By Russ Pankonin
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Members of the board of trustees of the Chase County Community Hospital voted unanimously last week to support the return of Dr. Jeff Kasselman to the medical staff.

The hospital lost the services of Kasselman in mid-May after his license was suspended following a complaint filed with the state licensure board.

Provided his medical license is reinstated, and several other conditions are met, he will return the medical staff at the hospital.

Kasselman left a general practice at the hospital in 2007 to complete a three-year anesthesia and critical care residency and one-year pain management fellowship at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

He returned to the hospital in July, 2011, where he served as a practicing anesthesiologist as well as operating a pain management clinic.

Kasselman checked himself into an intensive three-month program to deal with dependency and personal issues. He successfully completed the program earlier this month.

During last Thursday's hospital board meeting, board members met with Kasselman and other individuals in both open and closed session, seeking input on his return to the medical staff.

During open session, a number of Kasselman's pain clinic patients went on record in support of Kasselman.

Several stated that without his pain management treatments, they would have remained in a debilitated state, instead of now being able to lead an active life.

While discussion in closed session is privileged, board members received comments both for and against Kasselman returning to the staff.

After five hours of taking input, board members voted unanimously to support Kasselman's return, contingent on reinstatement of his license and meeting other licensing conditions.

Hospital board members include Bill Bauerle, Vicky Heskett, Sam McNair and Bob Mendenhall, Sr., all of Imperial and Eddie Nichols of Wauneta.