

LASSEN COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
City Council Chambers 66 N. Lassen St. Susanville, CA 96130

REGULAR MEETING
Monday, June 13, 2022

Meeting called to order at 3:00 p.m.

Members present: Commissioner Gallagher, Commissioner Bridges, Commissioner Stafford, Vice Chair Schuster, and Chair Eid.

Staff Present: John Benoit, Executive Director, Jennifer Stephenson, Deputy Director, and Heidi Whitlock, City Clerk.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Vice Chair Schuster, second by Commissioner Bridges to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carries: Ayes: Schuster, Bridges, Gallagher, Stafford, and Eid.

Correspondence: None

Approval of the April 11, 2022, meeting minutes Motion by Commissioner Gallagher, second by Commissioner Bridges, to approve the April 11, 2022, meeting minutes. Motion carries: Ayes: Bridges, Stafford, and Gallagher. Abstain: Schuster and Eid.

Public Comment: None

Discussion with Fire Agencies regarding Fire and EMS services going forward in Lassen County

James Moore, Susanville Fire Department Chief, stated the feedback he has received is agencies are against any Joint Powers Authority. He does continue to explain it, and there is one department open to it.

Chair Eid commented if they are not excited about it in the beginning, they may not ever be. He thanked Chief Moore for his efforts.

Mr. Benoit said to keep talking about it and bringing it up, something will happen that will force the issue.

Consider proposal and contract with Jennifer Stephenson for Executive Officer services for LAFCo

Mr. Benoit explained the contract is for \$3,500 a month, and \$100 for special projects, it is a fair contract.

Ms. Stephenson added it is a similar contract with Plumas LAFCo.

Motion by Commissioner Gallagher, seconded by Commissioner Bridges to approve contract. Motion carries: Ayes: Gallagher, Bridges, Stafford, Schuster, and Eid.

Consider short term contract amendment with John Benoit for transition of executive officer services to new executive officer

Mr. Benoit explained he is finalizing things - whittling down files to bring to the City, who is providing space, and coaching Ms. Stephenson on potential future annexations.

Chair Eid asked how long the contract is.

Mr. Benoit responded one year, but it is only part-time. There are going to be a lot of questions, more than anything. He also advised Ms. Stephenson there is not a reserve fund and LAFCo has gotten by with passing the hat around. Some counties have \$100,000 to \$200,000 in reserves. If a lawsuit were to occur, LAFCo can ask the Board of Supervisors for a loan, but the board does not have to give it to them. The following year's budget will have to be increased to cover litigation costs.

Chair Eid asked what the fee is?

Mr. Benoit responded \$110 per hour, as needed.

Motion by Commissioner Bridges, seconded by Commissioner Gallagher to approve the short-term contract amendment. Motion carries: Ayes: Bridges, Gallagher, Stafford, Schuster, and Eid.

Consider Minute Order appointing Jennifer Stephenson as executive officer and John Benoit as assistant executive officer

Mr. Benoit explained a minute order is needed to appoint Ms. Stephenson as the executive officer. It is something he can write up and send over.

Public hearing regarding the 2022-2023 Lassen final LAFCo budget

Public hearing opened at 3:13 p.m.

Mr. Benoit said there are no changes from the last meeting. LAFCo has an \$8,000 contingency fund, which it has always had. He does not use it but rolls it over. He tried getting the budget more on par with a LAFCo budget.

Public hearing closed at 3:16 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Gallagher, seconded by Commissioner Bridges, to adopt approve Resolution 2022-0005, adopting a final 2022-2023 LAFCo budget. Motion carries: Ayes: Gallagher, Bridges, Stafford, Schuster, and Eid.

Calafco Conference Matters

Mr. Benoit said the annual conference is in Santa Ana, CA, from Oct. 19 through Oct. 21, 2022.

The Commission held general discussion regarding who would attend.

Commission elects Vice Chair Schuster to attend conference and be a voting delegate if re-elected.

Motion by Commissioner Gallagher, seconded by Commissioner Bridges, to authorize expenditure of funds to attend the Calafco Annual Conference. Motion carries: Ayes: Gallagher, Bridges, Stafford, Schuster, and Eid.

Authorize payment of claims

Motion by Vice Chair Schuster, second by Commissioner Bridges, to approve payment of claims for April 2022 and May 2022. Motion carries: Ayes: Schuster, Bridges, Gallagher, Stafford, and Eid.

Executive Officer's Monthly Report

Mr. Benoit addressed a letter of support for Senate Bill 938. If passed, it will reduce the protest thresholds for LAFCo initiated change of organizations. He explained LAFCo is subject to a rigid protest threshold of 10 percent, and the bill changes it to 25 percent.

Commissioner Reports: Chair Eid thanked Mr. Benoit for his continued support.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn at 3:27 p.m.

Chris Gallagher, Commissioner

Ruth McElrath, Building Permit Technician

Approved _____