



Mountainview Medical Center

January 6, 2011

John Dracon, Chair
Meagher County Hospital District Board
Meagher County Court House
P.O. Box 309
White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645

Dear Mr. Dracon,

It was with great disappointment that I read the headlines and associated article in the January 6 Meagher County News. Regrettably, the article was filled with inaccuracies and half truths. I can only assume that the editor reported the factual details of the meeting between yourself and the Meagher County Commissioners.

You are quoted as stating that "he had been informed the county board will have to make a request through the liaison committee to get anything put on the Mountainview Medical Center board meeting again".

As you are aware, you did circumvent the Liaison Committee with the request, however, the reason that you were not given a spot on the Board Meeting was that there was insufficient time between your request and the Board meeting to fulfill the time limits for the 'open meeting law' requirements.

Further, you have received all available information from all your requests on a timely basis, despite your continual refusal and lack of cooperation on taking requests to the Liaison Board. John, as you are aware, you were at the board meeting at which time the Liaison Board was set up to channel all requests through and have been reminded numerous times to channel all requests through. To date, the only involvement of the Liaison Board was one invitation to attend a meeting of the Meagher County Hospital District Board. The Liaison Board cooperated fully with this request and answered all the questions they could and told you that they were unable to make several decisions that would have to be taken to administration or the MMC Hospital Board.

You appear to have aversion to utilizing the Liaison Board which is highly unusual considering that you retired from an administrative position from several school districts. All business executives and administrators utilize 'filters' or liaison positions to enable them to concentrate on their duties. Interestingly, I am sure you can appreciate that this practice started in Biblical 'Old Testament' times when Moses' father-in-law recognized that Moses was physically and mentally unable to care for all the Israelites demands while wandering in the Wilderness. I would hope

that you could recognize that our CEO's primary responsibility is to manage the Hospital.

The newspaper article continues "questions were raised as to why the information isn't being provided if there is nothing to hide". I am puzzled as to what information you were referencing. If in fact it is the 2009 IRS 990 form, it will not be available until June, 2011. If it is in fact your request to directly access Mountainview Hospital accounts with US Bank, you will have to admit that while this is a bold and brash request, the decision would have to be made by the full board and your request for the meeting was not timely enough to fulfill the requirements of the 'open meeting' laws. You will also have to admit that you were furnished the bank statements at the last board meeting which had all the information that you requested.

The Board Members and administration of the Mountainview Medical Center are committed to make the facility economically viable. At least publicly, the District Board has stated their goals are to 'help' the hospital. Instead, it would appear that you are more intent on making headlines at the expense of the hospital through an over eager publisher intent on printing every bad thing he can find about the facility.

I would like to think that we could all agree on the FACT that any bad publicity, as what just occurred does nothing but further discourage the use of the facility and make it more difficult to achieve the goal of operating without public mil levies more difficult.

The Liaison Board extends an offer to work with the Meagher County Hospital Board to achieve that goal. Ultimately, you will find that the Liaison Board is cooperative and committed to doing what is best for the public and Mountainview Medical Center.

Sincerely,



Otto Ohlson
MMC Liaison Board Chair

Cc: Kakuk, Sundstrom, MMC Board, Meagher County Commissioners