



JULY 17, 2024
ADOPTED MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 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, Mike Losey, Steve Madrone, and Elaine Weinreb*

Members Absent: Steve Ladwig and Troy Nicolini

Alternates Present: Heidi Benzonelli** and Gordon Johnson**

Alternates Absent: Jack West and Mike Wilson

Staff: Colette Santsche, Executive Officer
Krystle Heaney, Clerk
Ryan Plotz, Attorney

*Appointed as Regular Public Member during item 6B.

**Seated as voting member

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A) Approval of May 23, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes

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

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

A) Approval of Conducting Authority Proceedings for the Arcata Fire Protection District Annexation of its Goodwill Response Areas located along Fickle Hill and Jacoby Creek Roads

EO Santsche introduced the staff report and explained that the protest hearing was continued due to issues with the LAFCo mailing address and telephone during the office relocation. She also provided an overview of the protests that were received which have also been included in the staff report. The protests received were not enough to call for an election or terminate the proceedings.

Commissioners held discussion about the protest proceedings which included how the protest thresholds are set, if the protest letters were previously provided to the Commission, and if any of the protests were associated with vacant/unimproved land. EO Santsche explained that the protest thresholds are set by the CKH Act, the protest was extended so this is the first meeting where Commissioners are receiving a summary of the protests, and the protests were predominantly from owners of

improved land but some were of low value. It was also clarified that protests can only be submitted by landowners or registered voters within the proposed annexation area, and landowner protests are calculated based on the value of land (not structure value).

Lastly, it was noted that Arcata FPD is currently providing service to the area on a goodwill basis, and that annexation will provide annual funding to support continued services by the District.

Motion Losey/ Lake to adopt Resolution 24-05 approving the conducting authority proceedings for the Arcata FPD Goodwill Response Area annexation. Motion passed by 6-0-0 roll call vote.

B) Appointment of Regular Public Member

EO Santsche introduced the staff report and noted that four applications were received of which two candidates were selected for interviews. The selection subcommittee is recommending Elaine Weinreb be appointed as the new Regular Public Member. The subcommittee noted that Elaine submitted a good application and provided good information during the interview. She is also very familiar with local communities and governmental structure in the county.

Ms. Weinreb provided comment to the Commission that included details about her background and her interest in local government and environmental issues. She noted that good public planning is the key to Humboldt's future. No further public comment was received.

Motion Losey/ Lake to appoint Elaine Weinreb as the Regular Public Member for the 2024-2028 term. Motion passed by 6-0-0 voice vote.

*Commissioner Weinreb was seated as a voting member and Alternate Commissioner Johnson stepped down as a voting member.

C) CALAFCO Board Member Nomination and Designation of Voting Delegate

EO Santsche introduced the staff report and provided information on what CALAFCO is. She noted that the annual conference will be taking place near Yosemite and the Commission has budgeted for two commissioners/staff to attend. Chair Bushnell has already expressed interest in attending and is proposed as the voting delegate for Humboldt LAFCo.

EO Santsche also let the Commission know that there are open Board positions. Commissioner Lake commented on her time on the CALAFCO Board and noted that it is important to represent rural communities like Humboldt at the state level.

Motion Madrone/ Lake to appoint Michelle Bushnell as the voting delegate for the 2024 CALAFCO Annual Conference. Motion passed by 6-0-0 voice vote.

8. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

A) Orick Community Services District Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update (continued from May 23, 2024 Special Meeting)

Clerk Heaney introduced the staff report and provided an overview of the changes that were made to the document based on additional information provided by the District and input from Commissioners and County staff on levee needs.

Commissioner Madrone noted that he reached out to Congressman Huffman regarding the levees in Orick and is working with County staff on a levee maintenance program. Additional Commissioner comment included that the provision of water, wastewater, and levee maintenance are all interconnected, and that Orick used to be a vibrant community and could be again. Commissioner Johnson asked about the Districts water rates and staff indicated they would reach out to the District and request this information.

Motion Madrone/ Losey to adopt Resolution 24-06 approving the Orick CSD MSR/SOI Update and reaffirming the All Services SOI (coterminous) and Fire Only SOI (Expanded) for the District. Motion passed by 6-0-0 roll call vote.

B) Orleans Community Services District Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update

Clerk Heaney introduced the staff report and provided an overview of water services provided by the District. Orleans CSD currently provides water services only and has been working to overcome service challenges. The water treatment filtration system is not currently approved by the State and their main storage tank needs to be replaced which has led to a boil water notice for customers. The District has received grant funding to help address these issues and is currently in the planning phase of the project. More information will be provided by the District on current planning efforts and District finances which will be included in the next draft of the report.

Commissioners held discussion about Orleans CSD and asked clarifying questions including why exactly the boil water notice was issued, what the current sampling reports are showing, and if there is funding available to fix pipelines. Staff will look into these questions and provide more information at the next meeting. It was also noted by Commissioners that water losses are high for the District and it may be beneficial to look at another source of water such as a natural spring.

Motion Madrone/ Weinreb to continue the public hearing to the next regular Commission meeting on September 18, 2024. Motion passed by 6-0-0 voice vote.

9. INFORMATIONAL AND CONTINUING ITEMS

A) Status of Expiring Commissioner Terms

EO Santsche introduced the staff report and provided a brief summary of expiring commissioner terms in 2024. She noted that a quorum of votes for the Special District election was not received so the voting period was extended. Staff are working on getting the word out and are hopefully that a quorum will be reached soon. Additionally, County staff are working on scheduling a City Selection Committee meeting.

It was noted that Commissioners Losey and Lake can continue to serve until new members are selected but this will likely be their last meeting. Commissioners expressed gratitude for their service.

B) Status Municipal Service Review Preparations

Clerk Heaney introduced the staff report and provided an overview of current MSR preparations. Revisions will be made to the Orleans CSD MSR/SOI Update which will be provided at the next regular meeting. Staff will also be moving forward with the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District and City of Eureka MSRs. These documents are planned to be completed in the fall/winter.

C) Status of Current and Future Proposals

EO Santsche introduced the staff report and provided a brief summary of current applications. Based on the Commission's action at this meeting, staff will be moving forward with conditions compliance and Board of Equalization filing for the Arcata FPD Goodwill Area annexation. The EO is also continuing to work with Kneeland and Redway FPDs on proposed annexations. The fire services working group is continuing discussions on north county fire services planning efforts and is catching up on the Fire Chiefs' Annual Reports.

EO Santsche last met with Humboldt CSD regarding their proposed annexation in February. They have expressed interest in obtaining a portion of the property tax share increment and are currently coordinating with the County. Early coordination is beneficial since there is a 90-day limit on tax negotiations once an application is submitted to LAFCO.

10. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

A) CALAFCO Daily Legislative Report (May 2024)

EO Santsche noted that the current legislative list was included in the packet for Commission review.

11. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE - None

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:11am. The next meeting of the Commission will take place on September 18, 2024, at 9:00am at the City of Eureka Council Chambers located at 531 K Street, Eureka, CA 95501.