

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MAY 18, 2004

The Lassen County Board of Supervisors convene in Regular Session at 9:04 a.m. Chairman Hanson asks for public comment and no comments are received. County Clerk Nagel announces the Closed Session items and the Board recesses to Closed Session at 9:07 a.m. for: a conference with Legal Counsel: Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Subdivision (b) of Government Code section 54956.9: 3 cases; and a conference with Legal Counsel: Existing litigation pursuant to Subdivision (a) of Government Code Section 54956.9: Blake Welch, a minor & Erin Welch individually and as guardian ad litem for Blake Welch, a minor vs. County of Lassen & James Elmer Jones, Superior Court Case No. 36774.

Present in the Closed Session are Supervisors Robert Pyle, Lloyd Keefer, and Jack Hanson; County Counsel John Ketelsen, Outside Counsel Kathleen Williams, Claims Manager Rich Reza, County Administrative Officer Bill Bixby and County Clerk Theresa Nagel. Supervisor Dahle enters at 9:09 a.m. Supervisor Chapman enters at 9:10 a.m. Closed Session is recessed at 9:56 a.m.

The Lassen County Board of Supervisors reconvenes in Regular Session on Tuesday, May 18, 2004, at 10:00 a.m. Present: Supervisors Robert Pyle, Jim Chapman, Lloyd Keefer, Brian Dahle, and Jack Hanson; County Counsel John Ketelsen, County Administrative Officer (CAO) Bill Bixby and County Clerk Theresa Nagel. Following the flag salute, the invocation is offered by Supervisor Chapman.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITEMS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

The County Clerk announces the Closed Session dealt with a conference with Legal Counsel: Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Subdivision (b) of Government Code section 54956.9: 3 cases - no reportable action taken; and a conference with Legal Counsel: Existing litigation pursuant to Subdivision (a) of Government Code Section 54956.9: Blake Welch, a minor & Erin Welch individually and as guardian ad litem for Blake Welch, a minor vs. County of Lassen & James Elmer Jones, Superior Court Case No. 36774 - Board approved settlement of this case in the amount of \$15,000 for Blake Welch and \$35,000 for Erin Welch.

AGENDA APPROVAL, ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS

It is moved by Supervisor Keefer, seconded by Supervisor Dahle and carried to approve the agenda as posted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Hanson asks for public comment and no comments are received.

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It is moved by Supervisor Keefer, seconded by Supervisor Dahle and carried to approve agreement with Bill Bixby for Special Service as Interim CAO beginning on May 13, 2004 at 8:00 a.m.

RECOGNITION COMMITTEE - PRESENTATION

Chairman Hanson makes the following presentations for years of service:

Ten years: a brass letter opener to Richard "Rusty" Atkinson, (Sheriff's Department) and Richard Egan, (Treasurer/Tax Collector)

Fifteen years: a two pen desk set to Cathy Miller (B&PHS - Alcohol and Drug) - not present.

Twenty years: a desk clock to Elizabeth Hyde (Child Support) and Nancy Urionaguena (Assessor's office).

Twenty-five years: a desk clock/calculator to Robert Davis (Public Works) - not present.

Chairman Hanson distributes Irene Doyle Award letters of nomination to Cheryl Brewster, Theresa Nagel, Chris Robertson, Craig Stokes and Nancy Urionaguena.

Karen Fouch and Kenneth Bunch read their letters of nomination for Carole Dustin the recipient of the 2004 "Irene Doyle Excellence in County Service Award".

UNAGENDIZED BOARD REPORTS

1. Supervisor Chapman reports on a meeting held with the CalTrans District Director relating to issues in Lassen, Modoc & Plumas counties; asks for a report at the next meeting from the Agriculture Commissioner on options for mosquito abatement.

2. Supervisor Keefer reports on the RAC meeting and they will be setting up monitoring tours of projects; reports on the Lassen County Fire Safe Council meeting held in Janesville and notes they will be holding meetings around the county; announces the letter of support for the appointment of Jeff Withroe as Lassen National Forest Supervisor will be on the next agenda.

