

1 S100460

2
3 ILLINOIS HEALTH FACILITIES AND
4 SERVICES REVIEW BOARD
5 BEFORE HEARING OFFICER COURTNEY R. AVERY

6 In Re:)
7 Public Comments) Project No. 14-008
8 Regarding Application to)
9 Modernize and Expand an)
10 Existing Long-Term Care)
11 Facility by Neighbors)
12 Rehabilitation Center,)
13 LLC, and Neighbors)
14 Property, LLC.)

15 REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
16 in accordance with requirements of the
17 Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act

18 Byron City Hall
19 232 West Second Street
20 Byron, Illinois 61010

21 March 31, 2014
22 9:51 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

23 Reported by: Melani e L. Humphrey-Sonntag,
24 CSR, RDR, CRR, CCP, FAPR
Notary Public, Kane County, Illinois

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PRESENT:

ILLINOIS HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD, by

MS. COURTNEY R. AVERY, Public Hearing Officer,
and
MS. KATHERINE OLSON, Board Chairwoman,

Second Floor
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, Illinois 62761
(217) 782-3516
courtney.avery@illinois.gov

appeared on behalf of the Health
Facilities and Services Review Board.

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1 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Good morning.

2 THE AUDIENCE: Good morning.

3 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: How is
4 everybody?

5 Again, I'm Courtney Avery from the Illinois
6 Health Facilities and Services Review Board, acting as
7 the Hearing Officer for today's proceedings. Present
8 with me today is our Board Chairperson, Kathy Olson.

9 On behalf of the Board, thank you for
10 attending this session this morning.

11 And as per the Illinois Health Facilities
12 Services and Review Board rules, I would like to read
13 the previously published legal notice into the record.

14 "In accordance with the requirements of
15 the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act, notice
16 is given of receipt to modernize and expand an
17 existing long-term care facility, Project 14-008,
18 Neighbors Rehabilitation Center, Byron; Applicants,
19 Neighbors Rehabilitation Center, LLC, and Neighbors
20 Property, LLC.

21 "The Applicants propose to modernize the
22 existing 101-bed facility to include the addition of
23 30 long-term care beds. The facility is located at
24 811 West Second Street, Byron. Project cost,

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1 \$9,018,858.

2 "A public hearing will take place pursuant
3 to Part 1130.910. The hearing is scheduled for
4 Monday, March 31st, 2014, at 10:00 a.m., and sign-in
5 for the hearing will be conducted from 9:30 to
6 10:00 a.m. The hearing will be held at the Byron City
7 Hall, Community Room, located at 232 West
8 Second Street, Byron, Illinois 61010.

9 "The public hearing will be conducted by the
10 staff of the Health Facilities and Services Review
11 Board pursuant to the Illinois Health Facilities
12 Planning Act. The hearing is open to the public and
13 will afford an opportunity for parties with interest
14 to present both written and/or verbal relevant
15 comments to the project. All allegations or
16 assertions should be relevant to the need for the
17 proposed projects and supported with two copies of
18 documentation or materials that are printed or typed
19 on paper, size 8 1/2 by 11.

20 "Consideration by the State Board has been
21 tentatively scheduled for the June 3rd, 2014, State
22 Board meeting. The application and documents related
23 to this project may be accessed by" -- it says "click
24 here" -- www.illinois -- I'm sorry -- www.hfsrb.

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1 illinois.gov.

2 "The deadline for submission of public
3 comments related to this project is May 14, 2014.
4 Comments should be sent to Mike Constantino," and
5 that's the end of the public notice.

6 As previously stated, this hearing is
7 conducted by staff of the Illinois Health Facilities
8 and Services Review Board pursuant to the Illinois
9 Health Facilities Planning Act. The hearing is open
10 to the public and affords an opportunity for parties
11 with interest in the project to present written and/or
12 verbal comments relative to the project.

