Mr. Knutson.

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