



MAY 17, 2023
ADOPTED MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. in the City of Eureka Council Chambers and via Zoom video conference with Chair Bushnell presiding.

2. FLAG SALUTE

3. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Michelle Bushnell, Debra Lake, Ali Lee, Mike Losey, Steve Madrone, and Troy Nicolini
Members Absent: Steve Ladwig
Alternates Present: Gordon Johnson
Alternates Absent: Heidi Benzonelli, Jack West, and Mike Wilson
Staff: Colette Santsche, Executive Officer
Krystle Heaney, Clerk
Ryan Plotz, Attorney

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ed Voice provided public comment regarding his May 4th correspondence to staff.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A) Approval of March 15, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Lee requested a correction be made concerning her abstention to Agenda Item 6A, Appointment of Alternate Public Member to Commission. Staff will make the correction accordingly.

Motion Madrone/Losey to approve the consent calendar with the correction. Motion passed by 6-0-0 voice vote.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS - None

7. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

A) Final Budget and Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2023-24

Executive Officer Santsche introduced the staff report. The commission discussed staff efforts to develop a web-based GIS mapping on the LAFCo website that also included annexation history going back 10-15 years and other land use and resource layers. The Commission directed staff to bring back a scope of work at the next meeting.

Motion Madrone/Nicolini to adopt Resolution No. 23-03, approving the final budget for fiscal year 2023-24. Motion passed by 6-0-0 roll call vote.

8. INFORMATIONAL AND CONTINUING ITEMS

A) Preview of Draft Agency Profiles for South County Municipal Services Review and Sphere of Influence Update

Clerk Heaney introduced the staff report and provided a brief summary of the Alderpoint County Water District (CWD) and Phillippsville Community Services District (CSD). Commissioners held discussion regarding Alderpoint CWD which focused on District water supply, service area, and financial status. Commissioners inquired about the District's ability to obtain grants for infrastructure improvements such as replacing water mains and developing a second source of water. Due to the District's location on a terrace there may be natural springs nearby that could provide emergency water supply. Commissioners also asked if it was reasonable to expand the District's SOI while they are experiencing financial hardships. Since the expansion areas are already served with water by the District it is reasonable to expand the SOI in these areas.

Additional discussion was held on the District's financial standing and potential resources that could be utilized for assistance such as the North Coast Regional Partnership (NRCPP) along with opportunities for financial assistance such as grants for solar arrays to help offset electricity costs and replacing water meters. The Commission also recommended coordinating with the local fire chief to obtain a more accurate estimate of the population in the community.

Commissioners then held minimal discussion regarding Phillippsville CSD. It was noted that providing education about potential cross connection issues may be more beneficial than adopting a cross connection ordinance. Commissioners also inquired about the District's ability to take on responsibility for the volunteer fire department. Staff stated that they have been coordinating with the District on possible avenues for supporting the VFD such as activation of fire and emergency response powers or contracting with the VFD for administrative support services. There is also opportunities for regional annexation/consolidation with nearby fire service providers.

Commissioners also inquired about what happens to non-functioning or potentially failing districts. Staff stated that it's in everyone's best interest (the County, State departments via funding, and LAFCo) to provide assistance and help rebuild a district before it gets to a point where it is not functioning.

B) Status of Current and Future Proposals

EO Santsche introduced the staff report and provided a brief summary of current applications. Staff is working with the newly formed Salmon Creek Fire Protection District and the Garberville Fire Protection Districts to submit paperwork to the State Board of Equalization and satisfy other conditions of approval. EO Santsche also noted that Measure Z funds have been decreasing recently and may not be available in the future to support fire service coordination efforts. Staff is currently looking into alternative funding sources to support these efforts.

9. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

A) CALAFCO Board Meeting (April 21, 2023)

B) CALAFCO Daily Legislative Report (May 2023)

C) Form 700 and Ethics Training

EO Santsche introduced the staff report and provided a reminder about Form 700 and ethics training requirements. It was also noted that Commissioner Lake's seat on the CALAFCO Board will be up for election this year and she is not seeking reelection at this time. There is also one county seat that will become available as well.

Commissioner Lake noted that at the last CALAFCO Board meeting there were discussions about the next annual meeting and staff workshop. Nominations will be opening up soon for the annual meeting awards and she would like to see someone nominated from Humboldt. EO Santsche noted that award nomination materials will be included in the next meeting packet.

10. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE - None

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m. The next regular meeting of the Commission will be held on Wednesday, July 19, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at the City of Eureka Council Chambers located at 531 K Street, Eureka, CA 95501.