

Caesar Nuzzolo, Chair
Michael-Ray Jeffreys, Vice Chair
Amanda Moore, Clerk
Tom Alonzo, Member
Renee Emkey, Member



17 Main Street
P.O. Box 135
Lunenburg, MA 01462
Phone 978-582-4144

Lunenburg Select Board Resolution Requesting Emergency Declaration Regarding the Proposed Closure of the Nashoba Valley Medical Center

We, the Lunenburg Select Board, given the impending proposed closure of the Nashoba Valley Medical Center (NVMC) scheduled for August 31, 2024, officially implore Governor Maura Healey of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to exert her leadership and official powers to prevent the closure of the NVMC, including but not limited to, declaring a State of Public Health Emergency to prevent the closure of the NVMC in addition to formally adhering to the 120-day closure process in accordance with Massachusetts State Law.

Whereas the NVMC is a 46-bed community hospital opened in 1964 which has continuously provided primary critical healthcare including emergency health services to the 15 towns of the Nashoba Valley Region with a combined population of approximately 114,390, critical secondary emergency care to the other communities of North Central Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire, and receives approximately 16,000 Emergency Room visits and 91,000 outpatient visits annually;

Whereas the NVMC provides critical healthcare services to rural communities which do not have access to public mass transportation for patients to travel beyond the region for healthcare services; and

Whereas the impending closure of the NVMC by August 31, 2024 will create a healthcare desert in the Nashoba Valley Region impacting over 100,000 residents of the Commonwealth, increase emergency response times to over an hour, cut off direct, local access to public healthcare to the regions' most vulnerable populations, and create the loss of over 500 jobs;

Now, therefore, the Lunenburg Select Board respectfully requests that Governor Maura Healey take the follow immediate actions within her powers as Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as follows:

1. Per MGL Chapter 17, Section 2A declare that a public health emergency exists with the impending closure of the NVMC and further instruct Dr. Robert Goldstein, Commissioner of the Department of Public Health to take such action to assure the maintenance of public health by keeping the NVMC open and operational.
2. That the Governor per her public statements on August 1, 2024 that Steward should adhere to the 120-day closure per Massachusetts State Law, do everything in her powers as Governor to ensure the 120-day closure period.
3. That the Governor work with Federal, State, and Local Leaders of the Nashoba Valley to develop a permanent transition plan with funding to ensure that the NVMC remains open and operational and ultimately transfers to a responsible operator.

Signed, this 13th day of August 2024 by:

Caesar Nuzzolo, Chair

Michael-Ray Jeffreys, Vice Chair

Amanda Moore, Clerk

Tom Alonzo, Member

Renee Emkey, Member