**COA Board Meeting Minutes for August 12, 2024**

**The Groton Center**

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| **Date** | August 12, 2024 |
| **Time** | 1:00PM |
| **Location** | The Groton Center |
| **Board Members in Attendance** | Tony Serge  Michelle Collette  Berta Erickson  Carole Carter  Dottie Zale  Harris McWade |
| **COA Staff in Attendance** | Nicole Sarvela |
| **Guests in Attendance** | * Margaret Scarsdale * Mark Haddad * Kara Cruikshank * Peter Cunningham |

**Agenda Items and Notes**

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| **Open Meeting** | * Tony Serge officially opened the meeting at 1:02PM |
| **Other Business** | Tony Introduced Margaret Scarsdale who gave an overview of the NVMC Closure and history, how we got here. Background information on Steward/why this happened so quickly. Discussion re: 120 day law/60 day unemployment law, Margaret reporting that the State can pull Stewarts license because the 120 day law is not being followed. Explained that the Bankruptcy Judge is only to satisfy the creditors; Carney and NVMC were the worst off financially.  COA Board Member Berta brought up discussions regarding civil cases  Town Manager Mark Haddad brought up discussions re: eminent domain, Margaret Scarsdale stated that there is not appetite for that, the land is owned by separate entity.  COA Board Members brought up a state of emergency. Margaret stated that is costs $2 million to run NVMC per month, the State cannot run a hospital.  Discussion re: for profit hospitals, Margaret stated “healthcare is a right”  August 31st is the closing date, some RN’s and MD’s have already left.  Margaret reporting that Emerson is already diverting people to other hospitals and ordering staff in because of the increase  DPH Director Goldstein reportedly has 2 bids currently, the State is willing to help bidders but they need the offer first.  Discussion re: urgent care/ER/ traditional hospital  Discussion re: how to prevent this in the future, a new bill  COA Board discussed letter. Margaret stating that the letters are being heard, emails work best.  COA Board discussion of edits to letter, Tony will update letter and send to Nicole who will forward to the list of recipients |
| **Future Meeting Times** | * Next meeting is September 9, 2024 * Tony made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Carole * Meeting adjourned |
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