

THE HEFFERNAN MEMORIAL HEALTHCARE DISTRICT MET IN SPECIAL SESSION ON THE 12th OF DECEMBER, 2017 AT THE 601 HEBER AVE, CALEXICO, CA. THE DATE, HOUR AND PLACE DULY ESTABLISHED OR THE HOLDING OF SAID MEETING.

TO CALL ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Sylvia Bernal and Mrs. Apodaca led those present in the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL-DETERMINATION OF QUARUM:

Chairperson	Sylvia Bernal
Vice Chairperson	Gloria G. Romo
Treasurer	Hector Martinez
Secretary	Rodolfo Valdez
Trustee	Norma M. Apodaca

GUEST:

Eduardo Rivera- Attorney
Brenda Ryan- Board Clerk

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion was made by Board Member Martinez and second by Board Member Valdez to approve the agenda for December 12, 2017. Motion was passed by the following vote wit:

AYES: Bernal, Romo, Martínez, Apodaca, Valdez
NOES: None

PUBLIC COMMENT TIME:

None

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

- 1 Discussion and/or action of the City of Calexico Fire Department (Ambulance)

Board member Martinez provided a report ad briefly went over it with the board. The Calexico Fire Department is requesting \$700 hundred thousand dollars per year for the next 3 years. They provided the overtime hours for several of the employees. Mr. Martinez averaged them out for projection purposes. The reporting actuals for of last year that was given to everyone report overs \$1 million 421 thousand 469 dollars and overtime pay of \$246 thousand 352 dollars and that was for last year. From the overtime provided and averaging out the hours and allocating them to the employees whose hours were not provided it came to a projected actual cost of overtime \$576 thousand 826 dollars with 61 cents just for this year including December. On 2018 it shows an expected cost of \$1million 827 thousand 515 dollars with 40 cents for regular earnings and \$266 thousand 382 dollars with 46 cents for overtime. This cost projects show that the fire department expects to hire two additional employees a fire chief and a firefighter. The hiring of these individuals will not reduce the overtime costing significantly. This budget is made to man one ambulance and if a second ambulance would be manned then the budget would go up

significantly and the \$7 hundred thousand dollars that the city is requesting might not be enough to cover that second ambulance. What Mr. Martinez cannot see with us giving the money is the revenue generate from 2016-2017. According to this sheet was \$510 thousand 200 hundred 18 cents. Now there has been talk that the rates with the ambulance could go up double and even with that it will go up to 1 million dollars. Clearly it would be really hard to make it a profitable business in our side. Now that depends are the \$700 hundred thousand dollars going to go specifically for them to man a second ambulance if so they their budget is going to be bigger and they are going to have to request more money to the city which he don't the city has right now.

Board Member Valdez opinion is that when we went to talk to them we knew they were going to request some money. At the beginning our intention was to help with equipment and any other way we could help. But his original thought was that we were going to help with the equipment and the ambulance and maybe take care of billing but not take care of the salaries but then they came up with this proposal and we have been talking about it and exchanging ideas and seeing how we can go forward with it. It is a lot of money and how he has expressed in other meetings he does not feel they should be giving the city money just to bail them out. It is a good thing that we can help out the fire department but this is paying salaries for the city for the employees and the city manager would not have to worry about it for 3 years. Maybe we can have an MOU that says if the city gets any better in the 3 years of the contract if we approve a contract that we can work out in case the city does not need all the money the next upcoming years.

Board Member Bernal talked to Mr. Heuburger concerning this matter and he also spoke with Mr. Rivera. Mr. Rivera informed the board that when he spoke with Mr. Rivera Mr. Heuburger basically said it was possible but that there were some concerns on part of some LAFCO board members. Not with the action of the board but with the action of City of Calexico. Their concern was that the City of Calexico in not giving up on their 201 ambulance rights for the valley wide RFP for ambulances because the city did not want to give up those rights board members on LAFCO feel that the city brought this upon themselves by not participating valley wide in the RFP proposal and they feel not that the district can't do it but they feel they are going to helping the City of Calexico for something that the City of Calexico brought upon themselves. That is the problem that they have. It's not a problem whether or not we can do this. In the discussion that Mr. Rivera had with Mr. Heuburger it was clear that the Heffernan can do this. We can have our own ambulances service if we had a 201, a financial structure to support that which we , but the authorizing statue for Heffernan health and safety code 3200 and following allows us to enter into any agreement to accomplish the purposes of Heffernan's functions which is providing ambulance service. So we can do it. Their concerned because the City of Calexico pulled out of that RFP because the City of Calexico did not want to give up the 201 rights.

Board Member Apodaca is in agreement to provide the money to the fire department because it is our duty to help the community. If we give the \$700 hundred or less for 3 years that will help and between that and the amount they are requesting. It is what we are supposed to do not subsidizing other groups with small amounts. We are doing good with ERMC, PMH and even the Wellness Program. We are doing fine and she thinks we should think about that and that would be a good way of ending the year just doing the right program or MOU with the city.