3. Supervisor Dahle notes the Big Valley Fire District will be applying for a FEMA Grant and he also reminds the board members that a follow-up meeting needs to be held in relation to what

the county can do to help the fire districts; notes things are moving ahead with a power plant in Big Valley and they are working on a long term stewardship program with the Forest Service on saw logs and bio-mass; announces he will be attending the RCRC meeting this week.

4. Supervisor Hanson discusses concerns of some residents in the South County relating to speed limits - they want the speed limit on Highway 395 to be 55 MPH; also notes there are concerns relating to the Mormon Crickets.

5. Supervisor Chapman discusses the May Revise of the State Budget.

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It is moved by Supervisor Chapman, seconded by Supervisor Pyle and carried to approve and authorize Chairman to sign a letter supporting Susanville Consolidated Sanitary District's request for a special dispensation by the State Water Resources Control Board to fund the District's Small Community Grant.

Discussion is held on what the State Budget proposals will mean to special districts. Board members ask that further information be distributed to them

LASSEN COUNTY FAIR ADVISORY BOARD

It is moved by Supervisor Chapman, seconded by Supervisor Pyle and carried to appoint Jose Pena to fill a vacancy on the Lassen County Fair Advisory Board for District Two.

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

It is moved by Supervisor Keefer, seconded by Supervisor Pyle and carried to appoint Shannon Guerrero to fill a vacancy on the Mental Health Advisory Board.

CONSENT CALENDAR

It is moved by Supervisor Pyle, seconded by Supervisor Dahle and carried to take the noted action on the following Consent Calendar items:

COUNTY CLERK ITEM

Approve Minutes of May 11, 2004.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES - PERSONNEL ITEM

Receive and file Personnel Movement report for April, 2004.

AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER ITEM

Approve contracts with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), reimbursement for Weighmaster inspections in the amount of \$750, and reimbursement for Petroleum inspections in the amount of \$1,500 at facilities in Lassen County; and

authorize the Chairman to sign the contracts.

COUNTY COUNSEL ITEMS

Reject claim of Charles Chatman, in its entirety, and direct County Clerk to send Notice of Rejection.

Reject claim of Tracy Heather, in its entirety, and direct County Clerk to send Notice of Rejection.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT ITEM

Adopt Resolution No. 04-024, authorizing the Chief Probation Officer or her designee to sign the application for FY 2004-05 Comprehensive Juvenile Justice Plan as well as related contracts, amendments, or extensions with the State of California.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ITEM

Adopt Resolution No. 04-025, to approve Parcel Map #2003-148, Longabaugh.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT ITEM

Approve travel authorization request for Correctional Officer David Burns to attend mandatory Basic Correctional Officer Core training in Sacramento, May 31, 2004 - July 1, 2004, at the estimated cost of \$5,518.

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS

Receive and file the following correspondence:

- a. Lassen County Fair Advisory Board meeting agenda for May 11, 2004.
- b. Highway 36 Town Hill Safety Task Force meeting agenda for May 12, 2004, and minutes of April 14, 2004.
- c. Lassen County Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board meeting agenda for May 18, 2004.

LOCAL REUSE AUTHORITY

The Board of Supervisors recess and convene as the Local Reuse Authority.

It is moved by Supervisor Keefer, seconded by Supervisor Pyle and carried to authorize Operations Manager to enter into a contract with GIS Planning, Inc., for web-enabled Geographic Information System (GIS), subject to approval of County Counsel.

The Local Reuse Authority adjourns and the Board of Supervisors reconvene.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The Board of Supervisors recess and convene as the Community Development Commission.

Monica Cochran presents items for consideration related to the Sierra Army Depot Redevelopment Plan.

Extensive discussion is held on what the redevelopment program will mean to tax collections/allocations. Supervisor Chapman wants a "white paper" to explain how the redevelopment taxing process works.