13 Please note that, in order to assure that
14 the Health Facilities and Services Review Board's
15 public hearings protect the privacy and maintain the
16 confidentiality of individuals' health information,
17 covered entities, as defined by the Health Insurance
18 Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 -- such as
19 hospital providers, health plans, and health care
20 clearing houses -- submitting oral or written
21 testimony that discloses protected health information
22 of individuals should have a written authorization
23 from that individual. The authorization shall allow
24 the covered entity to share the individual's protected

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1 health information at this hearing.

2 If you have not already done so, please see
3 someone outside the doors to sign up with the
4 appropriate sign-in sheet.

5 In addition to those who came with prepared
6 text of your testimony, you may also submit the
7 written testimony only, which will be written into
8 today's record and made available for all Board
9 members prior to the meeting.

10 I think we have about 16 people that have
11 registered to speak -- okay -- so I ask that you limit
12 your comments to no more than three minutes.

13 I will call the participants in numerical
14 order. Prior to beginning your remarks, please
15 clearly state and spell your first -- your full name.

16 After you concluded your remarks, if you
17 have copies, please provide those to me, as well as
18 your completed sign-in sheet. So we can just stack
19 the sign-in sheets on this shelf on the bottom and
20 your comments if you have them.

21 Okay. So today's proceedings will begin
22 with a representative from Neighbors Rehabilitation
23 Center, LLC.

24 MS. THAMMARATH: Good morning, everyone.

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1 So, first and foremost, I just want to
2 thank you for having me here with all of you.

3 It is amazing, this project. It's always
4 emphasized it is community based. We want to have
5 this project expanded to serve our community, to be
6 better prepared for our future seniors.

7 My name is Pawn Thammarath. That's
8 T-h-a-m-m-a-r-a-t-h.

9 I came to Neighbors back in 2008, never
10 thought I'm going to be here this long so -- the
11 community itself has grown on me. It is amazing that
12 every time I need something, from the churches, from
13 local stores, from local community, families, that you
14 guys have always been there.

15 It is -- you know, and then we were doing
16 really well up to about three years ago. We were
17 facing that -- some family member would come in
18 looking for a facility; they have different type of
19 infections. We weren't able to provide the services,
20 and then the people from the community were forced to
21 go elsewhere to get rehab or to go places for the end
22 stage of their lives.

23 We just don't have -- right now Neighbors
24 has got Jack and Jill bathrooms. So if I take one

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1 person to isolation, that means I'm losing three beds,
2 so it makes it very challenging to provide the care
3 that the people of Byron deserve.

4 Okay? Because we don't have the most
5 advanced rehab, and I know my seniors now are very
6 savvy. They're looking for high tech. You're looking
7 for your computers if you just get your hip and knees,
8 and that we can't provide at this time.

9 So we are hoping, with this expansion, we
10 are able to accomplish all that, to have hospice
11 suites where you can spend the time with your family
12 members, that little time that they have left, and we
13 just want to make it more private. We just want to
14 make it more -- easier for you to spend the night, if
15 you can, so you don't have to worry about another
16 family member or another resident next door.

17 And not to mention, if you're a resident
18 there, to have someone actively dying, it's very
19 difficult so -- with the grieving and all that stuff.

20 A lot of you probably are wondering why --
21 with these expansions, are we going to change.
22 Absolutely not.

23 Our mission continues to be community
24 involvement. We want to have bigger community rooms

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1 where you can have your meetings when you have other
2 events that we have. You know, nothing will change
3 with that and, actually, it will be better served.

4 So I am thankful and humbled for all your
5 support.

6 (Applause.)

7 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Okay. That
8 was -- No. 2.

9 MR. LONG: It's difficult for me to get
10 up and stand at the podium. Could I turn around and
11 speak to the people?

12 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Sure. Just as
13 long as the court reporter can hear you, you're fine.

14 MR. LONG: I'm Conrad Long and I'd like
15 to tell you my qualifications for speaking today.

16 First of all, my wife is a resident at
17 Neighbors and has been for 6 1/2 years. I also was a
18 resident at Neighbors for eight months in
19 rehabilitation, so I think I know the organization
20 pretty much inside and out.

