

- CALL TO ORDER                    The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Peter Watercott, President.
- PRESENT                            Peter Watercott, President  
John Ungersma, M.D., Vice President  
M.C. Hubbard, Secretary  
Michael Phillips, M.D., Treasurer  
D. Scott Clark, M.D., Director  
Charlotte Helvie, M.D., Chief of Staff
- ALSO PRESENT                    John Halfen, Administrator  
Douglas Buchanan, District Legal Counsel  
Sandy Blumberg, Administration Secretary
- ALSO PRESENT FOR  
RELEVANT PORTIONS            Dianne Shirley, R.N., Performance Improvement Coordinator
- PUBLIC COMMENTS  
ON AGENDA                        Mr. Watercott asked if any members of the public wished to address the Board on any items listed on the agenda for this meeting. No comments were heard.
- MINUTES                            The minutes of the January 20, 2010 regular meeting were approved.
- FINANCIAL AND  
STATISTICAL REPORTS            Mr. Halfen called attention to the financial and statistical reports for the month of December 2009. He noted the statement of operations shows a bottom line excess of expenses over revenues of \$271,200; and he additionally called attention to the following:
- *Inpatient service revenue was under budget*
  - *Outpatient service revenue was over budget*
  - *Total expenses were over budget*
  - *Salaries and wages were under budget, however employee benefits were over budget*
  - *Professional fees expense was over budget*
  - *The Balance Sheet showed no significant change*
  - *Year-to-date net revenue totals \$845,730*
- Mr. Halfen noted cash equivalents are high due to the movement of investments to help fund the hospital rebuild project, and he stated that currently around two million dollars per month is being withdrawn to help finance the project. Accounts receivable are at 57.7 average days, and bad debt expense has increased in recent months. Once the ten percent MediCal reduction becomes effective it is likely that bad debt expense will increase even more. Professional fees expense is high but should improve once a permanent Radiology solution is in place. The next revenue bond offering has yet to take place, and Administration is currently attempting to obtain the highest possible rating for the bonds.

- ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT  
It was moved by Michael Phillips, M.D., seconded by John Ungersma, M.D. and passed to approve the financial and statistical reports for the month of December 2009 as presented.
- BUILDING UPDATE  
Turner Construction Company project managers Kathy Sherry and John Hawes reported the foundation for the new hospital building will be completed in the next couple of weeks, and construction of the steel framework for the new building will begin in March. Kevin Boots with RBB Architects reported they are 85% through the peer review comments, and the peer review process has proven invaluable in preventing costly corrections. The remaining peer review comments are not time sensitive but will be reviewed as soon as possible.
- SECURITY REPORT  
Mr. Halfen called attention to the security report for December 2009 and January 2010, which revealed no significant security issues.
- 25,687  
Mr. Halfen reported that 25,687 is the number of cookies produced by the Dietary Department during the 2009 calendar year.
- BONDS UPDATE  
Mr. Halfen noted the bond rating company is dragging their feet in regard to issuing a rating for the next series of revenue bonds, and he again noted he is doing everything possible to obtain the best possible rating for the bond issue, in an attempt to save taxpayers' dollars.
- DISASTER DRILL REPORT/EVALUATION  
Mr. Halfen reported the Hospital recently held a disaster drill involving the stoves in the Dietary Department being down, and the drill went well with no corrective action being needed as a result.
- CHIEF OF STAFF REPORT  
Chief of Staff Charlotte Helvie, M.D. reported following carefully review and consideration the Medical Executive Committee recommends approval of the following Great Basin Imaging/Tahoe Carson Radiology Radiologists to the Provisional Consulting Medical Staff, with requested privileges:
1. *Nicholas Carlevato, M.D.*
  2. *Sheldon Kop, M.D.*
  3. *Stephen Loos, M.D.*
  4. *Thomas McNamara, M.D.*
  5. *Keith Shonnard, M.D.*
- It was moved by D. Scott Clark, M.D., seconded by Doctor Phillips, and passed to approve the appointments of the Great Basin Imaging/Tahoe Carson Radiologists as recommended. Dr. Helvie additionally reported the Medical Executive Committee recommends approval of the following hospital wide policies and procedures:
1. *Dispensing – General*
  2. *Access to Medications in the Absence of the Pharmacist*
  3. *Off-Label Use Policy*

*4. Timeliness for Critical Results*

It was moved by Doctor Phillips, seconded by Doctor Ungersma, and passed to approve all four hospital wide policies and procedures as recommended.

