

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
GLENN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

**Monday, January 28, 2002**

The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Glenn, State of California, called the duly noticed special meeting to order at 8:00 a.m., with members as follows:

Present: Supervisors Bungarz, Freeman, Hansen, Sprague, and McGowan (Chairman)

Also Present: Belinda Blacketer, County Counsel  
Sandra Pergson, Deputy Clerk

**THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE WAS RECITED**

**1. Glenn Medical Center**

Also Present: Bernie Hietpas, Enloe Medical Center

Matter: Hold discussion for possible action regarding the closure of Glenn Medical Center/trauma center.

- Proceedings:
- a. Bernie Hietpas from Enloe Hospital advised that on March 1, 2002, Enloe will be closing the emergency room and in-patient care at the Glenn Medical Center, and are hoping to relocate the Family Care Clinic and other services to a different location in Willows. Mr. Hietpas also advised that the ambulance service will stay in Willows and will run seven days a week, with Supervisor Sprague advising that there could be an urgent care facility that would operate seven days a week;
  - b. Supervisor Hansen asked Mr. Hietpas why Enloe didn't discuss with cities and county that they were planning to close the hospital; whereby Mr. Hietpas advised that they wanted the employees of the hospital to hear of the closure from Enloe, not on the street, and Supervisor Sprague stated that if this matter had been made public that the employees of the hospital would have been looking for other employment and the doctor's would have left the hospital for other positions;
  - c. Supervisor Hansen questioned Mr. Hietpas if the Management had known about this closure for some time; whereby Mr. Hietpas replied that they had been considering closing for approximately two years since the losses hit 1.3 million dollars, they started looking for alternatives;
  - d. Supervisor Freeman requested an explanation regarding urgent care verses emergency care and what can be expected with the urgent care, especially where law enforcement is concerned. Mr. Hietpas replied that urgent care is when someone needs immediate attention, but not in a life-threatening situation;
  - e. Supervisor McGowan questioned Mr. Hietpas regarding a chart that had been previously submitted at the Joint City County Meeting held January 23, 2002, showing losses at the hospital from 1.3 million to \$300,000 the last two years, and what caused the decrease in losses; whereupon Mr. Hietpas advised it was due to the hiring of an additional physician, who has since left the hospital;
  - f. County Counsel Belinda Blacketer reviewed the contract between the County and Enloe Medical Center, executed on June 21, 1995, in which:
    - (1) Enloe Medical Center took the premises "as is" with no liability to the county except for life, fire safety and structural requirements by the state;
    - (2) Is a fifty year lease with twenty-five year options, and the only way for Enloe to cancel the contract is to file for bankruptcy;
    - (3) County subsidy of \$300,000 is specific to emergency room and in-patient care, twenty-four hours, seven days a week, with the lowest level of trauma care;
    - (4) That Construction of one or more facilities over term of agreement, the county agreed to remove all hazardous materials during the demolition of hospital, with any improvements to the hospital being the responsibility of Enloe, with Enloe required to build a new facility;
    - (5) There is no way out of the contract but to declare Enloe in default, as the contract is written;

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
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**Monday, January 28, 2002**