21 You have a jewel in this community. The
22 people that work at Neighbors are outstanding on that.
23 I can't say enough about the housekeepers, the
24 laundry, the aides that ran it, and, ladies and

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1 gentlemen, the outstanding administrator just spoke to
2 you a few moments ago. She is great.

3 But when you come to the physical
4 facilities, I'm not going to have much to say because
5 it's old. It's outdated. It needs to be modernized.
6 It needs to move forward.

7 You've got an outstanding staff. Give them
8 the tools they need to be even better than they are.

9 For that, thank you very much.

10 (Applause.)

11 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: No. 3, please.

12 MR. MAHON: My name is Thomas Mahon,
13 M-a-h-o-n.

14 I'm a member of the United Church of Christ,
15 the neighbor to Neighbors, and Neighbors has always
16 been a good fit to have as our neighbor.

17 I was a member of the council when we first
18 put the property up for sale, and we felt that having
19 a library or expansion of Neighbors would be the
20 greatest use we could think of.

21 The library is built elsewhere and finished.
22 We think Neighbors would be an outstanding addition to
23 our area of the community. It's a good fit. They've
24 been good neighbors in the past. We cooperate with

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1 them and they cooperate with us.

2 There is a huge future need in this
3 community. When a spouse needs rehabilitation, it's
4 very difficult for an elderly spouse to go to Rockford
5 from here. They're not a next-door neighbor with bus
6 transportation or anything like that.

7 So our church, at the congregational
8 meeting, had a unanimous vote to approve of this, and
9 it's our hope that this will continue at your meeting
10 in June.

11 Thank you very much.

12 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Thank you, sir.
13 No. 4, please.

14 MS. WICKSON: My name is Nancy Wickson,
15 W-i-c-k-s-o-n.

16 I, too, have a long history with Neighbors.
17 My mother has been a resident there for approximately
18 five years. I was legal guardian for my aunt, who was
19 there for a number of years, and my father was also
20 there, so I speak from experience. I'm down there at
21 least twice a week, sometimes more. Kim knows that,
22 as a number of you do.

23 And I was talking to Marvin earlier, and his
24 wife is also there. I want to quote him. He said,

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1 "The care there is not only good care; it's loving
2 care."

3 I have never, in all the years that I've
4 been there, had a major complaint. I just feel that
5 it is needed; it does need to be updated. I hope they
6 address the parking situation, which needs to be
7 addressed, and I just think it needs updating, but
8 I am fully in support of this.

9 Thank you.

10 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Thank you.

11 (Appl ause.)

12 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: No. 5.

13 MR. EUBANKS: Good morni ng.

14 THE AUDI ENCE: Good morni ng.

15 MR. EUBANKS: Can everyone hear me?

16 THE AUDI ENCE: Yes.

17 MR. EUBANKS: Thank you.

18 I want to congratulate the folks over at
19 Neighbors for trying to do this next addition. Things
20 are going big down here. We're not only one town as
21 regards to a nursing home --

22 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Sir --

23 MR. EUBANKS: -- we also have a little
24 town 4 miles east of here --

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1 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Sir --

2 I'm sorry.

3 Can you give your name for the court record.

4 MR. EUBANKS: What?

5 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Your name for
6 the court record.

7 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: They need your
8 name.

9 MR. EUBANKS: My name is Don Eubanks.

10 (Laughter.)

11 MR. EUBANKS: I think I've taken
12 everybody's picture in here.

13 (Laughter.)

14 MR. EUBANKS: Anybody I've missed?
15 I can't remember.

16 I spent about 3 1/2 weeks over at Neighbors
17 in rehab; I had a hip replacement. I had wonderful
18 treatment.

19 And they're really caring people. I never
20 had a harsh word from anybody, and I observed that
21 they're nice to people there, a good place to live.

