

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

JUNE 15, 2004

The Lassen County Board of Supervisors convene in Regular Session at 9:11 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 9:12 a.m. for conference with Legal Counsel: Significant exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Subdivision (b) of Government Code Section 54956.9; one case; Public Employee Employment, pursuant to Subdivision (b) of Government Code Section 54954.5: County Administrative Officer; and Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release.

Present in the Closed Session are Supervisors Robert Pyle, Jim Chapman, Lloyd Keefer, and Jack Hanson; County Counsel John Ketelsen, County Administrative Officer Bill Bixby, Personnel Director Ron Vossler, Sheriff Bill Freitas, Assistant Sheriff Silas Bollinger, Emergency Services Director Chester "Chip" Jackson and County Clerk Theresa Nagel. Supervisor Dahle is not present. Bill Freitas, Silas Bollinger and Chip Jackson depart at 9:26 a.m. Supervisor Dahle enters at 9:28 a.m. Closed Session is recessed at 9:35 a.m.

The Lassen County Board of Supervisors reconvenes in Regular Session on Tuesday, June 15, 2004, at 9:38 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 Pyle.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITEMS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

The County Clerk announces the Closed Session dealt with: Conference with Legal Counsel - Significant exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Subdivision (b) of Government Code Section 54956.9; one case - met with Sheriff Freitas regarding anticipated breach of ambulance service agreement. Staff was directed to meet with ambulance provider and report to the Board at a subsequent executive session; Public Employee Employment, pursuant to Subdivision (b) of Government Code Section 54954.5: County Administrative Officer - continued until end of open session; and Public Employee Discipline / Dismissal / Release - no final action taken.

AGENDA APPROVAL, ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS

CAO Bixby introduces Irene Doyle, part-time Acting Deputy CAO who will be helping with the budget process.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Poet Laureate Violet Stout reads a poem entitled "Birthday Wish" in recognition of Chairman Hanson's upcoming birthday; and another poem entitled "Open Arms" in acknowledgement of Bill Bixby's visit to the emergency room yesterday.

2. Sheriff Freitas provides an update on the Rainbow Gathering which will be held north of the Lassen County line, in Modoc County. He feels we are luckier this time because the Forest Service has their own management team and law enforcement which will allow the Sheriff's Department to concentrate on matters affecting county residents and businesses.

Chip Jackson has attended an initial planning meeting in Alturas. He reports there has already been an incident of petty theft in a Big Valley business by a group of 20-30 of these folks on their way to the gathering. The Sheriff will try to get more staff in the outlying areas to keep the attendees moving on to the event and after the event, moving out of the county. He notes the City of Susanville has already seen panhandling problems.

UNAGENDIZED BOARD REPORTS

1. Supervisor Chapman reports that he, County Counsel and the CAO met with the Court Administration regarding court facilities and he provides a summary of the discussions - sometime in the future the Courts will make a presentation to the Board.

PROCLAMATION

It is moved by Supervisor Dahle, seconded by Supervisor Keefer and carried to adopt a Proclamation recognizing Gwen Mears upon her retirement from the LassenWorks Division of Community Social Services Department.

Chairman Hanson reads and presents the Retirement Proclamation to Gwen Mears (LassenWorks).

RECOGNITION COMMITTEE - PRESENTATION

Chairman Hanson makes the following presentations for years of service:

Twenty-five years: a desk clock/calculator to Tom Albers, (Public Works Department);

Fifteen years: a two pen desk set to Cathy Miller, (Alcohol & Drug);

John Bohl, (Sheriff's Department) is not present to receive his ten year award.

UNAGENDIZED BOARD REPORTS CONT.

2. Supervisor Pyle reports on a meeting he attended with a representative from the PUC who indicated they will support the installation of crossing arms at the railroad crossing on Co.Rd. A-21; notes the Bankruptcy Court ordered PG&E to give away some of their lands and he wants to be kept in the loop in regard to the Mt. Meadows Area - Supervisor Dahle notes that RCRC is also involved in this process for all the affected counties.