- g. Mr. Hietpas questioned the replacement of the Hospital by Enloe, because of legislation that has passed since the time the contract was written, and advised that since there is no provision to terminate contract with the County, that Enloe would default on contract;
- h. Supervisor Sprague reviewed Senate Bill 1953/Hospital Facilities Seismic Safety Act of 1983;
- i. Dan Gardner, Building Maintenance & Inspection Director, reviewed Senate Bill 1953, and advised that there is a footprint for a new hospital, but no working plans, and requested that the Board give him direction on whether to proceed with work at the hospital;
- j. On motion of Supervisor Sprague, seconded by Supervisor Bungarz, it was unanimously ordered to place this matter on agenda as an emergency matter for the health and safety needs of the county;
- k. Upon further discussion of this matter, on motion of Supervisor Bungarz, seconded by Supervisor Freeman it was unanimously ordered to direct Mr. Gardner, Building Maintenance & Inspection Director to continue with work at the hospital, whereby, on recommendation of County Counsel motion was amended to go forward with the work, and apply the contract in conformance with the hospital lease and operational agreement signed on June 21, 1995; Supervisor Bungarz and Supervisor Freeman concurred with amendment.
- l. The following persons from the audience spoke on this issue as follows:
  - (1) Robert Shadley, Sheriff-Coroner, who submitted document "The Closure of the Glenn Medical Center would have a direct impact on law enforcement in the following areas":
    - (a) Law Enforcement/Fire Fighter Medical Aid-Line of Duty Injuries.
    - (b) Rape Exams, Child Molestation, other criminal investigations-lack of ability to obtain evidence.
    - (c) INS Contract is in jeopardy.
    - (d) CFMG-Inmate acute care.
    - (e) Pre-booking (Jail) medical clearance, juvenile medical clearance.
    - (f) Evidence Blood draws-DUI, 11550 W&I-Felony Investigations.
    - (g) Medical Care-Valley View Staff and Inmates.
    - (h) County Operational Area Disaster Plan (Revised-No triage area).
    - (i) Deputy/Officer increased time out of area due to transports and in custody guard details.
    - (j) Increased general budget costs time/mileage-out of county.
    - (k) Bio-Terrorism response-ER/Lab.
    - (l) Treatment delays-Chemical spills/Exposures
    - (m) Ground ambulance-Increased out of county time.
    - (n) 5150 W&I cases-Medical Evaluations.
  - (2) Brad Mallory, Willows Fire Department, opposed to the closure of the hospital facilities;
  - (3) Mike Cassetta, Health Services Director, stated concerns with mental health patients who need a 24 hour, 7 day week facility for evaluations to receive help they need, also the County Medical Services Program, and the I-5 Corridor;
  - (4) Dan Gardner, Building Maintenance & Inspection Director, stated concerns with the HMO providers and the impacts on that insurance;
  - (5) Bob Holzapfel, District Attorney, advised that people could unnecessarily die if facilities at hospital close;
  - (6) Rick Shipley, Willows Police Department, advised of the adverse effect it will have on law enforcement in regards to the time needed to travel to Chico, time spent at Enloe for pre-booking clearance, and officers needing to be called in for backup when other officers are going to Chico for medical services. Willows police average 1 booking per day, with 25% going to pre-booking clearance, and juveniles who have drugs or alcohol have to be medically cleared to be housed at

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
GLENN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

**Monday, January 28, 2002**

- Juvenile Hall; Chief Shipley stated that they would need urgent care available on a twenty-four hour basis;
- (7) Lt. Todd Chadd, California Highway Patrol, advised of concerns with traffic collisions, flooding concerns, in that Willows becomes an island and the only way to get to Chico is by helicopter, officer's traveling to Chico impacts service; if an officer's shot it is necessary to have the closest medical facility possible; Supervisor Sprague requested that Lt. Chadd give the County a number of accident victims treated at Glenn Medical Center and cost benefits from a County run Hospital;
- (8) Jim Yoder, Willows City Council advised that the Orland law enforcement also uses the hospital services, and would experience the same impact as Willows and the County;
- m. Further discussion was held by the Board regarding whether a consultant or professional should be sought to help the County with this matter;
- n. On motion of Supervisor Hansen, seconded by Supervisor Freeman, it was unanimously ordered to establish an ad hoc committee to give authorization, to County Counsel or the committee, to seek professionals to help in any given area that would help resolve this matter, and bring a recommendation back to the Board at the next regular meeting.
- o. On motion of Supervisor Sprague, seconded by Supervisor Hansen, it was unanimously ordered to request that Enloe Hospital take a look at current provided service and demonstrate various models that would give the County a degree of services and what the associated costs might be; whereby, on recommendation of County Counsel, motion was amended to include, what services Enloe now provide in the emergency room as opposed to what services are legally allowed to be provided under an urgent care, no matter how long it's open, so the County can have a list of actual services that the County will be loosing and has been paying for; Supervisor Sprague and Supervisor Hansen concurred with amendment.
- p. County Counsel also requested that Closed Session Matters be scheduled for the next regular meeting agenda to discuss legal matters with regard to Enloe Hospital.

**10:00 a.m. – The Chairman Called the Meeting in Recess**

**10:12 a.m. – The Chairman Called the Meeting to Order**

2. **Closed Session**

- Matter: Adjourn to Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956/Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation, for possible legal action regarding matters revolving around the closure of Glenn Medical Center/trauma center.
- Proceedings: a. The Chairman adjourned to Closed Session;  
b. Later this date as a result of Closed Session, the Chairman announced that the county will pursue all legal remedies.
- Motion/Second: Chairman direction
- Order: Adjourn to Closed Session.

**MINUTES  
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**Monday, January 28, 2002**

3. The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

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TOM MCGOWAN, Chairman

ATTEST:

Vince T. Minto, County Clerk-Board of Supervisors

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sandra Pergson, Deputy Clerk

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