



MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

William Powers, Vice Chair, 1st District

Robert A. Meacher, 2nd District

Sharon Thrall, 3rd District

Rose Comstock, Chair, 4th District

Ole Olsen, 5th District

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF PLUMAS, STATE OF CALIFORNIA HELD IN QUINCY ON AUGUST 26, 2008

CLOSED SESSION

9:00 A.M. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Conference with Labor Negotiator regarding employee negotiations: Operating Engineers Local #3, Sheriff's Department Employees Association, Confidential Employees, and Un-represented Department Heads.

STANDING ORDERS

ROLL CALL

The meeting is called to order at 10:00 a.m. with Supervisors William Powers, Sharon Thrall, Robert Meacher, Ole Olsen and Chair Rose Comstock present.

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

Kelly Stane offers the invocation and Supervisor Powers leads the flag salute.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS – PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

Linda Bixby: addresses the Board and thanks them for their support of the Plumas County Library.

Tony Olson, owner Lake Davis Resort: presented information regarding claims for damages as a result of the Lake Davis pike eradication. He requested the County participate in a suit for damages. County Counsel was directed to follow up with Mr. Olson.

Stan Diamond, Post Commander Veterans' Foreign Wars: stated his support for the Veterans' Service Office and related its importance to veterans.

Ed Cox, Service Officer, Greenville Branch, Veterans' Service: addressed the Board in support of Veterans' Service Office and requested that cuts not be made to that department.

Carol Lee, Therapist, Alcohol & Drug Department: requested the Board to consider the effect on the community if cuts are made.

Adele Meyer, Court Investigator, Consultant: expressed concerns for the Alcohol and Drug Department and the lack of services that may result.

Hank Eisenman, Chair of the Alcohol & Drug Advisory Board: spoke on behalf of the Alcohol and Drug Department and the options presented by Sheryl Austin, Interim Alcohol & Drug Director. Mr. Eisenman and the Advisory Board recommend alcohol and drug services be continued.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

PUBLIC HEARING – FY 2008 -2009 PLUMAS COUNTY BUDGET
PLUMAS COUNTY DISTRICTS

Michelle Piller: spoke on behalf of the Mohawk Valley Community Services District thanking the Board for their budget contribution.

John Sheehan (Plumas Corporation)/Susi Braaken (Visitors' Bureau):

Mr. Sheehan gave an overview to the Board of the TOT funds and their distribution as authorized in Plumas County Ordinance 90-741. Susi Braaken spoke on the negative implications of the proposed cuts to the Visitors' Bureau. She stated the services that were provided by the Visitors' Bureau to Plumas County. She noted that TOT funds have increased 12% since 2006. She requested restoration of cuts to the Visitors' Bureau proposed budget. Supervisor Meacher asked why those in opposition to TOT increase should have funds reinstated for their use. Discussion followed.

Lisa Kelly, Greenhorn Ranch Marketing Director: stated her reasons for opposition to TOT, but was in support of re-instatement of funding for Visitors' Bureau. Discussion followed with Supervisor Comstock stating that wherever cuts restored, cuts would have to be made at another level.

Sara Metzler, Quincy Chamber of Commerce: discussed TOT and drawbacks to raising rate. She asked that the tourism budget be restored. She recommended reducing the number of county vehicles.

Bob Carter, Vice Chair of Indian Valley Chamber of Commerce: addressed the Board stating he appreciated the contribution by the Board. He suggested in lieu of receiving the budgeted amount, his organization would like to exchange the amount received for the excess county property located next to the Chamber building. Mr. Carter suggested installing public restrooms, and other facilities for Chamber activities on that property. Discussion followed. The Chair directed Jack Ingstad, CAO, to research the possibility of an exchange. Mr. Ingstad suggested, following research, a recommendation could be implemented through the budget process.

Roxanne Valladao, Executive Director, Plumas Arts: addressed the Board with a history of the funding for the arts. She stated all funding from the State for their arts programs has ceased. She further stated they rely heavily on fund raising, and she appreciated the funding received from the County. The Board acknowledged Plumas Arts' fund raising accomplishments.

