

- CALL TO ORDER** Northern Inyo Healthcare District (NIHD) Finance Committee Chair Egan called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.
- PRESENT** Maggie Egan, Finance Committee Chair
Melissa Best-Baker, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

Christian Wallis, Chief Executive Officer
Allison Partridge, Chief Operations Officer / Chief Nursing Officer
Andrea Mossman, Chief Financial Officer
Alison Murray, Chief Human Resources Officer, Chief Business Development Officer
- ABSENT** Adam Hawkins, DO, Chief Medical Officer
- TELECONFERENCING** Notice has been posted, and a quorum participated from locations within the jurisdiction.
- PUBLIC COMMENT** Finance Chair Egan reported that at this time, audience members may speak on any items not on the agenda that are within the jurisdiction of the Board.

Public Comment: None
- FINANCE COMMITTEE CHARTER** Staff presented the proposed Finance Committee Charter, outlining the Committee's role in financial oversight, including review of financial reports, budgets, audits, and recommendations to the Board. The presentation emphasized alignment with updated Board bylaws and clarification of oversight versus management responsibilities. The Charter is intended to strengthen governance consistency across Board committees.

Public Comment: None

Motion by Best-Baker to approve the Finance Committee Charter
2nd: Egan
Pass: 2-0
- RCTMD CONTRACT UPDATE** Staff provided an update on the RCTMD contract, noting that the agreement had been submitted and executed. It was explained that the contract carries increased administrative requirements to maintain compliance and includes renegotiation of existing Physician Employment Agreements using a standardized template.

Public Comment: None
- STRATEGIC GROWTH** Staff provided an update on the strategic growth planning effort, describing a three-phase engagement consisting of a market analysis, development of a master facilities plan, and creation of a long-range financial plan. Staff reported that data collection has been completed and the consultant is currently analyzing service demand, demographics, provider access, and capacity needs. Committee discussion focused on how future growth initiatives may be funded,

including consideration of long-term financial strategies and alignment with broader community needs.

Public Comment: None

APPROVAL OF MEETING
MINUTES

Motion by Egan: to approve meeting minutes from December 9, 2025
2nd: Best-Baker
Pass: 2-0

BOND UPDATE

Staff provided an update on the District's outstanding bond obligations, including general obligation and revenue bonds, with particular focus on the capital appreciation bond and its long-term financial impact. It was explained that prior under-billing related to reconciliation issues contributed to recent increases in tax levy amounts. Staff reviewed the historical bond structure, current outstanding balances, and constraints on refinancing or prepayment, and outlined potential next steps, including validation of payment schedules with the County and exploration of options to mitigate future taxpayer impact.

Public Comment: None

2026 BUDGET

Staff explained that the FY 2026 budget is being developed using a department-led approach, with each department responsible for preparing and managing its own revenue and expense budget. Department leaders are reviewing staffing levels, contract labor, and operational costs for their cost centers and are expected to justify budget assumptions and variances. Staff noted this approach is intended to improve budget accuracy, reinforce accountability, and ensure department leaders understand the financial impact of their decisions. A position management review process will support this work and help control staffing and labor costs going forward.

Public Comment: None

FINANCIAL AND
STATISTICAL REPORTS

Staff reviewed the monthly financial and statistical reports with particular focus on salary, wage, and benefit expenses, noting that current projections exceed targets and require identification of savings. Discussion centered on increases in contract labor costs, including labor and delivery staffing rates that have returned to pandemic-level pricing due to ongoing recruitment and retention challenges. Staff explained that some contract labor expenses were overstated because an established approval and tracking process was not being followed, particularly within the Emergency Department. It was reported that this issue has been identified, corrective steps are underway, and year-to-date figures are expected to be adjusted in the following month. Committee members discussed concerns regarding FTE growth and emphasized the importance of monitoring staffing trends to avoid incremental cost increases without clear justification. Staff noted that department leaders are now reviewing these reports as part of their cost-center accountability responsibilities.

Public Comment: None

GENERAL INFORMATION
FROM BOARD MEMBERS

None

Northern Inyo Healthcare District Board of Directors
Finance Committee
FROM BOARD MEMBERS

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ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment at 9:50 am



Maggie Egan
Northern Inyo Healthcare District
Finance Committee Chair

Attest: 

Melissa Best-Baker
Northern Inyo Healthcare District
Finance Committee Vice-Chair