

- CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 12:00 noon by Peter Watercott, President.
- PRESENT Peter Watercott, President
John Ungersma, M.D., Vice President
M.C. Hubbard, Secretary
Denise Hayden, Treasurer
D. Scott Clark, M.D., Director
- ALSO PRESENT John Halfen, Administrator
Robbin Cromer-Tyler, Chief of Staff
Douglas Buchanan District Legal Counsel
- OPPORTUNITY FOR
PUBLIC COMMENT Mr. Watercott asked if any members of the public wished to comment on any items listed on the notice for this meeting, or on any items of interest. Oscar Morales, RN spoke in support of Deborah Morales, stating his belief that she has been a valuable employee who has provided excellent Social Service coverage for hospital patients, and that she has continually gone above and beyond the normal requirements of her job. He additionally stated his feeling that Deborah was treated unfairly and was bullied by coworkers and supervisors while on the job. Jerry Hankins and Peggy Hankins were also present, and also spoke in support of Deborah.
- RESOLUTION OF A
CLAIM AGAINST THE
DISTRICT Mr. Watercott called attention to a claim against the District in the amount of \$450. A hospital patient claims that medications she brought into the hospital were missing when she returned home, and since those medications were not inventoried correctly upon her arrival Mr. Halfen feels we should pay this claim. It was moved by John Ungersma, M.D., seconded by M.C. Hubbard, and passed to approve payment of a Claim Against the District in the amount of \$450.
- ADDITIONAL PUBLIC
COMMENT Mr. Halfen expressed his condolences regarding the recent untimely death of Andrew Bourne, M.D., a general surgeon practicing in the community of Mammoth Lakes, and a member of the Mammoth Hospital Medical Staff. The Board expressed their condolences as well, and it was noted that a card will be sent to Dr. Bourne's family on their behalf.
- CLOSED SESSION Before the beginning of closed session, District Legal Counsel Douglas Buchanan reviewed the process for the upcoming closed session, noting that Deborah Morales has chosen that her employee grievance and appeal of termination be heard during closed session. Mr. Buchanan stated the Board should be sequestered in closed session with only Ms. Morales present (and an attorney, if desired) and those people who are witnesses or whose presence is needed in support of the Board of Directors. If witnesses are called, they will be heard one at a time during closed session. Mr. Buchanan additionally noted that as Board President, Mr. Watercott can limit the

length of comments and testimony, and will determine what constitutes proper and improper conduct during closed session. Ms. Morales will be allowed to present her grievance and appeal of termination first, and the hospital's response will be presented second.

CLOSED SESSION

At 12:18p.m.Mr. Watercott announced the meeting was being adjourned to closed session to allow the Board of Directors to:

- A. Discuss an employee grievance and appeal of an employee termination (Government Code Section 54957).
- B. Confer with legal counsel regarding action filed by John Nesson M.D. against Northern Inyo County Local Hospital District and other Defendants (Government Code Section 54956.9(a)).
- C. Continued: Conduct CEO Annual Performance Evaluation (Government Code Section 54957).

RETURN TO OPEN
SESSION AND REPORT
OF ACTION TAKEN

At 3:32 p.m. the meeting returned to open session. Mr. Watercott reported that the District Board took action to deny the grievance and uphold the termination of Ms. Deborah Morales. He additionally reported the Board voted to reject an offer from John Nesson M.D. in regard to his action filed against the District.

OPPORTUNITY FOR
PUBLIC COMMENT

In keeping with the Brown Act, Mr. Watercott again asked if anyone present wished to comment on any items on the agenda for this meeting, or on any items of interest. Medical Staff Coordinator Margaret Egan stated she is very disappointed with the Board's decision regarding Ms. Morales, and additionally stated that contrary to testimony heard during closed session she did not coerce any members of the Medical Staff into writing letters of support for Ms. Morales. No other comments were heard.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Peter Watercott, President

Attest:

M.C. Hubbard, Secretary