



**MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AD HOC EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
COUNTY OF MONO
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

MEETING LOCATION Lee Vining Community Center, 296 Mattly Avenue, Lee Vining, CA 93541

These minutes are meant as a summary only. A copy of the audio file is available in the Clerk's office upon request

November 19, 2015

1:10 PM Meeting called to order by Chairman Fesko.

Present: Chairman Fesko, Bob Rooks, Mike Geary, Rick Mitchell, Dr. Rick Johnson, Fred Stump, Rosemary Sachs, Lynda Salcido, Dave Robbins, Jack Copeland, Frank Frievalt, Leslie Chapman, Ralph Lockhart.

Absent: none

Adjourn: 4:05 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Chairman Fesko.

1. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Dan Flynn:

- Two things happening in adjacent counties with their healthcare: one is closing of Tonopah Hospital. Symons is now responding from Bishop, 3 hour lapse for ambulance. Another is Southern Inyo Hospital is in dire financial straits. If that hospital closes, transport might go to Ridgecrest, creating another 3 hour lapse. Shows the changing face of EMS and healthcare.

2. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Meeting Minutes

Approve minutes of the Special Meeting held on September 22, 2015, as corrected.
Copeland moved, Frievalt seconded.

Vote: 11 yes; 0 no. Abstain: Fesko and Rooks.
EMS15-09

Mike Geary:

- Page 1 under his comment, change to “Documentation regarding terminology; ALS versus BLS, scope of practice, etc, for clarification will be submitted as part of the Association’s presentation. This will need to be agendized for the following meeting.”

B. Meeting Minutes

Approve minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 1, 2015.

Geary moved, Robbins seconded.

Vote: 12 yes; 0 no. Abstain: Copeland.

EMS15-10

C. Overview of Current EMS system

(Mike Geary) - Overview of current Mono County EMS system, including role and involvement of Mono County Paramedics, local fire protection districts, private providers, and others. Continuation of discussion of possible modifications to current system.

Supervisor Fesko:

- This is a carryover from last EMS meeting.

Mike Geary:

- Gave handout to committee and public in attendance.
- Hopefully this should answer lingering questions and transition well back into the process.
- Went through handout.
- Call volume
- Level of service
- **Kevin Smith:** Regarding exterior fire duties. Several things medics can do but are specifically prohibited from entering the interior of burning building or directly attacking a fire (hose in hand). Many gray areas.
- **Frank Frievalt:** His gray areas include that it would be great to know what supervisors intent is. Because it’s not a requirement, how do we identify who they can or cannot use in this situation?
- Vehicle accidents, EMT typically stands back and lets Fire extricate patients.
- Back country
- Institutional knowledge
- **Stacey Simon:** document that’s in the packet discusses cancellation; Sec 11 cancelling the procurement process is saying “we don’t need this anymore”.
- Privatization – what is the cost? Longer contract means more money and increasing subsidy. Pros and cons.
- Quality of service
- **Supervisor Stump:** Personally saw them in back country, rescue operations, etc.
- **Mike Geary:** Just can’t operate on the assumption that they will do it.
- Opinions on recommendations
- Believes we only have 2 options

Rick Mitchell:

- Believes we need to have something completed by next meeting, so we can make changes and finalize the last meeting.
- Feels we’ve been dancing around solutions. Concern is that we’ve spent a great deal of time

to accomplish nothing new. We've seen what high quality is, and what would not be acceptable to taxpayers and visitors. Haven't addressed issues that would make this a county wide service.

Supervisor Fesko:

- Recommends the committee watch the video from the November 10 Board of Supervisors' meeting. Feels it explains what the Board is looking for in terms of options and suggestions.
- Thinks the committee is now at a point where they can come up with something to present to the Board.
- East Fork talked about cost of doing business

Frank Frievalt:

- Look at things mentioned here, like to see going from potential benefits to actual benefits. Hard to put value on things that are maybes, and ifs.

Dr. Rick Johnson:

- Feels no matter what option we choose, it's a hybrid system because Mono Co will always depend on someone coming north from Bishop, or south from Nevada. A Fire based system makes sense, but has heard reluctance to adopt that system.
- Talking about a RFP as a County-wide RFP.

Stacey Simon:

- Pointed out that if Mammoth Fire is interested, they would have to bid as well.
- We have current EOAs drawn; would have to work to split existing EOA, and there is a process first.