22 When I was an electrical contractor, I had a
23 couple accounts that were nursing homes in sort of the
24 poor side of Rockford. And the distance between

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1 Neighbors and those nursing homes is a million miles.
2 This is a nice place, and they -- they were okay
3 because they had people who were all broke, but I hope
4 you're successful with this idea.

5 Thank you for coming, ladies.

6 And I just hope things work out well
7 because, looking out here in the crowd, I see people
8 who might be candidates for the nursing home --

9 (Laughter.)

10 MR. EUBANKS: -- before long.

11 Thank you very much.

12 (Applause.)

13 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: No. 6.

14 MR. KILMER: Hi, everyone. My name is
15 Bill Kilmer -- it's K-i-l-m-e-r -- and I'm an
16 associate pastor at the First Baptist Church here in
17 Byron.

18 And I just want to give my support to the
19 Neighbors rehab facility for this expansion project
20 and renovation project. I believe it's going to be
21 very good for the Byron community for a variety of
22 reasons, but I think the most important is for the
23 residents, as well as the families.

24 And I think we've heard accounts of how far

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1 it is to travel to surrounding communities or nursing
2 facilities, as well as in Rockford, and it's very
3 difficult. Byron's a growing community, and I think
4 it would just be an amazing thing for that.

5 Although I realize there is opposition to
6 any project of this nature, I just would ask the
7 Review Board and everyone here to consider the
8 positives.

9 The positives to me, at the end of the day,
10 is with helping people that can't help themselves,
11 and I think to expand upon this project would just be
12 an amazing, amazing thing.

13 I do appreciate the vision of the nursing
14 home, that they see a need and they're willing to act
15 on it, they're willing to spend substantial money to
16 do what they're going to do to help the community and
17 to help people, and I think that's important in the
18 business. I admire that, that they're willing to step
19 forward and not just go along with what has been
20 happening.

21 So I just ask that you give your support to
22 the Neighbors rehab facility, and I just thank them
23 for everything they do in this community.

24 Thank you.

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1 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Thank you.

2 (Appl ause.)

3 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: No. 7, please.

4 MR. GYORKOS: My name is Michael

5 Gyorkos, G-y-o-r-k-o-s.

6 I'm an Alderman, Ward 3. I'm also
7 representing Mayor Chris Millard. Chris did not
8 communicate to me any sort of position on this, but
9 I know that he would be 110 percent behind this
10 project.

11 There's -- I believe the nursing home is in
12 my ward. We have a pearl in Byron. It makes living
13 here just that much better.

14 Unless you've had the experience of needing
15 the services of Neighbors, you really can't know what
16 they contribute to this community. Their expansion
17 can only help us. I see no negatives whatsoever.

18 The City Council has not voted or even
19 brought up a position on this, but I know that the
20 people would say, "Let's do it." It can only help.

21 Thank you.

22 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Thank you.

23 (Appl ause.)

24 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Thank you.

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1 No. 8.

2 (No response.)

3 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: No. 8.

4 (No response.)

5 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Okay. No. 9.

6 MS. FRISON: My name is Diane Frison,
7 F-r-i-s-o-n, and I've been a resident in Byron over
8 30 years.

9 My mother's been a resident at Neighbors for
10 seven years. She's received excellent care all the
11 time. The girls are wonderful; the staff is
12 wonderful. They bring in pictures, vacation pictures,
13 new baby pictures. It's just like her family. But
14 it's her home and I want to feel proud of her home.

15 I've had friends say, "Oh, my mother's ready
16 for a nursing home, but we're choosing another nursing
17 home," and I feel so bad. I take it personally.

18 The appearance is the one negative. That's
19 the only negative I can think of at Neighbors because
20 I think, as I said, the staff is wonderful.

21 Rehab is great. She was hospitalized a year
22 ago for pneumonia, came back to Neighbors, and you
23 know what a 93-year-old does after five days in the
24 hospital. They're ready for bed -- for 30 days in the

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1 hospital.

