



COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE

D I S T R I C T

**WEST SIDE COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE DISTRICT
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2026, 7:00 P.M.
CLOSED SESSION WILL START AT 6:00 P.M.**

**COMMUNITY BUILDING, KERN STREET
NEWMAN, CA 95360**

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

*Board of Directors: DIRECTOR VARGAS, DIRECTOR CASTEEL, DIRECTOR GUAJARDO (absent)
VICE PRESIDENT LOPES, PRESIDENT VARNELL*

Legal Counsel-Nic Cardella

OPEN SESSION-6:59 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Please take a moment to silence your cell phones

REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

PRESENTATIONS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public may bring before the Board matters that are not listed on the agenda. The Board may refer such a matter to the Board Clerk to take it under advisement but shall not take action at that time. Comments will be accepted during this time concerning any action item on the agenda. The Board will consider all comments prior to taking action on the item as listed on the agenda in the Action Item section . (Gov. Sec. 54954.03). Individual speakers shall be allowed three (3) minutes to address the Board on each agenda or non-agenda items.

CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine and may be approved by one action of the Board of Directors, unless any member of the Board of Directors wishes to remove an item for separate consideration.

Are there any items on the consent calendar that any member of the public would like to comment on?

1. Minutes of January 26, 2026, Regular Meeting

Recommendation: Review and Approve

2. Cash Disbursement Journal

Recommendation: Review and Approve

President Varnell introduced the consent calendar. There was no public comment.

Director Lopes made the motion to approve the consent calendar. The motion was seconded by Director Casteel and carried by vote, 4-1 Absent Director Guajardo.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

1. Discussion and possible action to impose a special tax to increase the revenue for purposes of adequately fulfilling its responsibility to provide ambulance service.

Legal Counsel informed the Board and public that the earliest ballot is March 2026, for the midterm elections.

If the board wanted to place a measure on this ballot, we would have to draw up a resolution quickly to place it on the ballot. The next election would be in November 2026. Another option is to wait until 2028, but legal did not know if our finances could support the district until then. There would be no price difference between November 2026 and 2028 ballot.

Leo Landaverde was not in attendance, so legal counsel recommended waiting for a decision and holding a special meeting on a different day. This gives legal counsel adequate time to discuss with Mr. Landaverde the district's future regarding financial position now and until 2028.

Special meeting to be held on March 5, 2026, once legal counsel speaks to the Financial Advisor, Leo Landaverde.

2. Discussion and possible action to purchase and/or finance an ambulance for the district.

Interim Chief of Administrative Operations stated to the board and the public that he and Leo Landaverde were currently working on seeking financing to purchase a used ambulances.

Used Ambulances vary from \$30,000.00 to \$70,000.00; some come equipped with a gurney.

The Chief believes they will have more answers regarding financing before March meeting.

No Public Comment.

3. Discussion and possible action to change authorized signers on the district bank accounts, Mechanic Banks and Tri Counties Bank.

Staff Report read by Administrative Service Manager, Roberta Casteel. No public comment

Authorizing new signatures on the district bank accounts. Currently, some of the signatories on the district bank accounts are no longer directors to the board.

Motion to adopt resolution 2026-001 to remove current signatories and authorize new ones.

Director Casteel made a motion to adopt resolution 2026-001. The Vice seconded the motion President Lopes and carried by roll call vote, 4-1 (absent, Director Guajardo).

FINANCIAL REPORT-

Mr. Landaverde was not present.



COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE

D I S T R I C T

AMBULANCE REPORT

1. Receive Staff Report on Ambulance Statistical and Administrative Report.

Statistical Report: Michael Courtney presented the January 2026 operations report to the board, which outlined responses and transport for both Counties.

- *Total Responses 137, 97 transports for service*
- *0 Requests for Service to Merced resulting in 0 transport*
- *3 requests to assist AMR resulting in 3 transports*
- *6 requests to assist Patterson, resulting in 5 transports*
- *Michael Courtney said January was another slow month for the district.*
- *Director Vargas asked the Chief about the 10 late calls and if QRV responded. QRV does respond when it can, but it only gives four more minutes from the initial response. Confirmed by Paul Willette, Patterson Ambulance.*

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE MANAGER COMMENTS

DISTRICT'S LEGAL COUNSEL COMMENTS

BOARD CORRESPONDANCE/COMMENTS

- *Vice President Lopes wants to say thank you to whoever sent the book to each board member, "The Great Train Heist" by Coffino. Karin Freese, Patterson District Ambulance, whom the author sent to all special districts.*
- *President Varnell asked why the agenda item for Interim Chief of Operations was not put on the agenda. Legal Counsel informed the board that Interim Chief Michael Courtney asked it to be pulled off the agenda.*

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION (if needed)

ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Lopes made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Casteel seconded the motion at 7:29 p.m.

- 1. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, a disabled person requesting a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting must contact the district office at (209) 862-2951. Requests must be made as early as possible, preferably one-full business day before the start of the meeting.*
- 2. Any document provided to a majority of the Board of Directors regarding any open session item on this agenda is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the front counter of District Office located at 990 Tulare Street Suite C, Newman CA. Documents or writings received after the general distribution of the agenda are also available for inspections.*

Attested by



Debbie Lopes

Vice President/Secretary