



**MEETING MINUTES  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF MONO  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

MEETING LOCATION Board Chambers, 2nd Fl., County Courthouse, 278 Main St., Bridgeport, CA  
93517

**Special Meeting  
March 8, 2017**

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10:07 AM Meeting Called to Order by Chair of the Board Corless.

*Supervisors Present: Corless, Gardner, Johnston, Peters, and Stump.  
Supervisors Absent: None.*

*Break: 11:40 a.m.  
Reconvene: 11:50 a.m.  
Closed Session: 1:53 p.m.  
Adjourn: 3:00 p.m.*

**The Mono County Board of Supervisors stream all of their meetings live on the internet and archives them afterward. To listen to any meetings from June 2, 2015 forward, please go to the following link:**  
<http://www.monocounty.ca.gov/meetings>

Pledge of Allegiance led by Kevin Smith.

**1 OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**  
No one spoke.

**2. AGENDA ITEMS**

**A. EMS Workshop**

Departments: Public Health, EMS

(Lynda Salcido, Bob Rooks) - Presentation by Emergency Medical Services Management regarding future planning for services in Mono County. Please access the EMS Ad Hoc Committee webpage for links contained within the final EMS report. <http://www.monocounty.ca.gov/ems/page/ad-hoc-emergency-medical-services-committee>

**Action:** Provide any desired direction to staff.

**Bob Rooks:**

- Handed out flow chart to guide flow of workshop today. Deadline as far as current management, he runs out of time based on his contract. As a retired annuitant, he will run out of hours at the end of April, and Lynda's last day is April 28.

Do we want to continue to provide EMS in Mono County? Board was polled, all answered Yes.

- This system needs to be run like a department; replacing department heads are critical. Of the \$4m cost, roughly \$2m of the funding comes from the General Fund. Is that budget acceptable?

**Leslie Chapman:**

- We've been at this level for a very long time. Monies have been shuffled, cut, and spread out from different budgets and funds. This program could stay at the level it's at without changing anything right now.

**Supervisor Gardner:**

- Feels the 50/50 mix of funding is not representative of those who utilize the services, since the majority of users are visitors. Would like to see more of a 25/75 split. Comfortable with the overall total cost of the program.

**Supervisor Johnston:**

- Is comfortable with the current budget because it's been approved recently.

**Supervisor Peters:**

- Appears the acceptable level of spending is the current level.

**Supervisor Stump:**

- Budget is acceptable but wants to come back to the taxes, fees, and rates.

Board consensus on current budget levels.

**Bob Rooks:**

- A public utility model is basically that you're keeping everything except the employees. All the equipment, etc, stay with the County, and you're contracting out for the staff and management.
- Privatization of the system means the contractor owns everything and provides the service for a fee.
- Fire Based means the Fire Departments become responsible for EMS calls. We then run into the 7k exemption, which we don't qualify for at this time.
- Doesn't feel combining the Fire Districts with EMT would be picking one side vs another. A County Fire department would have jurisdictions outside of the local fire districts.
- Under the Fire model, a work week would become a 53 hour week rather than 40 hours. There will always will be some OT.

**Supervisor Johnston:**

- What would happen to existing Fire Districts if we choose the Fire model? Feels local districts should be able to become part of the County district.

**Frank Frievalt:**

- Reason the Fire based option was on the list was because of the desire to qualify for the 7k exemption. Doesn't believe there's a way to get there from here.

**Stacey Simon:**

- One of the issues is a lack of case law on this (Fire model). There are cases that struck down attempts by public agencies to structure their programs to qualify for the 7k exemption. We don't have information on the recent challenges to this.

**Supervisor Stump:**

- Feels the only benefitted communities would be Districts 3 and 4, because that's where the locations are.
- Witnessed several conversions from CalFire; costs exploded. San Bernardino County, e.g., two cities within the county chose not to transition, kept the CalFire model. Tulare Co and

Riverside Co also considered the fire based model and rejected it. He does not support the Fire based model.

- If there were an agreement to dissolve all fire districts and combine all their money, you'd be at about \$3m. Feedback he's received is that the districts don't want to do this.
- He has the fiscal information, and feels the question is would Mammoth want to contribute their \$2.7m in prop tax revenue into a pool that would benefit other communities?