2 Well, that wasn't her. They got her up
3 moving, complaining to me every day. "I wish they'd
4 leave me alone" she said. They got her moving; they
5 got her walking; they got her back to ambulatory
6 status that she was preoperatively, so that was the
7 rehab department.

8 But I do hope it's a go. I hope this is a
9 positive achievement. I hope it's approved. And
10 Byron definitely needs it.

11 As I said, when friends tell you, "Well,
12 we're choosing someplace else," I do feel bad about
13 that, and I always promote how excellent the care is
14 at Neighbors.

15 Thank you. I'm done.

16 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: No. 10, please.

19 Do you have your yellow sheet?

20 MR. SVANDA: Yes, but I haven't
21 completed it yet.

22 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Oh. Okay.

23 MR. SVANDA: Is that okay?

24 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Yes. Make sure

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1 you get it to me.

2 MR. SVANDA: I'll get it to you.

3 Good morning. My name is Larry Svanda,
4 S-v-a-n-d-a, and I have a couple things that are a
5 little bit different from what I'm hearing this
6 morning but nothing that disagrees with the care and
7 the service and so on from Neighbors. They are a
8 great staff, and they're doing a great job, and we
9 thank them for that.

10 I presently have a mother who's resided
11 there for, now, four years, and my dad was at
12 Neighbors until he passed away. My mother-in-law was
13 in Neighbors, and the list goes on quite a ways, so
14 I've been in contact with Neighbors for probably 20 to
15 25 years and have gotten to know the staff quite well,
16 and that's why I would commend them.

17 I've observed for a long time now, as
18 I mentioned; probably the last three to five years the
19 conditions and so on at Neighbors are deteriorating.
20 It's an older facility. And it's like everything
21 else. As we get older, we need more care, we need
22 more updating, whether it be technology or whatever.

23 I truly support the proposals that Neighbors
24 have come up with, as I've seen that facility. And it

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1 has deteriorated over the years but to no fault of the
2 staff and the people that are working there. I don't
3 think that the deterioration and so on is anything
4 that's probably unique to any facility of its -- of
5 its kind, really.

6 And so we would ask that people who are
7 meeting on this in the future and so on fully support
8 it and represent us in that fashion, and we thank all
9 of you for coming this morning to express your ideas.

10 Thank you.

11 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: No. 11.

14 (No response.)

15 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: 11.

16 (No response.)

17 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Okay. No. 12.

18 MS. NOVAK: Good morning.

19 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Good morning.

20 MS. NOVAK: I'm Lisa Novak, L-i-s-a
21 Novak, N-o-v-a-k.

22 I'm executive director for Northern Illinois
23 Hospice, and we've been providing hospice care in the
24 area for 35 years. We've been partnering with

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1 Neighbors for many, many years, more than we can
2 count, and it is a very well-run facility.

3 One of the things about Ogle County and
4 Byron is that it's always been anticipatory. You
5 don't wait. You put things in place before you need
6 them, and I was thrilled to hear about your bed
7 expansion.

8 And I'm hoping that you do approve it
9 because you're going to need the beds. The statistics
10 show that we're going to -- we have an aging
11 population. We have all those baby boomers, and we're
12 going to have baby boomers who are going to need care.

13 And what we also know is that people like to
14 keep their loved ones close, so as close as Rockford
15 is, as close as some other facilities are, you want to
16 be close to your family. And so adding -- I see
17 somebody back there nodding your head yes.

18 You -- another 20 minutes, 30 minutes, and
19 especially -- we work with end of life, so for us, we
20 work with residents who are at the end stages of their
21 lives. They're facing a terminal prognosis, a
22 terminal diagnosis with a prognosis of six months or
23 less.

24 Another thing that -- with this project --

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1 that I'm thrilled about are the hospice suites. When
2 patients are dying, when residents are dying, they
3 want the privacy. They want the space. They want to
4 be able to have that couch, a little area where their
5 family member can lay down but they don't want to
6 leave. A family member wants to hold vigil, and it's
7 kind of strange to hold vigil when you've got somebody
8 in the bed right next to you.