Almanor Recreation District

Spokesperson, Supervisor Sherrie Thrall expressed her gratitude for the funding received, and stated she understood the cuts to the district.

Law Library

CAO, Jack Ingstad, suggested the possibility of a reorganization of the Law Library due to a retirement. Chair Rose Comstock suggested fees be charged to the Courts and attorneys to cover subscription costs. Discussion followed.

No further comments from the districts were received.

Supervisor Powers commended the CAO, Jack Ingstad, the Auditor, Shawn Montgomery, and the Human Resources Director, Gayla Trumbo and all department heads for their hard decisions in developing the FY 2008-2009 budget.

PUBLIC HEARING – FY 2008 -2009 PLUMAS COUNTY BUDGET
PLUMAS COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

PLUMAS COUNTY LIBRARY – MARGARET MILES, LIBRARIAN

Ms. Miles addressed the Board and discussed the library services offered. She appreciated the Board limiting her budget cut to \$10,000. Discussion followed.

MUSEUM – LORI SIMPSON, ASSISTANT

Ms. Simpson addressed the Board about their discretionary and travel funds. She asked if the Board could further cut their budget, since county positions were being cut.

RICK DAVIS, OPERATING ENGINEERS UNION

Mr. Davis addressed the Board regarding the proposed budget cuts. He expressed concern about the elimination of the Alcohol and Drug Department as a whole department. He stated he would like the Board to consider some alternative.

PUBLIC WORKS – BOB PERREAULT

Bob Perreault, Director of Public Works, and Phyllis Taddei, Public Works Fiscal Officer, discussed the Public Works/Road Department budget figures. Mr. Perreault stated \$300,000 had not been included in his budget due to late notification of funds to be received from State AB1252 and Proposition 1B. Mr. Ingstad noted the Public Works budget was still out of balance by \$200,000. Mr. Ingstad recommended a work force reduction to bring this budget into balance. He further noted that Public Works reserves were not adequate for future years. Discussion followed regarding unfilled positions in the department. The Board requested Mr. Perreault confer with Gayla Trumbo, Human Resources Director, and return after the Noon recess with budget adjustments.

NOON RECESS

2. AFTERNOON SESSION

The Board reconvenes at 1:30 p.m. with all Board members present as in the morning session.

PUBLIC WORKS – BOB PERREAULT

There is further discussion by Bob Perreault regarding the imbalance in the Public Works budget. There is a consensus by the Board to use the balanced budget as presented by the CAO/Budget Officer.

FLOOD CONTROL – BRIAN MORRIS

Mr. Morris addresses the Board regarding a rate increased imposed by DWR for water charges and requests the Board transfer monies between line items to cover these charges. Discussion followed. The Board directs the Auditor to make the adjustments.

DOYLE FRAZIER

Mr. Frazier addresses the Board requesting they reconsider cuts to the Veterans' Service Office.

JOHN GALLAGHER

Mr. Gallagher addresses the Board regarding the Veterans' Service Office, explaining the issue of certification of the staff at that office and the effect of the loss of the staff to the community.

VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICE – SHERYL AUSTIN, VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICER

Ms. Austin addresses the Board with her concerns regarding the budget cuts to that office. She noted the cuts will affect half of her budget, and provided the Board with a summary of services that her office gives to county veterans. When asked, she recommended cuts to community service budgets to augment the Veterans' Service budget. Discussion followed.

Rose Comstock directed the Auditor to transfer District 4 community funds in the amount of \$5,000 to the Veterans' Service Office to augment that budget in order to reduce work force reduction.

