

- CALL TO ORDER** Northern Inyo Healthcare District (NIHD) Finance Committee Chair Egan called the meeting to order at 9:07 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  
Patty Dickson, Compliance 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
- BUDGET UPDATE** CEO Wallis expressed, WE have finished the expense budget process and the revenue budget process. The next steps are to review both revenue and expense budgets next month and determine if/where we need to reduce expenses or add revenue. This is still on track for a May Board approval.  
  
**Public Comment:** None  
  
**Board Discussion:** None
- CAPITAL SPENDING** CFO Mossman presented an update on the capital spending plan, including the approved \$2 million capital budget and approximately \$843,000 spent to date. She reviewed completed and in-progress projects, identified approximately \$354,000 in funds available for reallocation, and noted increased costs for the medical air compressor replacement, while CNO/COO Partridge provided additional detail on equipment needs and replacement of diagnostic imaging machines.  
  
**Public Comment:** None  
  
**Board Discussion:**  
Board members discussed flexibility to reallocate capital funds within the approved budget, expectations for quarterly reporting, and clarification that the approved capital budget serves as a framework rather than a fixed itemized list. There was general agreement to maintain oversight through regular updates rather than requiring additional approvals for each adjustment.

CEO Wallis introduced consultant Tom to present a comprehensive update on the district's general obligation (GO) bonds, including debt structure, repayment trends, and historical financial performance. The presentation highlighted issues with prior debt structuring, including escalating debt service exceeding assessed value growth, resulting in an estimated deficit that required operating funds to cover bond obligations.

The consultant also outlined corrective strategies, including stabilizing tax rates, separating bond-related funds from operational accounts, improving financial reporting and disclosures, and exploring refinancing options. Emphasis was placed on strengthening long-term financial sustainability and aligning practices with the expectations of credit rating agencies.

**Public Comment:** None

**Board Discussion:**

Board members discussed historical handling of bond accounts, including prior consolidation of funds, challenges in accessing older financial records, and the need to reestablish clear financial controls and transparency. There was also discussion of current efforts to isolate bond-related funds and improve tracking moving forward.

APPROVAL OF MEETING  
MINUTES

**Public Comment:** None

**Board Discussion:** None

**Motion by** Best-Baker to approve meeting minutes from March 10, 2026  
**2<sup>nd</sup>: Egan**  
**Pass: 2-0**

EASTERN SIERRA  
EMERGENCY PHYSICIAN  
(ESEP) CONTRACT

CEO Wallis presented information regarding the ESEP contract, outlining its purpose and role in supporting district operations and infrastructure planning. He provided an overview of the contract scope and how it aligns with current financial and operational priorities.

**Public Comment:** None

**Board Discussion:**

Board members discussed the contract's scope, its value to the organization, and how it fits within broader strategic and financial planning efforts.

**Motion by** Best-Baker to forward ESEP contract to the full board  
**2<sup>nd</sup>: Egan**  
**Pass: 2-0**

RURAL  
TRANSFORMATION  
PROGRAM

CEO Wallis presented an overview of the Rural Health Transformation Program, a state-supported initiative providing approximately \$233 million in funding for rural healthcare systems. He described ongoing efforts to collaborate with regional partners to submit a joint application focused on

**Public Comment:** None

**Board Discussion:**

Board members discussed regional collaboration, eligibility requirements, and potential project priorities, including cross-state partnerships and long-term operational impacts. There was general interest in positioning the district competitively for available funding.

USDA RURAL HEALTH  
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAM

CEO Wallis presented information on the USDA Rural Health Technical Assistance Program, which was introduced through outreach from federal representatives. He explained that the program offers a no-cost comprehensive consultant review of hospital operations and provides access to potential low- or zero-interest financing options, including extended-term loans, to support identified improvements.

**Public Comment:** None

**Board Discussion:**

Board members discussed the potential value of participating in the program, including opportunities for external evaluation, financial support, and alignment with ongoing improvement efforts.

FINANCIAL AND  
STATISTICAL REPORT

CEO Wallis presented the financial and statistical report, providing an overview of current financial performance, including revenue, expenses, and key operational metrics. The report highlighted ongoing efforts to stabilize finances, improve cash flow, and monitor performance indicators across departments.

**Public Comment:** None


**Board Discussion:** None

GENERAL INFORMATION  
FROM BOARD MEMBERS

None

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