9 So a hospice suite allows a family the
10 opportunity -- and friends -- the opportunity to be
11 there, the privacy, the extra space and the privacy
12 and the comfort that they need.

13 So we do support the expansion. We applaud
14 you. We hope it goes forward.

15 And thank you.

16 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 CHAIRWOMAN OLSON: Almost got away.

19 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Thank you.

20 I was going to have to chase you.

21 No. 13.

22 (No response.)

23 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: 13.

24 (No response.)

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1 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: 14.

2 (No response.)

3 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Did you all give
4 those out?

5 MS. HUGHES: I didn't collect any of
6 them. And I didn't get them from anyone.

7 Any 11 -- or yellows out there?

8 MS. PATTI KILMER: There are some blank
9 ones out, but they're not filled out.

10 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Okay.

11 15.

12 (No response.)

13 MS. HUGHES: 8 and 11.

14 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: We have 8
15 and 11?

16 MS. HUGHES: You just want to hand it
17 in? Okay.

18 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Oh, okay.

19 MS. HUGHES: They want to hand this one
20 in. Okay.

21 Got one.

22 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Why don't you
23 have them to do a green one in lieu of a yellow. Did
24 they write comments on them?

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1 MS. HUGHES: They wrote comments.

2 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Oh, okay.

3 Sorry about that. Thank you.

4 I'm sorry, ma'am. Go ahead.

5 MS. HUGHES: Sorry, Kim.

6 MS. KIM KILMER: It's okay. Not a
7 probl em.

8 Hello. My name's Kim Kilmer and I'm a
9 former employee of Neighbors. I had worked at
10 Neighbors for 30 years, and I know without a doubt
11 that Neighbors is a wonderful facility and they have a
12 staff that's very loving, very caring, and it's very
13 much a family down there.

14 And their -- Neighbors' desire and
15 Neighbors' mission was always to be able to take care
16 of the people that were right here in Byron, very much
17 a community facility.

18 And I wholeheartedly believe that, you know,
19 just as important as it is to keep updated and
20 modernized with the services that are provided, it's
21 also just as important to be updated and modernized
22 with the building and the facility.

23 And the building of Neighbors is old, and
24 I fully support their desire to update and modernize

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1 the building and, also, the additional beds that
2 they're wanting to add.

3 The building that they're wanting to put on,
4 I do believe that we need more beds and a private
5 room. Being able to offer that private room, I think,
6 is essential.

7 Being a person that's had to take advantage
8 of my own health care, though it was in a hospital
9 environment in this past year, I fully understand the
10 need for a private room. When it comes to
11 recuperating and being able to build your strength
12 back up, having a roommate can really be a hindrance
13 and slow down the process, I believe.

14 So I fully support Neighbors' desire to add
15 on some private rooms and am fully supportive of the
16 desire to have the hospice suites. I believe that
17 that is definitely a need in Byron. And not only will
18 that serve Byron but some of the surrounding
19 communities that do not have a nursing home.

20 So I am in full support of the plans for
21 Neighbors to renovate and to expand.

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 THE COURT REPORTER: Would you spell

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1 your name for me, please.

2 MS. KIM KILMER: I'm sorry.

3 K-i-l-l-m-e-r.

4 THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

5 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Thank you.

6 No. 16.

7 (No response.)

8 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: 16.

9 (No response.)

10 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: How many --

11 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I'm not going to
12 speak.

13 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Oh, you're not
14 going to?

15 Do you want the -- did you fill out the
16 green sheet? Do you want this one?

17 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes, I did.

18 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Great.

19 Thank you.

20 What numbers did we stop with?

21 MS. HUGHES: That's it. That was the
22 last one.

23 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Oh, we got
24 everyone? Great.

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1 CHAIRWOMAN OLSON: Can I say something?

2 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Sure.

