



SUMMARY MINUTES  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
707 NEVADA STREET, SUSANVILLE  
DECEMBER 9, 2008

**9:33 A.M. CALL TO ORDER**

**PRESENT:** Supervisors Jack Hanson, Bob Pyle, Jim Chapman and Lloyd Keefer; County Counsel Craig Settemire, County Administrative Officer (CAO) John Ketelsen, Personnel Director/Risk Manager Ron Vossler and Deputy Clerk of the Board Susan Osgood. Supervisor Brian Dahle arrives at 9:38 a.m.

**CLOSED SESSION:** Chairman Hanson announces that no closed session was held. Following the flag salute, the invocation is offered by Chairman Hanson.

**AGENDA APPROVAL, ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS:**

**ACTION:** Approve agenda as posted.

**MOVED BY:** Keefer

**AYES:** Hanson, Pyle, Chapman, Keefer

**NOES:** None

**SECONDED BY:** Pyle

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENTEES:** Dahle

**UNANIMOUS:** No

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** 1) Deputy CAO for Health and Social Services Kevin Mannel: Briefs the Board on a new round of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) allocation which has \$231,600 earmarked for Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI). A concern with this allocation is that a plan has been written and submitted to the Mental Health Advisory Board and reviewed. One expenditure line is for hiring a new therapist. States in these economic times, departments are challenged to maintain the existing workforce. Mr. Mannel does not want to circumvent an advisory board but he would like to refer this back to staff for further review. (Supervisor Dahle arrives at 9:38 a.m.)

2) Ted Andresen: Speaks for the Lahontan Heights Homeowners Association in the north end of Eagle Lake across from Mariner's Resort. They represent about 15 acres with 32 homeowners who are very concerned with the way the lake level has been dropping for the last eight years. It has never recouped from one year to the next. He believes Mr. Pyle has been involved in this matter. They would like to know which direction the Board is going toward trying to eliminate the problem. Reports boats cannot launch from the County ramp; other docks had to be removed early this year because of the low water level. He knows the Board of Supervisors and Eagle Lake Interagency do not have the authority to shut off flow in tunnel. Supervisor Pyle: Advises he will be bringing this matter back to the Board in January as an afternoon study session. States there is a great deal of confusion on who has the authority to turn off the pipe. The County will continue to look into it. He understands that complaints from homeowners were sent to the Division of Water Resources, which were forwarded to BLM giving them 15 days to respond. Has heard that Dane Barron of BLM received an extension to respond to the complaints. Mr. Pyle's opinion is that the Department of Water Resources, Division of Water Rights is probably who has control of the level of the lake because water in California is owned and operated by the State of California. States the tunnel is on BLM property. Still trying to gather information on who is the responsible party. Resident Fred Nagel: Reports he wrote a letter to Supervisor Pyle with information and history that he had. There is a lot of conflicting data; feels this is the time to have an independent scientific study done. States the Board of Supervisors could put pressure on the State or BLM to do the study. There is no authority for the private sector to do it and it is not the County's responsibility.

## **UNAGENDIZED BOARD REPORTS:**

Supervisor Pyle: 1) He has received a lot of information from constituents regarding the Eagle Lake water level issue. A study session is tentatively scheduled by the Board of Supervisors for Tuesday, January 20, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. regarding Eagle Lake – Bly Tunnel information. 2) Received calls from people with dump trailers regarding Westwood Transfer Station and their inability to use them. Supervisor Keefer states the issue will be addressed at the next Solid Waste meeting December 16, 2008, 3:00 p.m. 3) Attended several workshops at the CSAC Conference: Ethics Training; Counties and Businesses Working Together for Maximum Efficiency; Exploring the Process through Which an Idea Becomes a Law; Governor Schwarzenegger spoke at lunch. Believes Rural Crimes money is okay but the Williamson Act Subvention money is still not decided. Discussion on the future of energy in California was presented by PG&E, San Diego Gas and Electric and Southern California Edison; renewable and alternative energies. Board of Directors meeting: formed task force to develop proposals to reform the state local fiscal relationships; and brought back information on California Forward and Institute for Excellence. Approved all policy committee recommendations. 4) Designates the following from his discretionary funds: \$250 to the Chimney Fund.