Ralph Lockhart:

- The assumption about private being all county, could we structure RFP as a hybrid system to include private in certain areas?
- Haven't explored much on revenue side, but not sure huge amounts of effort in that area will result in big results. Interested in adding value.
- Frustrated in cost savings in current model, thinks there are things we need to consider. Running out of time to do that.

Supervisor Stump:

- Sees right now as a moderate window to make changes. Future Boards will have to deal with that, and dollars are the eventual driver.
- Has insight on East Fork through a friend, negative impacts of consolidating Fire and EMS.

Dave Robbins:

- Across the nation, fire, EMS, hospitals, etc are all in trouble.
- We have fire, need to take down barriers between chiefs, we are One. Need to figure out how to be efficient across the county as a whole. Diminishing returns mean private companies won't stick around.
- Feels a fourth option would be to raise public funds through a bond, etc. The voting public may not back the program if it means raising taxes.

Bob Rooks:

- We are currently getting a revenue stream of less than 25% of cost, not counting all other calls out there; there is a possibility to reduce readiness cost.

D. EMS Models Workshop

(Bill VanLente) - Interactive workshop led by Bill Van Lente regarding potential EMS models for Mono County, including review and discussion of information received to date, discussion of details related to specific models, and future steps. Any additional information or attachments will be distributed at the meeting.

Supervisor Fesko:

- Caution to not get caught up on semantics. Need to move forward now. Frustration at

times, but this is our chance to move on. Not everyone will get what they want. Time to flush out the ideas, we need to just move forward. If it fails, it needs to not be at the committee level.

Bill VanLente:

- Dealing with 3 constituent groups. One is the direction from the BOS, two from key contacts of Lynda and Tim, three from his standpoint.
- Handout is a tool to use moving forward using original definitions.
- Handout 2 and 3, built from survey on rating ideas.
- Went through ideas and their overall rating. Encourage members to take everything we've been through and evaluate each idea.
- Asked members to rate each idea by 1st, 2nd, and 3rd priority as idea to pursue.
- Consensus: Final ranking: 1st priority is existing model with modifications; 2nd priority is combine with fire; 3rd priority is privatize.

BRAINSTORMING SESSION

SPENDING CUT IDEAS:

- Change from ALS to BLS, consolidate stations, eliminate scheduled OT, cut hours and positions
- Maybe afraid to cut labor costs due to negotiations? Either agree to budget, or it will go to arbitration. Quit fearing negotiations.
- 50/50 paramedic / EMT team
- Management restructuring
- OT covered by EMT rather than paramedic
- Squads with volunteer ambulances
- Consolidate stations during lower volume months, shoulder season.
- Alternate work schedules
- Stop moving medic 7 to cover south co
- Hard look at scheduling hours. Perhaps a few more employees would cut costs on OT.
- Modify benefit contribution, incurrent MOU but based on triggers.
- Shift program to other dept.
- Working EMT manager - should be the one to take the shift when someone calls in.
- Fleet replacement
- Early retirement for staff
- Hidden costs in dispatch in current system
- Review and formalize relationships with outside organizations that provide EMS services that we don't pay for

REVENUE IDEAS:

- Grants
- Cost of doing business
- County wide parcel/special tax
- Aggressive billing/capturing charges/better record keeping
- Special tax on communities that have units (June, Bridgeport, Walker)
- Negotiated rates with payers/ pricing analysis
- Hwy 6 station goes south to Bishop
- Subscription service (Careflight? In conjunction with?)
- Sales tax increase
- Special tax on lift tickets?
- Raise TOT to Inyo levels (15%)
- Charge for car wrecks and hazmat on 395
- Charge jail for calls
- Sleep time pay
- Private donations, fundraising, foundations.

General discussion on how to organize brainstorming ideas. Leslie doesn't see this as a specific ask to the Board, Supervisor Stump thinks this is overload to present to the Board. Leslie thinks we need to present the Board with a specific ask, the Board needs to be able to say Yes, we are tasking staff with examining (the specific ask).

Agree to break into subcommittees at next meeting.

General discussion on level of detail to present to Board

Supervisor Fesko:

- Next meeting, flush out other two headings, then break up into smaller groups to brainstorm. Leslie and himself will be gone on the 3rd.

ADJOURN

ATTEST

TIMOTHY E. FESKO
CHAIRMAN

HELEN NUNN
SR. DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD