

Date: April 15, 2009
Time: 2:00 P.M.
Location: Burney Fire Protection District (Fire Hall)
Burney, California

(These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcription of the proceedings and discussions associated with the business of the board's agenda; rather, what follows is a summary of the order of business and general nature of testimony, deliberations and action taken.)

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER: President Kerns called the special meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. on the above date with the following present:

Mike Kerns, President
Gail McClung, Vice President
Jim Hamlin, Treasurer
Allen Albaugh, Trustee

Absent: Ruth Knoch, Secretary
Staff Present: Katharine Ann Campbell, CEO.

2. ADDITIONS & CHANGES TO AGENDA, SECTION 54954.2(b)2:

None

3. CALL FOR REQUEST FROM AUDIENCE TO SPEAK TO ISSUES OR AGENDA ITEMS:

None

4. AMBULANCE SERVICES: Joint Meeting with the Burney Fire Protection District to discuss future of ambulance services.

BFPD board of directors present: Bob Moore, Chair; Boyd Taylor, Roger Valinoti, Donna Caldwell, Lynn Miller.

MMHD's CEO Katharine Ann Campbell provided background information and purpose of the special meeting to officially solicit interest of the BFPD in pursuing a joint ambulance service. Upon the advice of rural health specialist Michael Bell, there may be potential gain for both providers to exist as a single ambulance service, specifically ownership. It's a proposal to explore one service with better reimbursement in the same market. MMHD board chair Kerns added the topic has been an issue for several years and MMHD would like to explore options to either close topic or move forward.

Campbell explained MMHD is a critical access hospital and the ambulances service would potentially receive 101% Medicare reimbursement vs. its current 44% reimbursement. Currently, the hospital's ambulance service is within 35 miles of another ambulance service thus only receives the 44% reimbursement.

Moore stated the Burney service is successful and provides a high quality service and asked what benefits the sole ambulance service would provide BFPD. Campbell explained as the elderly population increases there would be better reimbursement, better coordinated services district-wide, high level training, four rigs—as well as other financial benefits including state and federal grants and more funding opportunities.

BFPD board member Miller stated since 1939 the community has volunteered and the taxpayers have subsidized the service and her concern is not to jeopardize the fire district. CEO Campbell assured both boards that the service would remain the same and that it's primarily an ownership issue. Kerns added if the higher reimbursement rate were also applicable to BFPD, the difference would only be in the business model and that ought to improve service. Discussion continued regarding statistics, job descriptions and job categories of each service.

Campbell stated Modoc County has also been approached in regard to ambulance service provided in Adin—it also is located within 35 miles of Mayers' ambulance service. Meetings will be organized with them as well. We are taking a look at all licenses to make the best sense in providing the best service for the communities stated Campbell.

Staff (CEO and Fire Chief) was directed to answer two questions and obtain clarification before moving forward.

- 1) Does the rate change for BFPD with one provider? It was recommended staff be tasked to verify BFPD CAH reimbursement eligibility.
- 2) If eligible, then plug in BFPD numbers with the cost-based reimbursement calculations and compare to current fee rates. Chief Moore is concerned that the 101% Medicare reimbursement may not be an improvement to its current fee rate structure.

If BFPD is not eligible, no further discussions would be necessary. If BFPD is CAH reimbursement eligible, then boards should reconvene for further discussions. At that time, it may be necessary for a detailed study that would cost \$5,000-\$6,000 stated Campbell. The goals among both MMHD and BFPD are to provide the quality service to its communities and be financially viable. Miller asked for CAH legislation—and CEO Campbell will provide info to Chief Ray Barber.

5. ADJOURNMENT: The Board of Directors adjourned at 3:15 p.m.