Board Member Romo thinks that we can lose the floor because one thing is the responsibility of the City and other things are the responsibilities of Heffernan and honestly some of the board members have had problems for giving that money to the fire department so the second station would not close and that money does not come back and that is practically what we receive every year and it's not the same if they were asking to borrow the money and would return it. She thinks that this is serious and this was not her proposal. Mrs. Bernal and her thoughts from the

beginning were to be in charge of the ambulances. We didn't have the hospital but in the most part we were going to have a very important part for the community and that was the ambulances and the previous Heffernan board have donated a lot to this service. They have donated 3 ambulances, equipment and etc. This was not her idea and the report that Mr. Martinez presented open her eyes to see things different.

Board Member Bernal informed the board that there would not be a problem if the district would lend them this money. Board Member Martinez informed the board the city is 3 million dollars in the hole per year how will they give us the money back. Mrs. Bernal said it was just an opinion because she personally doesn't think they are always going to be in the hole and she does see herself lending them the money. It's a different situation and it's not like we are giving them the money it is lending them the money and it doesn't have to be all the money it could be what we decide to give them. What she doesn't understand is where you divide your fireman and when you do ambulance services. She would like to see the breakdown.

Mr. Favila responded that being they are such a small department the guys wear different hats. One day they could be called to work on the ambulance and another day the fire engine. Everybody can technically be on the ambulance. Depending on the staffing the personal on the day will depend on where they are going to be. Everybody can be on the ambulance. There no way to break it down.

Tomorrow the board will be having a special joint meeting with the city. Board Member Martinez believes that this meeting initially proposed to approve a proposed MOU so that we can show something LAFCO. That was it or we can take no action and have tomorrow meeting and then maybe decide at the regular meeting. The city came to us asking for \$700 hundred thousand dollars. It was not our job to go look into it and see where the gaps are and maybe he has not found all of them but the thing are that if you are going to come to me for \$700 hundred thousand dollar come to me with a detailed plain with everything and why they need that. Not to just cover a big gap especially if it is going to be to cover salaries. That is Mr. Martinez concern.

Norma Aguilar reminded the board that we lost our hospital and finds that the work that this board does is extremely vital to providing direct medical services because we don't have a hospital. This is our hospital on wheels. This is the department the resuscitated her father 3 times when he was at home and she will ever be grateful. She does know that we are in a special situation being here on the boarder. The response calls to the boarder are daily and it's not just boarder. Is it a profitable business, no it isn't but this board isn't in the business of business. To her it is to provide direct services she thinks that otherwise we wouldn't have and yes this board and the city have provided ambulances and more so this board but what use is the equipment without staff. In terms as that as a tax payer she would hold that direct services is what important. She does not agree with the idea of looking at what this hospital board does as a business because we are here to provide services to our citizens.

Board Member Apodaca would like to work with the fire department to work on a plain.

Board Member Bernal again is recommending lending them the money and having it in writing on how they should pay back the money we are lending them.

Board Member Romo would like to know what the proposal for the City of Calexico for tomorrow. Mr. Avila informed the board that it is to see what help they can get from the district.

Board Member Bernal informed the board if the majority of the board is still uncomfortable and doesn't feel well we do not need to go with a 3 year contract. We can go with 1 year and we can see how much progress has come and if we see that progress we go from there. We do not have to commit to 3 years. She thinks to do it for one year and if there hasn't been any improvement and the city is still laying back and no grants have been done then we can say we have helped and the city is not doing anything to help that is it we are done. That is her opinion.

Board Member Martinez cannot get on board on giving the money to the salaries but he can get on board is if there is a study done next month on how many calls came in and how much money was spend on the personal or man hours all that just the ambulances. He is requesting a detailed expense.

Mr. Rivera informed the board that tomorrow's meeting was going to be because this district had arrived at a consensus as to what the proposal was going to be and up to this point in time since you have never met as a full board meeting all the discussion was focused on the \$7 hundred thousand per year with checks and balances on an annual basis and it wasn't going to be a 3 year. It was going to be a 3 year with options after each year reviewable contingent on a rate study being effectuated and in place. That is the intent of tomorrow meeting but it was never formalized. The purposed of today's meeting is to arrive at a decision by the board as to what you want to talk to the city about entering into an MOU in concept for subject to further negotiation as to the money amount and that is what the intent was.

Board Member Martinez feels that things are being rushed and personally he doesn't want to do this fast because it is a lot of money. If we are going to do it and he is going to get on board he wants to do this right and not just be rushed and wants to be asking around.

Board Member Valdez feels that we are being apprehensive because of all the criticism we have had for months and are being cautious but he feels that this a good thing we can do but does agree with Mr. Martinez and should think about this and take it slow.

Tomorrow the board will go ahead with the joint meeting with the city.

Motion was made by Board Member Martinez and seconded by Board Member Romo to approve tabling this item for further discussion for tomorrow's meeting. Motion passed by the following wit:

AYES: Bernal, Romo, Apodaca, Martinez, Valdez

NOES: None

ADJOURNMENT:

With no future business to discuss Board Member Martinez made motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:53pm. Second by Board Member Apodaca. All in favor.