It is moved by Supervisor Pyle, seconded by Supervisor Keefer and carried to: 1) adopt Resolution No. 04-02-CDC, approving and transmitting Preliminary Report on Redevelopment Plan to taxing agencies; 2) adopt Resolution No. 04-03-CDC, adopting Rules Governing Participation and Preferences for Property Owners and Business Occupants; 3) adopt Resolution No. 04-04-CDC, authorizing transmittal of Redevelopment Plan to Planning Commission; 4) adopt Resolution No. 04-05-CDC, consenting to and calling a joint public hearing on Sierra Army Depot Redevelopment Plan (to be held on June 22, 2004).

The Community Development Commission adjourns and the Board of Supervisors reconvene.

UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

Acting Forest Supervisor Jeff Withroe provides information on the Federal cancellation of the thirty-three air tankers. What this means for the North State is looking for heli-tankers.

Mr. Withroe reports the Forest Service is still on track with vegetative management program to treat 30,000 acres and notes the Sierra Framework has provided more opportunity to do more on the ground. Also announces a meeting will be held on May 21st at Janesville School to discuss the Cottonwood Fire.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Field Manager Dayne Barron thanks the county for being an active cooperating agency on the BLM Land Use Plan. He goes on to review the preferred alternative - high lighting things that may defer from the way things have been done. Fire management is one of those areas - flexibility for level of response and increased management of fuels.

Supervisor Chapman notes that Outdoor Recreation Planner Stan Bales is the 2004 Legends Honoree.

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It is moved by Supervisor Dahle, seconded by Supervisor Keefer

and carried to adopt Resolution No. 04-026, consenting to a joint public hearing on Redevelopment Plan (to be held on June 22, 2004).

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

It is moved by Supervisor Pyle, seconded by Supervisor Chapman and carried to adopt Resolution No. 04-027, allowing a Golf Cart Crossing Zone of approximately 800' in distance with a crosswalk being established across Circle Drive (CR EL01) with placards and signage authorized by the Director of Public Works.

INFORMATION FOR THE BOARD

1. CAO Bixby announces he is working with the Auditor and will be bringing forward a balanced budget. He is nervous that we are so late in the year and we do not have a tentative budget in place.
2. CAO Bixby notes that he has received notice to attend a meeting on May 27th relating to court facilities and requests that Supervisor Chapman also attend. Board consensus is to have Supervisor Chapman attend along with the CAO.

Noon recess 11:46 a.m. - 1:04 p.m. Supervisor Chapman is not present, County Clerk Theresa Nagel is absent, Deputy Clerk Susan Osgood is present.

SIERRA BUSINESS COUNCIL

Sierra Business Council research director Amy Horne is present to provide information from "Investing for Prosperity", a research report and guide for rural planning of which she is lead author. (Supervisor Chapman arrives at 1:06 p.m.)

The Sierra Business Council is a non-profit organization whose mission is to secure a strong economy for the Sierra Nevada and maintain the quality of life of our communities.

Dr. Horne states Lassen County is at a very critical juncture for the direction of county over next 20 years particularly with the recent loss of mill jobs. The question is what direction to go from here. She presents strategies that could help Lassen County.

What is coming in to the county economy: tourism spending; federal jobs and money and state jobs and money.

What is leaking out of the county economy: hiring outside contractors; exporting raw materials that haven't been processed; driving to Reno to pay less for a product rather than buy within the local economy.

A large problem in many rural areas is economic diversity. Some options for Lassen County are tourism; second home development; business recruitment; Economic Gardening; and Community Development.

Tourism: Lassen County gets only about 0.1% of California's tourism spending in Northern California counties (5th down from top). One problem with replacing timber jobs with tourism jobs is that they tend to be low-wage (recreation services; transportation; lodging; eating and drinking; and retail). If the economy becomes more weighted towards tourism jobs that would bring the earnings per job down.

Two main things to work on are to increase economic diversity and create more high wage jobs. Rural economies tend to be dependent on one or two sectors or one or two big employers. The closings of Jeld-Wen, the SPI mill and the Big Valley mill have lowered the diversity. Most of the economy is in only one or two sectors -- in 2000, 70% was in either government services or non labor income.

