

Local Agency Formation Commission of Modoc County

Meeting Minutes of April 12, 2016

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:

Chair Rhoads called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m., in the City Council Chambers, Alturas City Hall. Commissioners Byrne (County Alternate), Dederick, Irvin, Rhoads and Shea were present. Public Member Alternate Clinton Davis was also present. Commissioner Allan was absent.

Staff Present: John Benoit, Executive Officer; Kim Hunter, Clerk

Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of Agenda

An addendum to the agenda was proposed by Executive Officer Benoit adding two items: A. Bylaw amendment policy for participating in the legislative process where the full commission is unable to respond in a timely manner; and, B. Conduct general discussion regarding the status of Healthcare Services in Modoc County and provide direction to staff and possible appointment of *ad hoc* committee. Commissioner Shea made the motion to approve the agenda with the addendum; seconded by Commissioner Dederick. In favor: Byrne, Dederick, Irvin, Rhoads and Shea.

3. Approval of Minutes: December 15, 2015 and February 9, 2016

Commissioner Shea made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the December 15, 2015 and February 9, 2016 meetings; seconded by Commissioner Irvin. In favor: Byrne, Dederick, Irvin, Rhoads and Shea.

4. Correspondence

No correspondence.

5. Public Comment

No public comment.

6. Ratify Claims for February 2016 and Authorize Payment of Claims for March 2016

a. Approve payment of expenses for February 2016 and March 2016.

Commissioner Shea made the motion to approve payment of expenses for February 2016 and March 2016; seconded by Commissioner Irvin. In favor: Byrne, Dederick, Irvin, Rhoads and Shea.

7. Public Hearing regarding the proposed Modoc LAFCo 2016-2017 annual Budget.

a. Discuss and conduct public hearing regarding the proposed 2016-2017 fiscal year annual budget.

b. Consider Resolution 2016-0001 making determinations regarding the proposed FY 2016-2017 proposed LAFCo Budget.

Chair Rhoads opened the public hearing at 4:05.

a. Executive Officer Benoit provided a staff report. A budget worksheet to review the proposed budget has been prepared and is included in the staff packet. Some changes have occurred for this next budget that must be pointed out. 1) There has been a fee increase for Calafco membership from \$769 to \$840. 2) Modoc LAFCo files will be converted to an electronic format. There is a cost to do this but the conversion will result in the files being more accessible and compliance with State law (SB 72). 3) The Transportation and Travel budget item has been increased because the Calafco annual conference is in Santa Barbara this year which means there will be a long travel time and high costs. This increase will allow one person from Modoc LAFCo Commission to attend.

The goal is to keep the budget the same. The total budget for FY 2016-2017 is \$76,714. County and City portions are both \$20,357 each. This is a lower amount being contributed from the County and City because the contingency fund is being utilized to complete Municipal Service Review Updates. The expected revenue for application fees is \$36,000. The account is solvent.

b. Commissioner Irvin made the motion to approve Resolution 2016-0001 for the proposed budget for FY 2016-2017; seconded by Commissioner Dederick. In favor: In favor: Byrne, Dederick, Irvin, Rhoads and Shea.

8. Discussion and Report regarding the Calafco Annual Staff Workshop in Los Angeles

a. Discussion regarding the Calafco Annual Staff Workshop.

Executive Officer Benoit provided a legislative review of the topics of interest from the Calafco Annual Staff Workshop that was held in Los Angeles. There was more discussion on the conversion to LAFCo files to electronic format. SB 88 regarding water district consolidation was further discussed. There are numerous issues with the legislation. Efforts are being made to address deficiencies and issues.

Addendum Item A. Bylaw amendment policy for participating in the legislative process where the full commission is unable to respond in a timely manner.

Executive Officer Benoit explained the need to amend the bylaws to allow comment letters to be sent for proposed legislation with approval of the chair to meet deadlines. Because the Commission only meets every other month, the timely response to bills can be difficult. The Commission agreed that this item should be placed on the June meeting as a resolution.

Addendum Item B. Conduct general discussion regarding the status of Healthcare Services in Modoc County and provide direction to staff and possible appointment of an ad hoc committee.

Chair Rhoads recommended moving on to the Addendum Item B since Kevin Kramer, Modoc Medical Center CEO, and Chester Robertson, Modoc County CAO, were both present to speak on this issue. Chester Robertson spoke first noting that years ago the financial issues associated with the Modoc Medical Center affected the whole County. Now, concerns are growing about

the Surprise Valley Healthcare District (SVHD). Some individuals have tried to get the hospital shut down or used extreme measures to address the issues. However, LAFCo offers a non-threatening option for the review of Modoc's hospital districts. A review of this kind would recommend potential options. Also, Municipal Service Reviews can be tools that are used for District's with known problems.

