

## MINUTES

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**BURNEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
APRIL 9, 2008  
3:00 PM Regular Meeting**

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### OPEN SESSION

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** 3:00 p.m. by Board Chair Moore.

**FLAG SALUTE** - Board Chair Moore.

### ROLL CALL

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

### AGENDA APPROVAL

On motion by Miller, and second by Caldwell, the **Agenda was approved by the following vote:**

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

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board Member Miller announced that there would be a Special Meeting on April 30, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Wittman Enterprises (ambulance billing company) will be giving a presentation here at the Fire Hall.

### PRESENTATIONS

None.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Finance** - Budget planning meeting for FY 2008-09 will be on May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. - noon.

**Strategic Plan Committee** - None.

**Fire Station Relocation Committee** - None.

**Legislative Committee** - Medi-Cal cuts will be addressed under "Discussion/Action Items."

**Rules and Regs** - None.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

None.

**PUBLIC FORUM RESPONSE**

None.

**1. CONSENT CALENDAR**

*Items are expected to be routine and non-controversial. They will be acted upon by the Board at one time, using one motion, without discussion. Any Commissioner, staff member, or interested person or party may request that an item be removed from the consent calendar for later discussion.*

- a. Approval for payment of bills as submitted: March 25, Batch 2; April 1, Batch 1; April 8, 2008, Batch 2.
- b. Approval of the Minutes from Regular Meeting, March 12; Special Meeting, March 20, 2008.
- d. Ambulance accounts receivable report February 2008.

On motion by Caldwell and second by Miller, the **Consent Calendar Items were approved by the following vote:**

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

**2. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR**

Item 1c - Monthly financials for March 2008. These were not received in time for today's meeting.

Item 1d - Ambulance accounts receivable report March 2008. This was not received in time for today's meeting.

**3. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS**

- a. **CFD / Mello Roos.** Board Member Miller said that the Board had not received any information yet from attorney, Jack Reese. Jack is waiting to hear from Mike Ralston, County Counsel on the County's opinion of the CFD. BFPD cannot enforce the Mello Roos without the County's "blessing."

Extensive discussion ensued between the Board and the audience. BFPD needs to have a vehicle with which to fund the Fire Department and Ambulance Service. Impact fees cannot be used for salaries. A Benefit Assessment requires a 2/3 vote, and must be done by a consultant, which gets very expensive. Also, a Benefit Assessment can be very restrictive to use. A parcel tax requires a 51% vote. Other Northern California counties are subsidizing their ambulance services. The general consensus of the Board was that Shasta County should be paying for ambulance calls that are outside the District. They are not doing this.

- b. **Medicare Cuts.** Board Member Caldwell reported that Medicare is planning on a 10% cut for services, and will be deferring payments for two months (and possibly not pay at all for one or two months). BFPD cannot afford these cuts, and non-payments. Thirty-eight percent of our payments come from Medicare. We currently get 20¢ on the dollar for Medi-Cal, and 60¢ on the dollar for Medicare. Donna Caldwell would like a legal opinion as to whether we can bill a “fuel surcharge” on our invoices. Medicare and Medi-Cal would not pay it, but private insurance might. Donna requested that those in the audience contact their legislators regarding the Medicare cuts, and have the Board do the same. Donna will write a letter to the legislators on behalf of the Board and have the Chair sign it.
- c. **Ambulance Fee Study.** We are still waiting for Muni Financial to provide us with this report. It will be on the Agenda for the Special Meeting on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

CFD / Mello Roos  
Ambulance Fee Study by Muni Financial  
Advanced Beneficiary Notice (ABN). Medicare form.

## **FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT**

Burney Fire Protection District participated in the “Every 15 Minutes” event held at Burney High School today. The Sheriff’s Office, CHP, Mayers Hospital, and CalFire all participated.

Commercial preplans for Johnson Park are completed. We will have a book here, and will put one together for CalFire, Station 14.

Chief Russell spoke to Casey Rodriguez from Burney Water about fire related issues.

Chief Russell will address the Chamber meeting on April 14, 2008 about ambulance services in general.

BFPD will try to run strike teams this fire season whenever possible.

The April ambulance schedule has 44 ALS, and 16 BLS shifts. Thanks to Matt Schechla and the crews - this is excellent staffing.

Chief Russell said that this is his last official Board meeting as Fire Chief. He thanked and complimented the Board and said they had been great to work with.

## **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

Board Member Caldwell said that she would like to have a thank you sent to Ralph Lane for repairing and laminating the lettering on Station 18's sign. Ralph took this upon himself to fix.

Board Chair Moore said that the "Meet and Greet" was scheduled for Saturday, May 3, 2008 from noon to 4 p.m. to introduce Ray Barber, BFPD's new Fire Chief.

Board Member Valinoti commented on the professionalism shown by EMT Rebecca Palmaymesa on February 29, when Roger came in to the Fire Hall not feeling well.

Board Chair Moore said that Rotary has \$4,000 in scholarship monies available for vocational grants. These funds will help those students interested in law enforcement, medical, and emergency services.

The Board thanked Chief Russell for doing a fine job as Interim Fire Chief. He has made a positive change in the community.

Apprentice Firefighter Gabe Shaw spoke briefly about the "Every 15 Minutes" event. This was a Burney High School Senior Project, and is based on the fact that around the country, every 15 minutes, someone dies from an alcohol related accident. Gabe said that on Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, there was going to be a large assembly with many guest speakers that will hopefully "bring today's event home."

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Moore adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

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Board President

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District Secretary, Cindy Cooley

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Date: April 9, 2008