

LASSEN COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
Board of Supervisors Chambers 707 Nevada Street Susanville, CA 96130

REGULAR MEETING
December 12, 2016 - 3:00 p.m.

Meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by Chairperson Eid.

Roll call of members present: Jim Chapman, Jeff Hemphill, Joe Franco, Brian Wilson and Chairperson Todd Eid.

Staff Present: John Benoit, Executive Officer and Gwenna MacDonald, Clerk.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Hemphill to approve the agenda as submitted; Commissioner Franco provided a second and the motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Chapman, Hemphill, Franco, Wilson and Eid.

3. Correspondence

Mr. Benoit reviewed a Department of Water Resources letter of compliance written to the Paiute Lane mobile home park.

4. Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Hemphill to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2016 meeting; Commissioner Franco provided a second and motion carried. Ayes: Chapman, Hemphill, Franco, and Eid. Abstain: Wilson.

5. Public Comments

Brent Cassidy spoke regarding the Southern Cascades Community Services District, sharing concerns of many residents in the Fall River valley. The new tax came as a surprise to those residents who live within driving distance of Mayer's, and they will be pushing to amend the District boundaries. He stated that it was a map issue, and it does not make sense to be served by emergency medical services that come from so far away. He likened it to an ambulance traveling all the way from Chester to serve a resident that lives just outside of the City's western boundary.

Commissioner Chapman asked if they pay fees to Mayer's Health Care District.

Mr. Cassidy responded that they do not.

Commissioner Chapman commented that it is hard to believe the citizens did not know about the formation of the Southern Cascades CSD since the process was very lengthy and it went to the voters on three separate occasions. A group of residents in the area approached LAFCO because they didn't have ambulance service available, so they organized the effort themselves and worked through the process to form the District.

Mr. Benoit added that the CSD was formed to provide ambulance services to an unserved area of the County.

Mr. Cassidy stated that it is not needed in the Day Road area.

There was a general discussion regarding the vote for District formation and who supported it

Mr. Cassidy added that the zip code is McArthur and there are only a few hundred residents who were probably not informed throughout the process. He stated that the issue is with the map which he did not see published in the McArthur newspaper.

6. Public Hearing: McArthur and Northwest Lassen FPD Reorganization Mr. Benoit explained that the Northwest Lassen Fire Protection District and the McArthur Fire Protection District have requested the annexation of 19,000 acres of land located in the Northwest Lassen Fire Protection District to the McArthur Fire Protection District. The Northwest Lassen FPD provides fire and EMS services to landowners and residents, with an estimated service population of 500 residents. The Lassen FPD would then be dissolved with all fire and EMS services provided by the McArthur FPD as the successor agency. He explained that a Sphere of Influence amendment is not necessary to include the territory into the McArthur Sphere since the proposal is consistent with the McArthur Sphere adopted by Shasta LAFCO in February 2015. The Sphere for Northwest Lassen FPD was established in 2010 with the anticipation that upon annexation to the McArthur FPD the Sphere of Influence for Lassen would be zero.

Mr. Benoit summarized the resolutions establishing the proposed sphere of influence, a resolution making determinations and approving the annexation, and the third resolution which would approve the dissolution of the Northwest Lassen Fire Protection District. The annexation would not change any property tax increment and would allow for a more efficient utilization of services.

Chairperson Eid opened the public hearing at 3:28 p.m. and requested comments from the Commission or the public.

Brent Cassidy spoke in favor of the reorganization.

There being no further comments, Chairperson Eid closed the public hearing at 3:32 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Chapman, second by Commissioner Wilson, to approve Resolution No. 2016-0007; Resolution No. 2016-0008 and Resolution No. 2016-0009; motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Chapman, Hemphill, Franco, Stafford and Eid.