Lassen County earnings per job are falling behind California and National levels although it is better than some other Sierra counties. The loss of the mills will effect this. There is a need to create high wage jobs. Dr. Horne states another thing to think about is that a most valuable export is youth. Community has to have economic opportunities to offer the youth. Continue to do the things you do well and try to cultivate some other areas to increase economic diversity.

Second home development: Adds some sectors (construction & maintenance; real estate & rental; professional services; and personal services), some of which are higher wage jobs. Losses can be: loss of volunteerism that keeps a community going; if people can't afford to life in area, it becomes hard to fill positions (businesses, schools, police, etc.); hiring qualified employees becomes difficult; school population can decrease; traffic congestion increases.

Business Recruitment: In any one year there are some 15,000 communities that compete for firms that are trying to move (only 150-300 major relocations per year). Most relocations go to places that are already growing or they may not be as committed to community and are more likely to move away when they get better deal someplace else.

Economic Gardening: This is an approach developed by Chris

Gibbons of Littleton, Colorado. It is a long term strategy that can increase personal incomes and tax revenues; increase economic diversity; become more recession-proof; more businesses add value; more local contractors; less retail leakage. It is not a "quick fix" but it's a choice you could make at this point. Real dividends would be seen 10 - 15 years down the road. Gibbons calls economic gardening taking care of all little businesses that are in your town.

Leading Edge: Creates new products, services new processes for developing goods (cell phones, PDA's, doesn't have to be high tech -- it's about having a good idea and being entrepreneurial); Rewards creativity and innovation (where high wage jobs are); communities with innovative businesses tend to be communities where wealth is distributed throughout the community and it raises the whole standard of living.

Trailing Edge: Is where businesses are competing on price, not competing on quality of the product (Wal-Mart is an example); creates cheaper products; low-wage jobs; concentrates wealth in the hands of the few and it lowers the standard of living of the community.

Economic Gardening happens one job at a time from startups and small businesses; it is a strategy focused on nurturing local entrepreneurs; gives access to information that large companies have in-house.

Ideas: Information technology, GIS, researching data bases, small business search for same demographic customers; target direct mail -- helps people be more effective entrepreneurs, business people -- grow. The internet is a potential tool for increasing economic diversity.

Supervisor Chapman feels the concept is great and has a lot of potential and he feels the Chamber and Economic Coordinating Commission have been working towards this type of approach. (Supervisor Pyle is absent 1:37 - 1:40 p.m.) Chapman feels urban-based laws, high fees and workers comp are some of the obstacles a small entrepreneurial type of business faces in a rural area.

Community Development: Shift today is with information technology.

Competitive Advantages of Lassen County: Beautiful landscape; new medical facility; Lassen Community College; ranchland; hunting and fishing; historic uptown Susanville and the Susan

River corridor are all assets that are components of the quality of life. The quality of life is what supports the economy.

Quality of Life Challenges: Create a mixture of housing; invest in schools; arts and culture; leadership that helps community create and achieve its vision. Another Option to Consider: Use your public investments to nurture local entrepreneurs; let entrepreneurs create jobs; enhance quality of life.

Discussion is held among Supervisors, members of the audience and Dr. Horne and examples of what strategies other communities have used were cited: Vision 2020 and culinary arts school in Plumas County; Sacramento business recruitment; Inyo County economic development; community involvement commitments in Tupelo, MS.

CAO Bixby strongly encourages the Supervisors to get the whole community involved and get a good profile of the county. Supervisors Pyle and Hanson state they received an updated County Profile from the Sonoran Institute last fall with a lot of demographic and statistical information that might be used.

STUDY SESSION: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - COUNTY/CITY/CHAMBER

Discussion is held among Supervisors on what has gone on since the joint City/County/Chamber economic summit in February. Supervisor Keefer thought there was an understanding at the end of that meeting that something would be pursued jointly but he now understands there is a contract proposal from the Chamber for an economic development position that the board has not yet seen and he feels the board needs to have another meeting with the City.