Ole Olsen concurred and directed the Auditor to transfer District 5 community funds in the amount of \$5,000 to the Veterans' Service Office.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – DAVE PRESTON

Mr. Preston addressed the Board and noted the reduction to his budget was made by an upcoming employee retirement (1 FTE) and reduction of hours for a technician (.25 FTE). Discussion followed and the Board directed Human Resources to remove the one FTE position allocation for that department.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

A written report was provided to the Board by the Chair, Chuck Leonhardt. CAO Jack Ingstad noted there was \$50,982 designated for projects to be funded, and that the items requested were not critical replacements. Discussion followed. Elliott Smart confirmed that his request for vehicles for Social Services had been withdrawn. Joe Wilson, Interim Facilities Director, noted the generator for the Portola Memorial Hall had been purchased and installation was necessary since the hall was an evacuation center. Consensus of the Board was to install the generator at a cost of \$9000.

Mr. Wilson addressed the Board regarding the mandated ADA compliance issues. It was noted that the General Fund budgeted \$100,000 for ADA purposes. Consensus of the Board was to allocate \$60,000 for the continued Self Evaluation Transition Plan.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT – SHARON REINERT

Ms. Reinert addressed the Board regarding budget reductions of \$60,000 in two of her departments, and requested restoration of those funds. CAO Jack Ingstad noted he had requested cuts to her operational budget, which had not occurred. Discussion followed. Ms. Reinert requested \$30,000 be restored in wages which had not been reflected in the allocations from Human Resources. The Board recommended the restoration of \$30,000 to wages to be taken from the General Fund General Services in order to reorganize the positions allocated and previously funded.

MENTAL HEALTH – JOHN SEBOLD

Mr. Sebold addressed the Board regarding budget cuts, recommended a meet and confer process, and noted his department was fully funded. He stated a furlough would adversely affect his employees, and said there was no advantage to a furlough. He further stated a disadvantage would be a lack of service which was not cost effective.

LORI SIMPSON

Ms. Simpson addressed the Board with her concerns over the County Counsel budget costs. Discussion followed.

PUBLIC WORKS – BOB PERREAULT

Mr. Perreault addressed the Board, after conferring with Gayla Trumbo, Human Resources Director, and agreed to further reduce his line item for carbon emissions by \$40,000, and eliminate six unfilled FTE positions. Discussion followed regarding the allocation process.

PUBLIC GUARDIAN – ORIE CARDEN

Ms. Carden addressed the Board regarding on call services that her office provides. She requested those services stay in that department.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARD

Chair, Rose Comstock, directed the Auditor to reduce District 4 travel budget to -0- and transfer those funds to Senior Nutrition.

Consensus of the Board to use \$9,000. from Capital Improvements to fund the Portola Memorial Hall generator installation; transfer \$30,000 from the General Fund General Services to Probation to cover wages; reduce the Public Works budget by \$40,000 from the carbon emissions line item and reduce 6 FTE positions, and increase revenue by \$312,000 to cover regular wages line item.

FURLoughs

Mr. Ingstad addressed the Board citing the Administrative Controls which allow for 8 furlough days in some bargaining units and 10 furlough days in others. He suggested the contract signing authority for department heads be raised from \$500 to \$3000, and that approvals for taking county vehicles home be revoked, except those that are IRS exempt.

FAIR – JACK INGSTAD

Mr. Ingstad addressed the Board regarding the Fair budget and noted the need to reduce staff in order to stay within that budget for the fiscal year.

ALCOHOL & DRUG DEPARTMENT – SHERYL AUSTIN, INTERIM DIRECTOR

Ms. Austin gave the Board an overview of the department shortfall. She stated the projected revenue was \$880,233, with projected workers' compensation expense of \$63,005, projected liability expense of \$165,562, projected overhead costs of operation of \$346,082, projected salaries and benefits \$839,534, projected operating expenses, supplies \$56,478 for a deficit of -\$590,428. Auditor, Shawn Montgomery, noted the DUI program revenues for FY 07-08 were negative \$28,000. Ms. Austin stated the Drug Court grant was not approved by the Court to be administered by the A&D department, which is a further loss to the department of \$205,077. Ms. Austin further noted that the A&D department had incurred audit exceptions in prior years that were required to be paid to the State in amounts totaling \$114,039; funding from NNA (Net Negotiating Act, a federal block grant) could not be obtained until the FY 01-02 audit exception of \$25,438 had been paid.

