

State of California, County of Siskiyou

Board of Supervisors Minutes, August 8, 2023

The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Siskiyou County, California, met in regular session this 8th day of August 2023; there being present Supervisors Brandon Criss, Michael N. Kobseff, Nancy Ogren, Ray A. Haupt and Ed Valenzuela, County Administrator Angela Davis, County Counsel Natalie E. Reed and County Clerk and ex-Officio Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Laura Bynum by Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Valenzuela. Pursuant to AB23, the Clerk announced that the Board members receive no additional compensation for sitting as members of the Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and County Service Area No. 3. Chair Valenzuela led in the salute to the flag of the United States of America. Criss running late

Invocation - Siskiyou County Sheriff Chaplain Keith Bradley provided an invocation.

Presentations from the Public

There were no presentations from the public.

Consent Agenda – Approved.

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Haupt and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Haupt, Kobseff, Criss, Ogren and Valenzuela voting YES, that the following consent agenda is approved, and the Chair and/or clerk authorized to execute/record any necessary documents:

County Administration

Approve the letter to US Forest Service, Mt. Shasta Ranger District and authorize the Chair to sign.

County Administration

Approve the letter to the State Water Resources Control Board expressing support for the Grenada Sanitary District Sewer System Project and authorize the Chair to sign.

County Administration

Approve the letter to the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, Shasta McCloud Management Unit supporting the 2023 Guzzler Replacement Project and authorize the Chair to sign.

County Clerk

Adopt Resolution 23-148 Adopt Resolution approving all requests for services relating to the conduct of any city or district election, all requests for consolidated election and providing reimbursement to the County for election services rendered.

General County Fire

Approve the Agreement between Siskiyou Joint Community College District and Siskiyou County Fire Warden. Further, authorize the County Auditor to establish budget wherein the Fire Warden will utilize the committed account for the \$5.00 per student per class hour to maintain fire and emergency medical services qualifications. Signature Authorization for the Siskiyou County Fire Warden.

Public Works

Approve and sign these contracts for Above Board Construction and Roofing, Inc. to make the much needed updates to the buildings at the Lake Siskiyou Campground.

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Approve and sign these contracts for Above Board Construction and Roofing, Inc. to make the much needed updates to the buildings at the Lake Siskiyou Campground.

County Administration - Discussion and possible direction regarding City of Mt. Shasta's request to pursue a joint jurisdiction Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District. Staff directed to pursue the proposed Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District as a joint partner with the City of Mt. Shasta.

Deputy County Administrator Sherry Lawson appeared before the Board, providing an overview of the request and the Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District (EIFD). Ms. Lawson advised that an EIFD was a tool to support public infrastructure and development, which in turn supports and incentivizes private investment in specific areas. Ms. Lawson summarized the anticipated process to create an EIFD, including formation of a Public Finance Authority (PFA) Board (EIFD governing board) that would ultimately implement an Infrastructure Finance Plan (IFP) to fund previously identified infrastructure projects. Ms. Lawson provided an overview of the various types of infrastructure projects and the composition of the PFA Board, with two Mt. Shasta City Councilors, one County Supervisor and two public members (one appointed by each the City and County). Ms. Lawson summarized the processes and associated timeframes for creating an EIFD, PFA and approving an IFP and introduced Mt. Shasta City Manager Todd Juhasz and Kosmont Companies representative Joe Dieguez to provide additional information and answer questions from the Board.

Mr. Juhasz appeared before the Board. Mr. Juhasz provided an overview of various parcels located in/around the City of Mt. Shasta, sharing concerns regarding the inability to develop those parcels due to the lack of infrastructure. Mr. Juhasz spoke in support of the successes EIFDs have had in assisting cities and counties to invest in critical infrastructure and spur new development.

In response to Supervisor Criss regarding the possible impact of an EIFD city or county taxes, Mr. Dieguez advised that creation of an EIFD would not create new taxes and not impact a city or county special tax, only change the method for allocating future taxes set aside to fund specific infrastructure purposes. In addition, Mr. Dieguez advised of the benefits that a city, county and private investor EIFD partnership could produce.

Siskiyou Economic Development Council (SEDC) Executive Director Tonya Dowse appeared before the Board, speaking in support of the request and the potential positive benefits to be gained by creating an EIFD.

Mt. Shasta City Mayor Tessa Clure appeared before the Board and spoke in support of the request to form a joint EIFD between the County and City.

Discussion followed between members of the Board, Mr. Dieguez, Mr. Juhasz and County Counsel Natalie E. Reed regarding Kosmont Companies' grant funding for assisting the City, the various EIFDs within the State, including their size and characteristics that differ from Siskiyou County, various challenges to development attempts that have faced the City of Mt. Shasta (no growth supporters), concerns regarding potential negative impacts (i.e. legal exposure) to the County's General Fund, the independent/separate legal entity structure of an EIFD and the three to five years that it would take to accumulate sufficient funding for infrastructure projects.

Supervisor Haupt shared concerns regarding the estimated revenue returns that a joint EIFD could provide to the city and county and the potential lengthy timeframe (45 years) for the county to realize those returns.

Supervisor Kobseff requested information regarding will there be a sufficient tax base to provide funding for future projects, the possible need for bond issuance and the composition of the PFA Board.

Further discussion followed regarding the process utilized to project the potential returns, no anticipated need for the issuance of bonds, the possibility to change the composition of the PFA Board, the potential for the County to see returns within approximately 10 years, possible processes associated with annexing certain property and associated impact to the tax base, the tax-exempt status of affordable housing (a possible infrastructure project), possible negative impacts to businesses located outside of an EIFD's boundaries and the anticipated initial and long-term county costs associated with creating a joint EIFD with the City.