Supervisor Dahle: 1) Attended the Sierra Nevada Conservancy meeting in Murphy, CA where gas cost \$1.73/gallon. A gentleman from the Department of Finance was opposed to one of Tom Esgate's Fire Safe Council (FSC) grants that would monitor and study what the water flows are with junipers and then after removing half of the junipers in Ash Valley. After debate, the study did get passed with that gentleman voting No; other projects were fine. There was concern about some projects that were funded by Prop 84 money. 2) Attended the National Association of Counties (NACo) Board meeting in Phoenix. As Western Interstate Region (WIR) President, they appointed Supervisor Dahle to the board for the next year. Discussed budget; everyone has same problems nationwide. The new president coming in is looking for projects that they can fund that are ready to go. Would like Public Works Director Larry Millar to get that information to NACo, to our State Legislature and to the Governor so when they are working at the federal level Lassen County projects may possibly get funded. The City might also be interested in this. Supervisor Chapman suggests trying to get funding to build the swimming pool. CAO Ketelsen states he has had two conversations with Senator Boxer's office regarding county facilities and paving roads.

Supervisor Keefer: 1) CSAC attended some of the same meetings as Supervisor Pyle. Also attended the Government Finance and Operations Policy Committee Meeting. Had a very high-powered panel in terms of looking at what local government's next steps should be for State, local fiscal reform. The premise was that Prop 1A was a first step in redefining county relationships with the State and securing some of our funding base. The panel spent a lot of time talking about pre Prop 13 and post Prop 13 issues but not a lot of time was spent on ideas for the next step. Panel members were: Russ Gould (Past Director Department of Finance, RCRC will be working with him); Diane Cummings (who has been around the legislature a number of years, understands state local relationship very well. She was also a past Deputy Director for the Department of Finance); and David Janssen (retired CAO from LA County; spent a lot of time during Prop 13 era and gave a lot of insight to "how we got to where we are"). The panel was mixed on where we go from here. Some of the thinking was that things are so bad right now that there may be an opportunity for change. We would need support from Governor and some key legislators. Based on the Governor's presentation at the luncheon he seemed fairly firm in protecting local government particularly with 1A and 40. Hopes he will be a champion for the cause. The only action item was to recommend to the Board of Directors that a committee be formed; no mention of names. Suspects one or more of the three on the panel may be on the committee. Thinks this could be an important step for CSAC to take, hopefully will come up with some good ideas and be able to get legislative support. It will take all the counties working together to bring about change. That was the highlight of the whole conference and it could have been the theme of the conference and more time could have been spent on it. 2) Attended luncheon presentation from PG&E and the others on their plans for meeting new renewable energy goals; they seem to be comfortable they can meet

them depending on “transmission, transmission, transmission”. That was the common thread for all presentations; it is all contingent on getting transportation corridors in place. There are some issues to deal with on that. Gary Wyatt was installed as President of CSAC. 4) Will attend meeting in Redding December 10, 2008 regarding the Forest Service Road Management Plan. It will be a facilitated type of session and will be lead by Shasta County. The plan is to bring the counties together to approach the issue from a united front. Supervisor Keefer will sign document of support if there is one prepared.