7. 2017 Regular Meeting Schedule

Mr. Benoit presented a proposed 2017 Meeting Schedule for every other month on the second Monday at 3:00 p.m. The February meeting would be rescheduled to February 27th to accommodate the President's Day holiday, and the October meeting would be scheduled on October 16th to accommodate the Columbus Day holiday.

It was the consensus of the Commission to approve the 2017 Meeting Schedule as presented.

8. Herlong PUD and West Patton Village Consolidation Update Mr. Benoit stated that he invited Pat Williams, General Manager for the Herlong PUD, to provide an update to the Commission regarding the status of the HPUD/WPV CSD consolidation.

Mr. Williams explained that it has been an interesting few months as the District works through the issues related to the sewer system at WPV. The engineering study has been completed and they are actively seeking funding to repair and upgrade the system, and working through a long list of non-compliance issues and towards establishing a monthly billing for all customers.

The administrative side of the consolidation is taking more time than initially anticipated, with the Boards meeting separately twice per month for an average 3 to 3-1/2 hours per meeting.

Commissioner Wilson asked if it will result in a longer transition time than anticipated.

Mr. Williams responded that he anticipates having a funding answer back within a week or two, and they are moving forward with establishing policies and procedures for the Fire Department. The process has been a real eye-opener for the Board, and while he could go to the HPUD Board and tell them it isn't worth taking on the District, that doesn't help the community. The operational side of service is going well, they are utilizing certified workers from HPUD and are implementing procedures used by HPUD to provide services, however working with the lengthy list of non-compliance issues, fines and delinquent billings has been extremely challenging.

Chairperson Eid thanked him for providing the update.

9. Authorize Payment of Claims for October 2016 and November 2016 Mr. Benoit reviewed the claims presented for October and November 2016.

Motion by Commissioner Wilson to approve the claims for October and November 2016 in the amount of \$7,608.40; Commissioner Hemphill provided a second and the motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Chapman, Hemphill, Franco, Wilson and Eid.

10. Annual Calafco Conference October 25 – 28, 2016

Mr. Benoit provided an update regarding issues that were discussed at the annual Calafco Conference held in October. As in years past, the focus included discussions related to the drought and preservation of farm land. Some of the most productive discussions were related to recharging the aquifer and conflicts between Cities and Counties over water issues. Another big issue this year was marijuana growing and the damage to resources, which is becoming a bigger problem for all states where it has been legalized.

Commissioner Chapman added that the lack of regulations put in place by the State in terms of enforcement for addressing marijuana cultivation has resulted in those responsibilities being pushed down to the local level while the state takes the revenue that is generated and spending it on something else.

Commissioner Franco talked about shrinking Federal budgets and the devastation large grows cause to the natural habitat. Without Federal money spent on enforcement the bill for clean up just gets larger, and the damage caused by chemicals and fertilizers can affect the ground water, depending on the size of the operation. States that have recently legalized marijuana are not able to learn much from Colorado and Washington in terms of regulation and enforcement efforts.

11. Executive Officer's Monthly Report

Mr. Benoit reported that next in line will be the City of Susanville Sphere of Influence and he will be working with City staff to schedule workshop and public hearing for consideration.

12. Commissioner Reports – Discussion.

Chairperson Eid recognized Commissioner Chapman's service over his many years of serving on the Lassen County Board of Supervisors and on the LAFCo Board. He thanked

Commissioner Chapman for the wealth of knowledge and value that he brought to the Board, and he wished him well on his retirement.

Commissioner Chapman stated that he started on the LAFCO Board in 1974 as a new City Councilmember, and it has been interesting to watch the community grow. He stated that serving the community has been an honor and a pleasure and he is proud to have participated in so many decisions that had a positive impact on the lives of the people in the community.

Motion by Commissioner Franco, second by Commissioner Hemphill to adjourn until February 27, 2017; motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Chapman, Hemphill, Franco, Wilson and Eid.

The meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

Todd Eid, Chairperson

Approved _____
Gwenna MacDonald, Recording Secretary