**Supervisor Peters:**

- Cost savings might be in personnel. What happens to staff members?
- Comfortable taking fire based off the table

**Brian Bullock:**

- If we went back to 7k, all employees would be receiving 11.5% less than we do now. No telling who might stay or leave.

**Janet Dutcher:**

- Reminder that you don't have fiscal info on districts and which need money and which don't.

**Supervisor Corless:**

- Hearing there is not an interest in pursuing Fire? Board consensus is NO.

**Bob Rooks:**

- Contract services. Looking at creating an RFP for the County to provide advanced life support transportation services in the county. Draw is we are looking for a significant fiscal savings. We've had no one give us a sure number of what services they would provide and at what cost.
- Summarized the Abaris Report at Supervisor Johnston's request.

**Supervisor Stump:**

- The Ad Hoc Committee didn't have the authority to direct county staff to initiate an RFP process. That's why we don't have hard numbers rather than general figures. Feels we should pursue, in addition to others, gathering data on this.

**Leslie Chapman:**

- We have our main leaders for the program leaving in a few months. We don't have the resources to do an RFP. Unless you are very interested in this option, please consider the resources we'd need to devote to this to do an RFP.

**Dr. Rick Johnson:**

- He has been all over, speaking to chiefs, etc. The EMS system across the county are very stressed. Fire Depts, most calls are medical calls even though medical payments are down. Revenue from fees is only going to go down. There are only 2 or 3 major companies that could provide services. WRT the RFP process, ICEMA would be the one to do the RFP as part of our mandate. For a non-binding RFP, they may not be willing to do so. Mono County, with the exception of Alpine, is the only county that puts money into their EMS.

**Supervisor Gardner:**

- Does not support privatization option.
- Agrees with Supervisor Corless. Hopes to get into options on the revenue side.

**Supervisor Peters:**

- Concerned with how privatization would impact our levels of service. Would like to support a modified system. We need to manage the resources we have to continue to serve the county

**Supervisor Corless:**

- No constituent has said to her to stop spending money, or decrease the level of care. Supports expansion of service to underserved areas.
- Doesn't think we can get the quality of data that we need by doing an RFP. Ready to move on, supports modifying the system and service expansion.

**Supervisor Johnston:**

- The Ad Hoc Committee spent over a year going over this and there was strong sentiment to do an RFP. Not a majority, but important opinions. The Ad Hoc Committee repeated what the Fitch report said.

**Supervisor Stump:**

- Not his preferred alternative, he likes the quality our staff brings. Does want to expand services.

**Supervisor Peters:**

- Thinks the resources that would be directed to an RFP should be redirected to the Highway 6 corridor. Knows everything comes at a cost. Need to continue looking into other revenue sources. Puts faith in the Ad Hoc Committee, previous reports done by other agencies, ready to move forward.

Board consensus to move onto looking at the existing system.

**Dr. Rick Johnson:**

- The Ad Hoc Committee could never get a hard target from the county. What does full county coverage mean? Could not really come up with a definition. Feels operational decisions should be tasked to the management, not decided here today. Tell the management it's important to cover underserved areas and allow them to figure that out.

**Jeff Tong, Chair of Chalfant Fire:**

- We have a system that works, in general. With the amount of traffic, large vehicles on Highway 6, we don't have the risk of mass casualty as on 395. We have an aging community, gone through a lot of changes with personnel, at a stable place now. We have a delay when responders have to come from Bishop. We need more first responders. CV and Benton should all be brought up to First Responder. Status of ambulance, they have 1 EMT available, their ambulance is operational.
- Most crucial thing for him is education and training. Would like to have 3 EMTs. No way to keep people in Chalfant because there's no place for them to work. People work out of their homes, and increased internet service will help increase those numbers.
- Expectation of services on behalf of customers is different than the demographic of say, Mammoth. Chalfant understands they are remote, and so many will self-transport. He estimates 500 people in the service area total, maybe less.

**Supervisor Stump:**

- Read a letter from Dave Doonan into the record.

**Mike Booher, Chief of Bridgeport Fire:**

- Thinks we're very different from Tri Valley area. He ran a BLS Ambulance here for 9 years before the ALS unit in Bridgeport was here. Ambulance never made more than \$60k per year. His fire department won't volunteer on the ambulances because the first hospital won't take them because they are not a trauma center, so it takes 5 hours or more to transport. Became cumbersome to make that happen. Runs about 160 calls per year on \$139k. Does not have an EMT on his department. Working on a new system that will use the internet and satellites to provide remote training to multiple agencies.