Supervisors Ogren and Criss spoke in support of further researching a joint venture with the City to create an EIFD.

Continued...

County Administration – (continued)

Following additional discussion regarding potential benefits associated with an existing EIFD related to grant funding applications and an increased tax base, the possible increased number of jobs and other social benefits associated with infrastructure projects, the availability of secured and unsecured taxes on property located within an EIFD's boundaries, it was moved by Supervisor Valenzuela, seconded by Supervisor Ogren to direct staff pursue the proposed Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District as a joint partner with the City of Mt. Shasta.

Following discussion regarding the need to research the omission of a certain parcel/property located near I-5 in Mt. Shasta from the EIFD study area and the requested addition of the County being indemnified from harm in the future, the Chair called for the question. Following a roll call vote with Supervisors Kobseff, Criss, Ogren and Valenzuela voting YES and Supervisor Haupt voting NO, the motion carried.

Board of Supervisors' Requests - Supervisor Ogren/Public Works - Discussion and possible direction pertaining to Off Highway Combined Use Roadway sections within the County and associated Siskiyou County Off Highway Vehicle Ordinance. Staff directed to move forward with development of an ordinance for further Board consideration.

Supervisor Ogren provided a brief overview of the request and introduced Siskiyou County Off Road Riders (SCORR) representative Darrell Collins.

Mr. Collins appeared before the Board, providing a brief history of various requests to the Board to declare certain roadways within the County accessible to Off Highway Vehicles (OHV) that were declared illegal access under the Forest Service's Travel Management Plan. Mr. Collins advised that a County ordinance, rather than a Resolution, to allow OHV travel was needed.

In response to Supervisor Kobseff, Mr. Collins advised that the California Highway Patrol (CHP) had been requested to review the proposed roadway map and give their approval.

CHP Officers Perkins and Barr appeared before the Board.

Officer Perkins advised that a review of the proposed map/roadways had been completed and that State Route 96 (SR96) was omitted from the proposal due to safety concerns. Officer Perkins further advised that the State CHP Office also approved the proposed map, minus SR 96, to designate the roadways for Combined-Use.

In response to Supervisor Kobseff, Supervisor Ogren advised that OHVs would need to be trailered in order to cross SR96.

Discussion followed between members of the Board, Mr. Collins and Public Works Director Tom Deany regarding a proposed State of Jefferson Trade Route for use by OHVs to travel from Yreka to the Pacific Ocean via Forest Service, County and State roadways, future plans to research permitting or other methods for OHVs to travel the Trade Route, the current request for County approval of the Combined-Use roads proposal and the need for direction to staff concerning the request and associated ordinance development.

OHV advocate Don Amador appeared before the Board, expressing support for the request and for the potential benefits to be gained from a Combined-Use status for the California Green Sticker grant program.

Yreka resident Jeff Strutz appeared before the Board, voicing support for the request and for the potential economic benefits associated with a Combined-Use designation.

Discover Siskiyou representatives Heather Dodds and Jason Young appeared before the Board and spoke in support of the request and the potential positive economic benefits.

OreCal Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) representative George Jennings appeared before the Board and voiced support for the proposed Combined-Use designation and potential grant funding opportunities.

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Board of Supervisors' Requests - Supervisor Ogren/Public Works – (continued)

City of Yreka Public Works Director Matthew Bray, speaking for the City of Yreka Police Department and for City of Yreka Public Works, expressed support of the proposal and request.

SCORR member Cory Ryder shared support for the request and the tourists that OHVs bring to the County.

Redding Dirt Riders President Casey Bokavich appeared before the Board, sharing support for the request and potential economic benefits.

Audience member Ann Steinbring appeared before the Board, speaking in support of the request and advising of the need for various recreation opportunities.

Sheriff Jeremiah Larue appeared before the Board, voicing support for the request and for grant opportunities that could provide funding for patrols in the areas that OHVs travel.

Klamath National Forest Supervisor Rachel Smith and Officer Rocha appeared before the Board. Ms. Smith spoke in support of approval of the request and the potential grant funding opportunities that could be provided.

Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham advised that the Clerk’s Office and the Board received an email correspondence from Randall Boyd expressing support for the request.

It was moved by Supervisor Ogren, seconded by Supervisor Criss and carried following a roll call vote with Supervisors Haupt, Kobseff, Criss, Ogren and Valenzuela voting YES to direct Public Works staff to continue the development of an ordinance for Combined-Use roadway sections in the County for the Board’s consideration at a future meeting.

Supervisor Kobseff requested that SCORR provide a letter identifying various roadway inspection efforts.

District Attorney - Update on current operations and activities within the Department. Dropped from the agenda.

Chair Valenzuela advised that this item was dropped from the agenda at the Department’s request.

Closed Session - Conference with legal counsel, existing litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1), conference with legal counsel, anticipated litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9, Initiation of litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(4), one case, commenced at 11:25a.m., concluded at 11:38a.m., with no action taken.

Report On Closed Session

County Counsel Natalie E. Reed announced that closed session concluded at 11:38a.m., with no reportable action taken.

Board and Staff Reports

Supervisor Haupt advised of his attendance, with Supervisor Kobseff, for a California Department of Fish and Wildlife presentation regarding the planting of fish in wilderness lakes.

Supervisor Ogren advised that the National Night Out event in Yreka was a success.

Adjournment - There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:
Laura Bynum, County Clerk

Ed Valenzuela, Chair

By: _____
Deputy