Supervisor Chapman: 1) Regarding the CSAC Conference: thinks timing is everything; have been trying to get state to recognize there is a problem. Government will try to do capital projects and he feels this may be a good time to get pool put in using the high school plans. That is how Roosevelt Pool got put in. The county may have to take it and start it off, transferring later to an appropriate management district to run it. It would bring construction jobs in. The purpose is to stimulate the economy and this is a good opportunity. 2) Speaks on property tax system prior to Prop 13 and changes he would like to see made now. When talking about parcel tax approach for County Service Areas, would quantify what revenues and/or expenditures are, translate that to parcel tax assessment and take it to the voters. He has taken the County budget and will work with Assistant to the CAO Julie Morgan, Auditor Karen Fouch, Assessor Ken Bunch and Treasurer / Tax Collector Richard Egan, talking about how existing formulas work and how changes might work. Will bring it back to the board for discussion. If it has potential, think Boards should consider it but it would have to be done before next June. 3) Also attended the NoRTEC meeting in Chico on Renewable Energy. States if there isn't some kind of subsidy, this will not work; the tax subsidies are back. There is talk about creating an interstate system on a federal level designed to minimize the transmission line problems. 3) Distributes USA Today article and map showing Lassen County as one of the highest areas in the nation for gas prices. 4) Attended the community tree lighting Saturday night with about 4,000 people in attendance. It was a great way to kick off the Christmas season. 5) Attended the Susanville Supermarket Christmas party last weekend. Rick Stewart shared a video from the National Award ceremony he attended. His store's selection of being recognized as International Retailer of the Year for the IGA stores is outstanding. 6) Congratulates Treasurer / Tax Collector Richard Egan for completing the California International Marathon in 4 hours 2 minutes, 51 seconds.

Supervisor Hanson: 1) Attended the community fundraiser December 8 for Brittany McCalmon held at Diamond Mountain Casino. It was well attended and \$16,000 was raised. 2) Attended the Accelerating Renewable Energy Development in the North State meeting December 4. The Renewable Energy Transmission Effort in the state of California has previously been reported on. Assistant Community Development Director Joe Bertotti represents RCRC on that. Lassen County is involved in the federal transmission issue as well. With the Public Works effort by incoming President Obama, Lassen County might get some quicker action; major transmission corridors can take 10 to 15 years to entitle and get into construction. Transmission is the issue and it is the bottleneck for all the development that is going on. After attending the conference, thinks it is one area over the next 5 to 10 years that could change the face of Lassen County. Cost of energy is ridiculous and may put California in a non competitive position. 3) Attended the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting December 8 at High Desert State Prison (HDSP) with the three prisons; good reports by all three institutions. They sent about 65 crews down to Southern California to fight the fires. (Supervisor Chapman is absent 10:32 a.m. – 10:34 a.m.) Discussed construction projects and wastewater issue and complying with Lahontan Water Quality Control Board. There will be a \$55 million construction project for medical treatment delivery. It probably will not bring additional hiring of staff. The three prisons have done a lot for the community. 4) Reports on the Spring Mountain Project (Winnemucca Ranch) which is still a long way off, about a 20 year project. It would be an island annexation for Reno and Washoe County. For Lassen County it would put 24,000 residents close to Fish Springs Ranch and the Army Base; one proposal is to take a major arterial through Dry Valley and connect to Highway 395. 5) Will attend the Fair Advisory Board meeting tonight. 6) Lassen County will probably be submitting a grant with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for tall white top.



**MOVED BY:** Keefer

**SECONDED BY:** Pyle

**UNANIMOUS:** Yes

**INFORMATION FOR THE BOARD**

1) Supervisors Pyle and Keefer state they will be attending the Solid Waste AB 885 workshop Thursday night, December 11. This will be for taking testimony on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR). Deadline for comments is in February. CAO Ketelsen: Has asked Community Development staff to review the DEIR and put together some formal comments. Suggests it would be good if RCRC had any comments they could be admitted to the record as well. Environmental Health Director Doug Ames is prepared to make comments at the meeting.

2) The Board would like CAO Ketelsen to write a letter to the Air Resources Board regarding truck emission regulations. It would be very costly to retrofit trucks to comply with mandates. Grant and loan programs would not be available for Lassen County.

3) CAO Ketelsen notes that by the terms of the pool County Service Area (CSA) resolution that was drafted by County Counsel, the CSA formation was not to go forward if the election did not pass. At this point there are no plans to proceed. Staff can bring back a resolution another time if the Board does want to go forward. LAFCo staff has been advised that nothing would be done at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman of the Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Osgood, Deputy Clerk of the Board