OLD BUSINESS

REAFFIRMATION OF  
NEGOTIATOR

Mr. Halfen noted the reaffirmation of himself as negotiator regarding the potential acquisition of a real property at 2957 Birch Street in Bishop, California is no longer necessary, due to the fact that escrow on this property is about to close and no further negotiation will be necessary.

NEW BUSINESS

INYO COUNTY  
CONFLICT OF  
INTEREST CODE

Mr. Halfen noted the County of Inyo requires the Hospital District to review its Conflict of Interest Code on a bi-annual basis, and this year's review must be completed and returned to the Office of County Counsel by October 1, 2010. District Legal Counsel Doug Buchanan would like to review the District's existing code and revisit this agenda item at the next regular meeting of the District Board.

LANGUAGE SERVICES  
ANNUAL REPORT

Language Services Director Jose Garcia referred to the Language Services annual report for calendar year 2009. Mr. Garcia reported the hospital provided language services to patients in 22 different languages during 2009, and currently 12 hospital employees are designated as approved interpreters for Spanish-speaking patients. Video interpretation is now available through the Health Care Interpreter Network (HCIN) and interpretation for languages not available through HCIN can still be accessed through use of the Hospital's Language Line. Mr. Garcia demonstrated use of the HCIN video interpreting system and contacted a sign-language interpreter who answered questions for the group. Board members expressed their appreciation of the job Mr. Garcia is doing to continually improve interpretive services available to Northern Inyo Hospital (NIH) patients.

DISTRICT BYLAWS  
REVIEW

District Legal Counsel Doug Buchanan called attention to the District bylaws, which were included in the Board packet for review. Mr. Buchanan asked that the Board review the bylaws and be prepared to discuss possible changes and or corrections to them at the next regular meeting of the District Board.

BOARD MEMBER  
REPORTS

Mr. Watercott asked if any members of the Board of Directors wished to report on any items of interest. Doctor Ungersma reported he recently attended a meeting of the Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD) and that Northern Inyo Hospital was recognized as being one of only six District hospitals in the state of California that have been profitable for the last five years.

OPPORTUNITY FOR  
PUBLIC COMMENT

In keeping with the Brown Act, Mr. Watercott again asked if any members of the public wished to comment on any items listed on the

agenda and/or on any items of interest.

Mr. Halfen commented that the hospital recently held its annual Long-Term Employee Recognition Breakfast, and he distributed a list of employees who were honored. John Hawes with Turner Construction commented that 35 to 40 percent of rebuild project field workers are local workers. Medical Staff Vice Chief Helena Black, M.D. reported a Medical Staff leadership conference will be held on March 8 and 9, and Board Members and Administration are invited to attend. No additional comments were heard.

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:35 p.m. Mr. Watercott announced the meeting was being adjourned to closed session to allow the Board of Directors to:

- A. Hear reports on the hospital quality assurance activities, and hear a report from the Medical Staff Executive Committee (Section 32155 of the health and Safety Code, and Government Code Section 54962).
- B. Confer with legal counsel regarding claim filed by John Nesson M.D. against Northern Inyo County Local Hospital District and other Defendants (Government code Section 54956.9(a)).
- C. Consider employment, evaluation of performance, discipline, or dismissal of a District employee (Government Code Section 54957).
- D. Confer with legal counsel regarding potential legal action against Northern Inyo County Local Hospital district filed by Stephen Johnson and Elizabeth Monahan-Johnson (Government Code Section 54956.9(a)).

RETURN TO OPEN  
SESSION AND REPORT  
OF ACTION TAKEN

At 7:08 p.m. the meeting returned to open session. Mr. Watercott reported the Board took no reportable action.

OPPORTUNITY FOR  
PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Watercott again asked if any members of the public wished to comment on any items listed on the agenda for this meeting, or on any items of interest. No comments were heard.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m..

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Peter Watercott, President

Attest:

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M.C. Hubbard, Secretary