

**Study Session Meeting – Council Chambers, Ely City Hall  
May 30, 2017**

Mayor Novak called the May 30, 2017 Study Session to order at 5:30pm. ‘

PRESENT: Council Members A.Forsman, Kess, Debeltz, Omerza, Callen, D.Forsman, and Mayor Novak

ABSENT: None

ADDITIONS OR OMISSIONS: None

REQUEST TO APPEAR: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

**NEW BUSINESS**

John Fossum from Ely Bloomenson Community Hospital spoke about the overlapping responsibilities for individuals who are involved with both the healthcare and law enforcement systems:

John Fossum stated that there are shortcomings that the hospital, police and communities face. He stated that both the hospital and police are challenged by “mental health surprises.” Many cases involve the same individuals in the ER, where the police bring the same individual with mental health issues to the hospital for help. These patients are important and need help, but the question is how to help them since there are loop holes in the system. Fossum stated that the patient always has the right to refuse treatment which can become a challenge. While some patients may agree to a 72 hour hold the patient has the right to refuse to leave at any time. Fossum stated that the Ely Police Department has done a terrific job in helping with these situations. The Ely Community Care Team has also taken on a positive role to try to help patients with mental health issues.

Mayor Novak stated that it sounds like we are dealing with an unsolvable issue unfortunately.

A.Forsman suggested that Ely Bloomenson Community Hospital keeps the City informed about these issues and to let the council know if there is anything they can help with.

Fossum stated that the hospital would like to do an active shooter drill and a walk through of the hospital with the police.

Mayor Novak adjourned the meeting at 5:50pm without objection.

Casey Velcheff  
Deputy Clerk