Supervisor Chapman explains that he was in attendance at the City Council meeting when it was suggested to the council by City staff that a meeting had taken place and that the County was going to go in a different direction and the City and Chamber were going to go in direction initially talked about. Chapman told the council that the Board of Supervisors had not even discussed that next stage yet but were planning on having a meeting at some point in time. The City then indicated a desire to renew the discussion with the board. The Chamber proposal had not even been seen yet. The proposal was not a part of the City Council's agenda but was part of an update and the City had not yet seen it.

Referring to the Chamber proposal, CAO Bixby asks the board what their priorities might be as he is starting to put together a budget and the proposal is for a significant amount.

Chamber of Commerce Manager Patty Hagata states that at the initial City/County meeting she had agreed to put together a proposal for a joint position and bring it back to the City and County. A committee was formed to discuss what the City and County's vision might be for that position; what the role of that person would or would not be; what it would take to successfully fund a qualified person and then they put together an informal proposal. Her initial understanding was that this possible position would be jointly funded by the City and County and would be overseen by the Chamber. There is an overview of what the committee sees the job description being but it is not detailed. The Chamber is very much interested in overseeing this position.

(Supervisor Dahle absent 2:18-2:20 p.m.)

Supervisor Chapman suggests having the Economic Coordinating Council review the proposal to make sure it is consistent with what has been discussed. Supervisor Keefer feels the council could review it but they are an advisory council. Supervisor Chapman states something needs to be done fast because the community is changing probably faster than people realize.

Supervisor Keefer feels the draft strategic plan will give a lot of information. Community Development Director Robert Sorvaag states the adoption of the 2000 General Plan (page 1-1) shows the goals of the plan and the entire vision statement.

Supervisor Dahle believes the studies that are needed have been done, and it's now time to talk with constituents. Information must first come from the communities; need to find out where they want to go; and how to get there in order to tell a coordinating person that this is our 20 year plan, then maybe we figure out how to fund it. It might then be easier for the Planning Department to prioritize projects and move forward.

CAO Bixby emphasizes the need to contact all the special districts for their input.

Supervisor Dahle suggests putting all documents of studies in all communities into a condensed model, have the board review and decide how to implement and move forward. Supervisor Keefer feels that a good starting point would be to work the public vision into the draft strategic plan. (Supervisor Pyle is absent 2:50 - 2:51 p.m.)

SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY (ASSEMBLY BILLS 2600 LAIRD AND 1788

LESLIE)

Extensive discussion is held on whether the board would support Assembly Bill 2600 (Laird) or AB 1788 (Leslie), both of which propose to create a Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

Lassen Lands and Trails Trust (LLTT) member Phil Nemir feels there are 3 outstanding issues that differ between the two bills: the boundaries (how far north to go, how far out in the foothills to go); the form of the governance (how many representatives from the state, how many representatives from local); and the third is how much local control. LLTT supports the concept and think its a good one, that it works for working landscapes for habitat protection. A conservancy could be beneficial to this area. There could be a problem of local control with the Leslie bill.

Supervisor Hanson states the Cattlemens Association are on the fence on the issue but the Farm Bureau opposed it. The Cattlemen have a concern of infringing on property rights.

Supervisor Dahle states he can continue saying that the board has not made a decision yet.

Amy Horne points out the two bills are being worked on and they are coming closer together. She suggests not thinking about one bill vs. the other but to think about either bill vs. the status quo. The Sierra Business Council is the only organization in the Sierra (possibly statewide) that endorsed both bills. Either conservancy would give more local power where tax money is spent.

Supervisor Chapman requests the meeting be adjourned in memory of Andy E. Smith.

ADJOURNMENT IN MEMORY

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 3:20 p.m. in memory of Andy E. Smith, longtime community member who was supportive of youth programs and the Shriners Hospitals for Children.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF

SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:

THERESA NAGEL, CLERK OF THE BOARD