3. Supervisor Keefer has proposed a meeting between County Counsel and Mr. Wosick's attorneys to discuss a reimbursement agreement for the sound monitoring contract; reports that LAFCO approved their final budget which is less than last year (\$22,935 each for County & City share) - notes the Susanville Library is considering annexing the entire county into their district; reports he and Supervisor Hanson met with the Chamber of Commerce to discuss Economic Development and he reviews the discussions.

4. Supervisor Dahle reminds board members of two issues they need to revisit in the near future: Wilderness Study Areas and help for fire districts.

5. Supervisor Hanson reports on continued discussions relating to preserving the railroad between Flanigan and Susanville; has asked the Honey Lake Conservation Team to address the Board sometime in July; wants the Board to consider writing a letter relating to continued use of the Amedee Airfield by the Air Force.

6. Supervisor Chapman notes his concern over the railroad crossing on Highway 44 - Supervisor Pyle states this crossing is more of a problem because there is no electricity and solar power will not lift the arms; Chapman reports on the Town Hill Safety Task Force meeting.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADVISORY BOARD

It is moved by Supervisor Keefer, seconded by Supervisor Dahle and carried to appoint Emory Bowden to fill one of the vacancies on the Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board.

CONSENT CALENDAR

It is moved by Supervisor Keefer, seconded by Supervisor Dahle and carried to take the noted action on the following Consent

Calendar items:

COUNTY CLERK ITEM

Approve Minutes of June 8, 2004.

COUNTY CLERK - PROPOSITION 65 REPORT ITEM

Receive and file report #04-02, filed by Martin A. Winston, R.E. H.S., MPH Hazardous Materials Specialist, on June 8, 2004 - NOTIFICATION OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RELEASE: On June 4, 2004, Lassen County Environmental Health Department discovered a leak of diesel fuel (length of time of leak and total amount is unknown) at United Rentals, 1550 Chestnut Street, Susanville. United Rentals have hired an engineering firm to clean up the contaminated area.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES - PERSONNEL ITEM

Receive and file Personnel Movement report for May, 2004.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT ITEM

Approve participation in the Lassen and Modoc National Forest 2004 Cooperative Plan to provide patrol services for the 2004 recreational season and Controlled Substance Operations; authorize the Chairman and Sheriff Freitas to sign the Cooperative Plans for Lassen County.

TREASURERS ITEMS

Receive and file Treasurer's Investments Report for the month of May, 2004 and Treasurer's Fund Balance Report for May, 2004.

PRISON TRIALS COST REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM ITEMS

Receive and file Recap of CCC Prison Trials Cost Reimbursement Billing for the month of May, 2004 and High Desert State Prison Trials Cost Reimbursement Billing for the month of May, 2004.

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS

Receive and file the following correspondence:

- a. Highway 36 Town Hill Safety Task Force meeting agenda for June 9, 2004, and minutes of May 24, 2004.
- b. Lassen County Air Pollution Control District Governing Board meeting agenda for June 15, 2004, and minutes of April 20, 2004.
- c. Lassen Transit Service Agency meeting agenda for June 14, 2004.
- d. Lassen County Transportation Commission meeting agenda for June 14, 2004.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT - PLANNING DIVISION

Community Development Director Robert Sorvaag requests direction to work with County Fire Warden and Fire Chief's Association regarding revisions to water storage tank requirements and building setbacks.

Board consensus is to provide such direction.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
Community Development Director Robert Sorvaag asks for direction in regard to projects to be funded by the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Act of 2002, Per Capita Grant Program, so they can begin the application procedure. He notes the County will be responsible for maintenance of any parks constructed with these funds unless agreements can be worked out with other agencies in the communities (i.e. community service districts) - he encourages such agreements with existing districts.

Supervisor Keefer feels it is a policy issue for the Board to decide how maintenance will be paid for and notes there are communities that do not have any districts to assume maintenance.

Development Specialist Cynthia Celaya notes there has to be a sentence, in the agreement with the State, to indicate the County is responsible for maintenance if a district defaults.

Further discussion is held among board members.