Ms. Austin presented two options for the department to remain open. 1) An additional General Fund contribution of \$500,000 for the remainder of FY 08-09 would be required to keep the department open, 2) asking the county to absorb all the overhead costs over 15% including workers' compensation. She noted if the department remained open, work force reductions would be necessary and all programs would have to be run by only two therapists.

She noted to close the department would cost the county approximately \$700,000, which would include buy outs of leave time. This would be a one-time expense to the General Fund. She stated Prop 36 is mandated and recommended contracting that service out. She stated the Court would consider administering the program.

ALCOHOL & DRUG DEPARTMENT – ALTERNATE PROPOSAL BY EMPLOYEES

Randy Schwartz, A&D Fiscal Officer, representing the employees, presented a counter proposal to the Board. He suggested all overhead, workers' compensation and liability be covered by the General Fund. He suggested the following work force reductions of 1FTE therapist, 1 probation officer, and 1 Program Chief for a savings of \$530,000 in salaries and benefits. CAO Jack Ingstad disagreed with the figures as stated and asked Mr. Schwartz what budget line items he was reducing. Mr. Schwartz stated he included workers' compensation and liability in his salaries and benefits line items. Mr. Ingstad stated Mr. Schwartz should not have included those figures together. Auditor Shawn Montgomery stated the overhead costs A&D incurred were based on the formula attributed to each department in the Health & Human Services building and were not negotiable. Discussion followed. Kathleen Schwartz, a therapist for the department, asked the Board where funding would occur should Prop 36 be expanded and more services required. Patty Miller, an employee of the department voiced her concern about A&D clients should the department close. Carol Lee, a therapist for the department, stated her concerns about the transition if A&D closed. Further discussion by the Board followed.

Supervisor Powers expressed the consensus of the Board by stating this budget year only core services that are necessary under the law could be considered, and all else was expendable. Supervisor Thrall echoed those comments and stated the county can't afford to offer services that aren't core services. The County must cut their losses to keep staff as best as possible. Supervisor Meacher referred to the State's budget problems and losses of revenue as well as other counties across the country. He stated he not only worried about the A&D department but other departments in the future. Supervisors Olsen and Comstock agreed and noted the county's serious budget troubles.

At the direction of the Board, the Budget Officer/CAO and Auditor are to make the noted recommended changes to the budget, recommend the closure of the Alcohol and Drug Department, absorb the \$114,139 in audit exceptions and all other employee related expenses in the Alcohol and Drug Department.

CLOSED SESSION

3. 5:00 p.m. **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Personnel

Public employee appointment or employment – Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures

Public employee appointment or employment – Director of Planning

URGENCY ITEM – BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION RESOLUTIONS

Motion by Supervisor Powers, second by Supervisor Thrall to add this matter to the agenda as an urgency matter because the need for action was not apparent prior to the posting of the agenda. Ayes: Supervisors Powers, Thrall, Meacher, Olsen, and Comstock. Noes: None. Absent: None. Carried and so ordered.

Upon report and recommendation by David Keller, Director of the Community Development Commission, motion by Supervisor Powers and second by Supervisor Thrall and carried to adopt Resolution 08-7498, approving an application for funding and the execution of a grant agreement and any amendments thereto from the Planning and Technical Assistance **General** allocation of the State CDBG program, and to adopt Resolution 08-7499, approving an application for funding and the execution of a grant agreement and any amendments thereto from the Planning and Technical Assistance **Economic Development** allocation of the State CDBG program. **Roll Call Vote:** Ayes: Supervisors Powers, Thrall, Meacher, Olsen, and Comstock. Noes: None. Absent: None. Carried and so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourns at 6:45 p.m. to meet again on September 23, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. as the Community Development Commission and at 10:00 a.m. as the Board of Supervisors for all purposes.

I, C. CASKIE, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING MINUTES OF SAID MEETING OF THE PLUMAS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD ON AUGUST 26, 2008 ARE CORRECT AS RECORDED.

C. Caskie, Deputy Clerk of the Board