

LASSEN COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

66 N. Lassen St. Susanville, CA 96130

SPECIAL MEETING

October 19, 2020 - 3:00 p.m.

Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair Eid.

Staff Present: John Benoit, Executive Officer, Officer and Ruth McElrath, Building Permit Technician.

Roll Call: Commissioner Stafford, Commissioner Hemphill, Commissioner Gallagher and Chair Eid. Absent: Schuster.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Gallagher, motion by Commissioner Stafford to approve agenda. Motion carries: Gallagher, Stafford, Hemphill and Eid.

Mr. Benoit requests the regular scheduled December 14 meeting be rescheduled to December 7, 2020. Commission approves meeting change.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair for FY 2020-2021

Matter by Commissioner Hemphill, second by Commissioner Stafford to appoint Eid as Chair. Motion carries, Hemphill, Stafford, Gallagher and Eid. Absent: Schuster.

Motion by Commissioner Stafford, second by Commissioner Hemphill to appoint Commissioner Schuster as Vice Chair. Motion carries. Ayes: Stafford, Hemphill, Gallagher and Eid. Absent: Schuster.

Consider appointment of Mandy Smith as a LAFCo Public Member alternate for a 4-year term ending May 2024

Mr. Benoit explained the former public alternate member resigned about two years ago. To vote for a public alternate, there needs to be at least one or two votes by the City members and one or two County votes. The public member cannot vote.

Mr. Benoit highlighted Ms. Smith's experience, which includes a business background and a lot of experience working with nonprofit organizations. He added that the candidate cannot be a governmental employee or work for a district for this position.

Commissioner Stafford asked Ms. Smith why she wants to be on the board.

Ms. Smith responded that she thought it will be a tremendous opportunity to help the community. There are a lot of boards and entities in the area, but she has a passion for agriculture.

Commissioner Stafford asked Ms. Smith what she could bring to the City.

Ms. Smith responded she has experience with business law contract background, but she is here to serve and hopes to contribute any way she can.

Commissioner Gallagher asked if she had served on any boards.

Ms. Smith responded no and said she has primarily worked with nonprofits.

Commissioner Hemphill asked what her relationship was with the Standish-Litchfield Fire Protection District.

Ms. Smith responded she was the secretary to the board, but she is no longer with them anymore. She was in the position from May 2019 to August 2020 and the Grand Jury report referred to matters that occurred prior to her working there.

Chair Eid said that while he couldn't ask questions, he wanted to comment that LAFCo's primary purpose is to preserve prime agriculture land and mitigate urban sprawl.

A member from the public asked how long ago the vacancy was published.

Mr. Benoit responded that it was flown three years ago. He further explained that Chair Eid's position will also be coming up and they will need to advertise in March or April.

Commissioner Gallagher stated that the position should be flown again.

Mr. Benoit said he will re-fly the position along with the public member position.

Correspondence: Mr. Benoit stated that Calafco was holding its elections and chair Eid was authorized to vote.

Chair Eid said he consulted with Mr. Benoit prior to casting a vote on behalf of Lassen LAFCo and made votes in favor of both incumbents.

Approval of the February 10, 2020 and August 10, 2020 LAFCo minutes.
Item tabled.

Public Comment: None

Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update for the Leavitt Lake Community Services District

Mr. Benoit explained he did a sphere update for the district and found no issues and for a small district they are doing a lot.

Commissioner Gallagher questioned the \$30,000 the district paid in taxes.

Mr. Benoit responded that the district may own property outside of the sphere of influence.

Authorize payment of claims for August 2020 and September 2020

Motion by Commissioner Gallagher, second by Commissioner Hemphill to authorize the payment of claims for August 2020 and September 2020. Motion carries: Ayes: Gallagher, Hemphill, Stafford and Eid. Absent: Schuster.

Consolidation of Districts vs. Establishment of a Joint Powers Authority (JPA)

Mr. Benoit explained there was a JPA venture in Calaveras County, but the difference between Calaveras and Lassen Counties is that there are a lot of paid firefighters, larger resources and bigger budgets in Calaveras County. In addition, the County gives 172 money, which Lassen does not, as well as a quarter of the TOT tax.

He explained he could see a JPA helping in Lassen County by helping the small districts do bylaws and set policies. However, the problem is lack of money.

He added the JJPA is a tool, but not to get out of an audit or an election, but there might be cost savings.

LAFCo 101

The Commission tabled the agenda item.

Executive Officer's Monthly report:

Mr. Benoit started his report by providing an update about SB 414, which failed, but they will be watching for it next year. The Commission had sent letters against it.

He continued his report by stating that he will be bringing up the Stones Bengard and Spalding CSD MSR in the spring.

Mr. Benoit stated that he is not proposing raising LAFCo fees, but the Commission hasn't seen the fee schedule since 2002. There are a lot of other matters such as record retention policy that need to be reviewed.

There was general discussion regarding holding Zoom meetings and Commissioners commented they prefer in person meetings.

Commissioner reports: None

Motion by Commissioner Hemphill to adjourn at 3:44 p.m.

Todd Eid, Chair

Approved _____
Ruth McElrath, Secretary