3 CHAIRWOMAN OLSON: I just wanted to make
4 just a couple comments, which is a little out of the
5 ordinary. I guess I'm supposed to be seen and not
6 heard.

7 But I do appreciate all of you coming.
8 I'm actually very familiar with Neighbors. Many years
9 ago I provided mobile -- well, hygiene services at
10 Neighbors, so I'm very familiar with Neighbors.

11 I'm also familiar with the nuances of a
12 nursing facility, extended care facility, in a small
13 community. I live in Rochelle so I do understand --
14 well, people say, "Oh, Rockford is only 10 or 15 miles
15 away." Particularly in a winter like this winter, the
16 road that I will take to go to work from here now
17 would be difficult to travel.

18 I want to make sure that all of you signed
19 in because the Board does look at how many people are
20 at a hearing, so make sure that you're counted.

21 I also want to make sure that -- or assure
22 you that the Board does read your comments. I haven't
23 seen the staff agency report so -- to the Board.
24 I don't know what the comments are. There's many

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1 criteria that have to be taken into consideration, but
2 it's important that you're here.

3 I've never attended a hearing where there's
4 no opposition, so that speaks highly. And I know
5 there will be probably opposition from nursing homes
6 that Mr. Eubanks, I believe, referred to on the south
7 side of Rockford.

8 But I just want to thank you for coming and
9 let you know that the Board will see your comments.
10 But make sure you're counted because that's important.

11 Yes.

12 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: When most of us
13 came, there was no place to sign in. Do we sign in on
14 the way out or --

15 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: No, you signed
16 in, your sheet.

17 MS. HUGHES: With the green and yellow
18 sheet.

19 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Oh, the green and
20 yellow sheet?

21 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Your sheet is
22 your sign-in.

23 CHAIRWOMAN OLSON: Yeah. If you signed
24 a green or a yellow sheet, you're signed in.

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1 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: So that should
2 be okay.

3 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I've got a comment
4 for the Alderman that spoke, the . . .

5 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Pertaining to
6 the project?

7 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It doesn't pertain
8 to the project, but it pertains to public
9 transportation in Byron.

10 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Okay. Let me
11 finish up this proceeding because we have to stick to
12 this project.

13 CHAIRWOMAN OLSON: Mr. Alderman, you can
14 run but you can't hide.

15 (Laughter.)

16 CHAIRWOMAN OLSON: And I can say that on
17 authority. My husband is the mayor of Rochelle.

18 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: She does know.

19 CHAIRWOMAN OLSON: Church, dinner, it
20 doesn't matter.

21 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Okay.

22 Is there anyone who wishes to testify who
23 has not had an opportunity to do so?

24 Do you need a --

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1 MS. OLTMANNNS: Is it okay if I speak
2 from back here?

3 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: It sure is. And
4 make sure you fill out the yellow form that the
5 administrator will give to you.

6 MS. OLTMANNNS: I've been swaying back
7 and forth, do I get up or don't I, but I couldn't sit
8 any longer.

9 It's okay for you people who are close to
10 your loved one. We are not.

11 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Give your name.

12 MS. OLTMANNNS: We are 500 miles away.

13 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: They'd like your
14 name.

15 MS. OLTMANNNS: Oh, I'm sorry.

16 Shirley Oltmanns, O-l-t-m-a-n-n-s.

17 This is very difficult. When we leave to go
18 back to South Dakota, we don't know when because my
19 sister is facing colon surgery at 87. She has a home
20 in Oregon which needs to be sold to support her here,
21 and we would have her no other place but in Neighbors.

22 She left her home October 16th. It took her
23 a while to adjust. But when -- I asked Betty, "You
24 tell your doctor you want to stay here; don't let him

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1 tell you you have to." That was a choice we would
2 have had to have made.

3 But she likes it. She loves her roommate,
4 Irene.

5 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Oh, yes.

