

## MINUTES

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**BURNEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
APRIL 30, 2008  
10:00 AM Special Meeting**

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### **OPEN SESSION**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** 10:00 a.m. by Board Chair Moore.

**FLAG SALUTE** – Chair Moore

### **ROLL CALL**

Bob Moore  
Boyd Taylor – Absent  
Roger Valinoti  
Donna Caldwell  
Lynn Miller

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

Dan Warren spoke about his concerns regarding the financial strains and the ability to maintain the ambulance service. Dan also voiced his concern about the CFD/Mello Roos. He suggested a “grass roots” effort to obtain funding.

### **PUBLIC FORUM RESPONSE**

Chair Moore responded briefly to Dan’s concerns and said that these items were on the Agenda today and would be discussed in greater detail.

The Board thanked former Interim Fire Chief Larry Russell, and presented him with an Appreciation Plaque for his service to the Burney Fire Protection District.

Roger Valinoti was given his Board Commissioner’s badge.

### **DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS**

a. Presentation by Wittman Enterprises (Ambulance billing service)

Representatives from Wittman Enterprises in Sacramento gave a presentation on their company, their policies, historical information, and recovery rates for ambulance billing. Board Member Miller inquired as to the cost to BFPD for Wittman’s services – they said their invoices are based on “net” amounts and would be 6.5%. Discussion ensued between the Board and the representatives from Wittman. Also noted was that ADPI (our current billing company), requires a 60-day notice. Chief will send a letter to ADPI to terminate our contract.

On motion by Caldwell and second by Miller, the **Board accepts Wittman Enterprises as the new ambulance billing company. Start date is July 1, 2008, approved by the following vote:**

Ayes: Moore, Valinoti, Caldwell, Miller  
Noes: None  
Absent: Taylor  
Abstain: None

b. Ambulance Fee Study

Larry Russell spoke about the Ambulance Fee Study done by Muni Financial. The Study reflected the fact that Burney Fire Protection District's ambulance charges are below the actual costs to run the ambulance service. The new rates reflect the true cost for running the ambulance service, and are tied into the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for ease of future adjustments. This will help keep the fees in line with the actual costs.

Wittman Enterprises made a comment regarding the fact the ALS2 was not a separate line item in the report. Their recommendation would be to include it, since there was a distinct difference in the level of service between ALS and ALS2. By doing this separation, MediCal would pay a higher rate for services rendered. Chief Barber will contact Muni Financial and have them review this recommendation.

Burney Fire Protection District will hold a Public Hearing on May 14, 2008 to review, and adopt the Ambulance Fee Study and accompanying ordinance.

Board Chair Moore called for a 5-minute break.

c. Mello Roos

Chair Moore said that during these economic times, the Mello Ross / CFD was not necessarily the way to go for funding options. Board Member Miller said that the CFD was for future growth and was never meant to pay "today's bills", nor build a new fire station. Board Member Caldwell liked the idea of putting a moratorium on the CFD. The Board discussed options and the question was raised as to the legality of imposing a moratorium on the CFD.

On motion by Caldwell and second by Valinoti, the **Board authorizes Lynn Miller to contact BFPD's attorney to find out the possibility and legality of putting an open-ended moratorium on the CFD / Mello Roos; if this moratorium could be retroactive; and the time frame for the moratorium to be removed, accepted by the following vote:**

Ayes: Moore, Valinoti, Caldwell, Miller  
Noes: None  
Absent: Taylor  
Abstain: None

d. Seasonal Firefighter Position

Chief Barber proposed that BFPD hire a seasonal firefighter. The cost to fill the position for 90 days (June 15 – October 17, 2008) would be \$5,760. This expense would be covered by the carry-over from the Indian Gaming Grant from 07-08 - \$4,663.50, a refund on Chief's turnouts -

\$600.00, and the savings we will have by not buying the software for the weed abatement program - \$500.00.

Board Member Caldwell asked if the amount included employer paid taxes. It does not. Staff will research the additional amount that will be incurred from taxes and report back.

On motion by Miller and second by Valinoti, the **Board authorizes the hiring of a Seasonal Firefighter, at a cost of \$5,760, accepted by the following vote:**

Ayes: Moore, Valinoti, Caldwell, Miller  
Noes: None  
Absent: Taylor  
Abstain: None

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Public Hearing for the new Ambulance Fee Ordinance adoption

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Moore adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

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Board President

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District Secretary, Cindy Cooley

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Date: April 30, 2008