Commissioner Dederick asked if two different Municipal Service Reviews could be done on the Hospital Districts. Executive Officer Benoit affirmed that this could be done. However, a comprehensive review would not just be on the Hospital Districts but on all healthcare services in the Community and would incorporate performance standards. Plumas County held a healthcare district workshop that Executive Officer Benoit attended. An example performance standard that was discussed at the workshop was to create a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) within 2-3 years. The intent of developing such a plan would be to keep the healthcare issues on the forefront. Following the review, the Sphere of Influences would be updated as appropriate.

Kevin Kramer noted that the Modoc County Healthcare Needs Assessment has been completed by the Modoc Medical Center and the Modoc County Department of Public Health. The Joint Powers Agreement between Modoc Medical Center, Surprise Valley, Lake View and Mayers Memorial is somewhat functioning. The challenge is that the Districts are at different stages. Because of many factors, it is complicated to keep hospital districts going forward. Collaboration is important but isn't always successful. Willingness of all parties to collaborate is essential.

Commissioner Dederick expressed concern about LAFCo being the appropriate agency to take up this issue especially because the turmoil surrounding these healthcare districts. Chester Robertson noted that it is appropriate since the impacts of service loss based on the loss of services due to a hospital closure or other loss of healthcare services. The intent is to identify the countywide need to understand impacts and keeping healthcare services sustainable. Executive Officer Benoit noted that the review would not have to be costly. Such a review would not propose any closures but recognize and "shine a light" on the issues. LAFCo has review authority. Commissioner Dederick stated that in his opinion the County should be doing this.

9. Executive Officer's Monthly Report

a. Newell County Water District: There has been no response from the Newell County Water District regarding the letter sent to the District's Board of Directors to explain what LAFCo is about so that there is better understanding of the process. According to Jim Cook (consultant for the District) the District wants to make improvements. An updated Municipal Service Review would help with successfully obtaining funds to make those improvements.

b. Annexation to the HSVW: Executive Officer Benoit reported that the Hot Springs Valley Water District continues to move forward with the application for a district boundary annexation which also involves a detachment. This item will be on the June agenda.

c. Lighting District: Still seeking further information.

d. SGMA – Big Valley: Lassen County has directed staff to form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Further discussion took place regarding the issue and ongoing effort of collaboration (or lack thereof) between Modoc and Lassen County. It was noted by County representatives that Lassen County’s request to the Department of Water Resources to enlarge the boundary of the Big Valley Groundwater Basin was not supported by Modoc County.

e. Flood Control – Alturas Area: There has been ongoing correspondence on this issue. Via e-mail, Chair Rhoads provided some ideas on the topic. Two of the most likely, and least complicated, options for forming a mechanism for flood protection that would not involve funding mechanisms are: a County Service Area (CSA) or a enter into a formal agreement (such as an Memorandum of Understanding or MOU) between the City and County. This is also an opportunity to involve the Modoc Resource Conservation District (RCD). Modoc RCD involvement could help with numerous issues and allow access to more USDA funds. (Further discussion with the Commission and staff took place.)

Commissioner Dederick stated that past discussion with the USFWS staff at the Modoc National Wildlife Refuge was positive. The USFWS has expressed a willingness to help with the flood hazard situation. FEMA has been tough to reach and work with. Executive Officer Benoit noted that there has been a change of staff and that it is indeed difficult to reach FEMA for assistance. Funds are available, but tend to be distributed to those places within proximity of high populations. More exposure to Federal agencies helps with funding. Kim Hunter also commented on the process of working with FEMA on the feasibility of options and the development of a flood hazard plan.

f. Big Valley Ambulance – Ballots for the election came out today for the May 3rd election. The outlook for approval this time around is very optimistic. Town hall meetings have been scheduled with information on new helicopter service. Also, new paramedic services are now available in the area for those recently released from the hospital.

11. Commissioner Reports – Discussion

Commissioner Shea reported that he had received the annual bill for the State Response Area fee and that the state is now rushing to spend the funds accrued from this fee. There were no other Commissioner reports or discussion.

12. Adjourn to next regular meeting – June 14, 2016

There being no further business to come before this Commission; Commissioner Dederick made the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. In favor: Byrne, Dederick, Irvin, Rhoads and Shea.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.