6 MS. OLTMANN: I really know that.

7 She said, "Irene is good for me. She makes
8 me chuckle. We love to hear Irene chuckle," she says,
9 "to her TV programs."

10 But this is the best facility around.

11 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Amen.

12 MS. OLTMANN: We've been to Mount
13 Morris; we've been to Oregon. And when my husband and
14 daughter came here in October, while I was sitting
15 with my sister in her home, waiting to know where she
16 would be going -- we couldn't stay because of my
17 husband facing surgery. She couldn't stay home alone.
18 What do we do?

19 Neighbors was the answer. And we pray that
20 this will go through. There's no better place than
21 Neighbors. We love the staff. They make her laugh.
22 They support her in everything. So we just pray that
23 Neighbors -- that this project will go through.

24 Thank you.

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1 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Thank you.

2 (Appl ause.)

3 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Okay. Is there
4 anyone else that would like to provide testimony on
5 behal f of thi s project?

6 (No response.)

7 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Okay. Hearing
8 none, is there anyone who would like to testify -- who
9 wishes to provide additional testimony to what they've
10 already provided?

11 MS. FRY: I do.

12 Can I stay right here? I've got a new knee.

13 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Yeah.

14 It took me a minute to get that. You
15 can si t.

16 MS. FRY: Okay.

17 My name is Susan Fry, F-r-y, and I'm staying
18 at Neighbors right now, rehabbing for a new knee.

19 And as everyone has said, everybody there is
20 wonderful. In fact, back in '96 I worked there, too,
21 so I'm kind of partial. And everybody there, like --
22 is wonderful, from A to Z.

23 And I was there about a year and a half ago
24 with a hip revision, and their rehab department is

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1 just wonderful, just -- just wonderful. If you're
2 hurting too bad, they make -- they stop. They don't
3 push and push you to where you're in so much pain.

4 And they -- but they keep pushing you so you
5 keep progressing so you can go home, and I leave
6 tomorrow morning after breakfast to go home.

7 (Applause.)

8 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Okay. I have
9 some dates and addresses and things for you all to
10 take note of, so you might want to write these down.

11 Or -- it's the same address that's on the
12 public notice that's posted on the doors, or you can
13 call our offices or the Neighbors administration if
14 you don't get everything today. And it will all be on
15 the Web site, also, closer to the June meeting.

16 Okay. Please note that the project is
17 tentatively scheduled for consideration by the Board
18 at its June 3rd meeting. The meeting will be held in
19 Springfield, Illinois, at the Northfield Inn and
20 Conference Center located at 3280 Northfield Drive,
21 Springfield, Illinois.

22 Please refer to the Board's Web site at
23 www.hfsrb.illinois.gov for more details and possible
24 agenda changes.

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1 The deadline to submit written comments
2 pertaining to this project is 9:00 a.m. May 14th. We
3 have to receive them by 9:00 a.m. May 14th. The State
4 Board staff report will be posted on the Web site on
5 May 20th. The deadline to submit written responses to
6 errors in the State Board staff report is 9:00 a.m.
7 May 27th.

8 Written comments and responses should be
9 sent to the Illinois Health Facilities and Services
10 Review Board, attention Courtney Avery, 525 West
11 Jefferson Street, Second Floor, Springfield, Illinois
12 62761.

13 Also, your comments have to be mailed. We
14 can't accept fax, so you have to mail them in to that
15 address.

16 Yes, ma'am.

17 THE AUDIENCE: Would you repeat that
18 Web site, please?

19 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: The Web site?
20 H, as in "health"; F, as in "facilities";
21 S, as in "services"; R, as in "review"; B, as in
22 "boy," dot illinois dot gov.

23 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Thank you.

24 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Are there any

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1 questions pertaining to today's proceedings.

2 (No response.)

3 HEARING OFFICER AVERY: Okay. Hearing
4 that there are no additional questions or comments,
5 I deem the public hearing adjourned, and I thank you
6 for your participation today.

7 Have a good day.

8 PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED AT 10:30 A.M.

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