

Falls City Hospital on Solid Financial Ground

(KLZA)-- Community Medical Center CEO Ryan Larsen was the speaker during the annual public meeting for the hospital earlier this month.

With gross revenues of more than \$23-million and other income in 2014 and expenses of more than \$22-million, the hospital is in good financial standing.

Larsen noted the hospital had bad debts of more than \$492,000 in 2014 and there was a 20-percent overall reduction in charges for medications. That being said, there are still some areas that need improvement. The hospital has struggled with billing for years. Larsen feels that a computer issue has contributed to the problem and that staff members are focusing on smoothing out the system.

Larsen says Community Medical Center is on track to retire debt on the hospital on schedule.

A concern raised by an audience member during the meeting was about ambulance service and long distance transfers. Larsen said about a year ago the hospital split with the ambulance transport service they had been working with. CMC now works with Midwest Medical from Auburn and Omaha to transport patients.

For local emergencies, the local volunteers are still a major part of the service. CMC has worked with the Falls City Volunteer Ambulance Squad and Humboldt Fire and Rescue to create an Advanced Life Support Intercept Service that can be there to support the volunteers on runs when needed. It was also noted the Emergency Room is much busier than expected for the Physician Assistants that are on duty in the hospital and covering emergencies.

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