**Mike Curti, Chief of Antelope Valley Fire:**

- North county perspective. There are Mammoth standards of cover but there are no Mono County standards of cover. Does not think East Fork Fire has even been as far south as Bridgeport. Mammoth uses 70% of our EMS system in the wintertime. Believes mammoth needs to pay their share, maybe on a per lift ticket fee. Long Valley needs an ambulance.

**Frank Frievalt:**

- Fortunate to be in Mammoth with the financial backing, but it's comforting to know he can call on others for backup. Easily overwhelmed even in Mammoth; there are only so many people to deal with the amount of visitors Mammoth receives. Believes the other districts and Mammoth are dependent upon each other and rely on each other for assistance.

**Bob Rooks:**

- You have picked the existing system with modifications, have never gotten this far before. Heard from all Supervisors that we need to take a hard look at the south end of the county and come up with a way to support them better. That solution may include a hybrid system.

- Rates are approved by LEMSA. You can petition to change your rates based on something they're not aware of. Increasing rates does not mean more money; insurance companies will still only pay what they will pay.
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#### General Board Discussion regarding fees, taxes, and rates.

##### **Leslie Chapman:**

- This opens up new avenues for revenue enhancement that staff can pursue and bring back to the Board.

##### **Lynda Salcido:**

- In 2012, the former EMS director retired, and the Board decided his position was not needed to be replaced. Given then to Public Health. When she took it over, there were 4 captains were committed to making it work. 2 years later, board approved for an EMS manager but it was staying in Public Health. Poor decisions. Soon to hire an EMS chief who will report to the CAO, running a very expensive, complex program within the county. You have a gap in management. 4 capable captains, gives a little bit of time. You need a fully functioning, highly skilled, highly trained chief ASAP.

##### **Leslie Chapman:**

- Feels weird to have a county program run by someone else. Our format is the CAO oversees all departments except the elected officials. Her recommendation would be to explore two? Different options and continue with recruitment.

Board consensus to continue to have the department head under the CAO

##### **Brian Bullock:**

- Feels the 4 captains can run the department in the interim, but they do need another chief. Chief Rooks has made that apparent. The decisions today have unlocked ideas in the employees, they've had the idea of privatization hanging over their heads. Confident they can keep the department going in the direction Bob Rooks has set into motion until they find a new chief. Breath of fresh air to finally work with the CAO and the Board to get going in the right direction.

##### **Supervisor Johnston:**

- Public generally can support a fee/tax if the system is as efficient as possible.

##### **Supervisor Gardner:**

- Program needs to both efficient AND effective.

##### **Frank Frievalt:**

- We can't deny a possibility just because it's inconvenient. Relieved they didn't choose one of the other options. In the interim, his staff will provide whatever support is needed. Believes the Ad Hoc Committee time was not wasted. Making this decision today transcends three decades of non-action. Thank you.

##### **Bob Rooks:**

- Will bring back several items in the future, how to create the department, work into the Tri Valley, how to make changes in the EOA to include Swall and Paradise,
- Will continue to move units around in the county for coverage
- Medics spend time in school, but without call volume, the knowledge and skills are lost.

##### **Supervisor Stump:**

- Please include enhanced collaboration with outlying fire communities, particularly those who don't have ambulances.

Board consensus

## **B. Closed Session--Human Resources**

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS. Government Code Section 54957.6. Agency designated representative(s): Stacey Simon, Leslie Chapman, Dave Butters, Janet Dutcher, and Anne Larsen. Employee Organization(s): Mono County Sheriff's Officers Association (aka Deputy Sheriff's Association), Local 39--majority representative of Mono County Public Employees (MCPE) and Deputy Probation Officers Unit (DPOU), Mono County Paramedic Rescue Association (PARA), Mono County Public Safety Officers Association (PSO), and Mono County Sheriff Department's Management Association (SO Mgmt). Unrepresented employees: All.

NOTHING TO REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

**ADJOURN**

**ATTEST**

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**STACY CORLESS**  
**CHAIR OF THE BOARD**

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**HELEN NUNN**  
**ASSISTANT CLERK OF THE BOARD**