CAO Bixby cautions against building facilities without a firm plan for funding maintenance. He strongly recommends all applications for funds be processed as a Board action, not by individual board members. States this is an opportunity to get the local communities involved with maintenance of desired facilities - if existing districts are reluctant he questions why the County should take on the responsibility. He foresees controversy arising between parks in some areas being maintained by the County and in other areas being maintained by districts.

Supervisor Chapman feels that all applications should come back to the Board for consideration and to make determination on maintenance, before being sent to the State. He sees maintenance as a vital part.

Supervisor Dahle states if there will be a general fund obligation then it must come to the Board.

CAO Bixby feels the more the Board "daylights" the projects, the

better.

Supervisor Chapman suggests board members work with staff to package their projects and when ready bring the project to the full board.

COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES

It is moved by Supervisor Pyle, seconded by Supervisor Chapman and carried unanimously, on a roll call vote, to authorize increases in the 2003/2004 budgeted revenues and expenditures for the following funds: Increase revenues: Welfare Assistance - State Public Assistance 121-1211-2004600 in the amount of \$265,000; Welfare Assistance - Federal Public Assistance 121-1211-2006400 in the amount of \$485,000; and Increase Expenditures: Welfare Assistance - Support and Care 121-1211-3004000 in the amount of \$750,000.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

It is moved by Supervisor Pyle, seconded by Supervisor Chapman and carried unanimously, on a roll call vote, to increase the 2003/2004 budget expenditures for the Narcotics Task Force office in the amount of \$1,077, line item 182-0541-3002200.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

It is moved by Supervisor Dahle, seconded by Supervisor Pyle and carried to approve, and authorize Chairman to sign, a letter to the Department of Water Resources expressing concern over the proposed enormous increase to water master fees.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

It is moved by Supervisor Dahle, seconded by Supervisor Pyle and carried to authorize the CAO to apply for the Forest Service grant relating to the Rainbow Family of Living Light (RFL) Annual Gathering; designate the CAO as County Team Leader and authorize CAO to take the appropriate action in response to the RFL gathering.

INFORMATION FOR THE BOARD

CAO Bixby thanks Violet Stout for the poem she read for him and comments on another poem she wrote for him when he left 3 1/2 years ago.

He states that his motto for the year ahead will be "just say no".

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter from Day/Lassen Bench Fire Safe Council Chairman Ray Nielsen expressing their gratitude and high regard for the

Lassen County Fire Safe Council, is received and filed.

Recess 11:08 - 11:13 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION CONT.

Closed Session reconvenes at 11:13 a.m. Present in the Closed Session are Supervisors Robert Pyle, Jim Chapman, Lloyd Keefer, Brian Dahle, and Jack Hanson; County Counsel John Ketelsen, County Administrative Officer Bill Bixby, and County Clerk Theresa Nagel. Closed Session is recessed at 12:05 p.m.

Noon recess 12:05 - 1:30 p.m. Supervisor Chapman and Supervisor Dahle absent.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT - ECONOMIC DEVELOPING/HOUSING DIVISION

Community Development Director Robert Sorvaag introduces new Economic Development Chief Darren Winham, who provides information on his background. Mr. Sorvaag distributes the County General Plan Vision Statement. (Supervisor Chapman enters at 1:41 p.m.)

Chairman Hanson introduces Consultant Don Smail who presents and reviews the Draft Economic Development Strategy Plan. Attractive aspects for businesses to relocate in Lassen County: rural life style, infrastructure is good for a county this size, land costs are low in contrast to other areas, short commutes, houses still affordable, closeness to Reno (a fast growing metropolitan area). Challenges: very limited labor supply (best chances are to draw employees from elsewhere), cost of energy, workers compensation, cost of health insurance, state regulations, no local air service, retail leakage. He notes air service is a critical aspect and there is the need to retain the rail lines.

Goals and objectives: promote expansion of telecommunications and DSL; use of former industrial sites; support upgrades of transportation systems (highway, rail, airport); pursue alternative energy (renewable energy, local generation for industry at local mill sites); manage water resources and delivery; hospitals and health care facilities; redevelopment - tax increment preserves taxes locally, essential tool for industrial development, work with landowners via OPA's, housing development, infrastructure improvement.

Job creation: support creation of permanent base level jobs; connect local workers with local jobs by utilizing Alliance for Workforce Development and Lassen Community College (need for

more direct connection with local businesses); continue to support local retail expansion for the retail tax base and training ground for entry level workers.

Sierra Army Depot (SIAD): continue to support base retention; partner with SIAD on privatization; industrial development opportunities; assure infrastructure needs are met (traffic mitigation measures on Highway 395 and airport runway extension).

Prisons and prison industries: corrections jobs are a strong positive force; partner with local prisons to develop manufacturing and other private industry to support local labor supply.

Tourism promotion: gateway to Lassen National Park; promote the county as a visitor destination and location for second homes; partner with tourism groups (Lassen National Park & AAA); four season recreation choices; access and connection to Reno market; Dyer Mt. development prospects.

Support and diversify agriculture: maximize use of U.C. Davis Ag Extension services; promote policies for ag land preservation; preserve ag business reforms; explore new niche crop markets (i.e. turf grass, & guayule, a source of natural hypo-allergenic rubber).

Conclusion: county is well positioned for growth; there is strong community support for economic development; attractive labor force (job ready, just not enough - should be able to attract from other areas); need to develop a "branding" and marketing campaign to promote the county as a solid choice for business expansion and relocation. Create internet presence; cooperate with regional initiatives; develop comprehensive marketing materials; target industry focus - which companies are best?; promote Highway 395 as GATEWAY from Reno to Lassen Park (get visitors to stay an extra day).

Supervisor Keefer wants the consultant to think about how important it is to have a relationship between County/City/ Chamber to achieve goals and objectives. He would like the plan updated to address the most recent changes (i.e. mill closure). (Supervisor Keefer departs at 2:27 p.m.)

Chamber of Commerce representative Richard Parker suggests local entities be more flexible in their permitting process and he asks about the ability to offer tax incentives to relocating businesses. He encourages pursuing regulation changes to promote business development. Mr. Smail notes there is the

ability to have "off the shelf" building plans for certain types of buildings that could receive immediate permits - states the county needs to create an image of "we are open for business".

Chamber of Commerce representative Jeff Trump feels the Chamber can be helpful in community promotion and helpful to the county as a whole. They would like to be the focus for tourism, can help put together marketing materials, plan to put together a really good website.

Supervisor Chapman sees the need for pro-activeness by visitor's centers during times when visitors are present and need services. He was in the Westwood area for a bike ride on Sunday and the Westwood Visitor's Center was not open in the morning when they left, nor in the early afternoon when they returned.

Chairman Hanson notes the County cannot determine what financial participation they can provide until budget time, but he expects it will probably be limited. He wants to keep the line of communication open and that does not cost anything.

Chamber of Commerce representative Randy Givens asks what assistance Darren Winham will be able to provide to the Chamber. Mr. Sorvaag responds that Darren will be able to network with the Chamber. Mr. Givens expresses his feeling that Eagle Lake is not promoted anywhere near what it should be. Discusses the beach area (Gallatin) and how it is not nearly as nice as it used to be.

Supervisor Hanson feels the number one goal should be retention of businesses.

Mr. Sorvaag announces the Plan will be discussed by the Coordinating Council at 1:30 p.m. on June 21st at Lassen Career Network.

CAO Bixby hopes that Darren Winham will be a resource that everyone can use.

Supervisor Chapman addresses the issue of retail leakage, noting local businesses need to do their best in keeping buyers here by not over-pricing and being friendly and helpful to the public.

LMUD Public Benefit Manager Theresa Boucher would like to work with the City and County so they will know where development is planned, which will help them focus their infrastructure improvements. She notes that LMUD's Energy Star Rebate Program requires local purchase of appliances.

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at
3:07 p.m.

SUPERVISORS

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF

ATTEST:

THERESA NAGEL, CLERK OF THE BOARD