

**PLUMAS LAFCO MEETING MINUTES**

**MONDAY, April 13, 2015  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAMBERS  
PLUMAS COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
QUINCY, CALIFORNIA**

**1. CALL TO ORDER - 10:00 a.m.**

Present: John Larrieu, Terry Swofford, Kevin Goss, Phil Oels, and John Hafen

Also Present: Sherrie Thrall, County Alternate, Jeffrey Greening, Public Alternate and John Benoit, Executive Officer

Absent: Michelle Gault

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Agenda approved as written for April 13, 2015. No additions or deletions.

**3. Correspondence**

Benoit had received a letter a couple of months ago regarding a Joint Powers Agreement [Authority] as a precursor to the actual merger between Indian Valley CSD Fire Dept. and Crescent Mills VFD. Benoit asked the discussion be tabled until the next LAFCo meeting due to a potential agreement between the two Districts.

**4. CONSENT ITEM(S)**

- a. Commissioner Hafen asked to add an item to the next agenda regarding the attempt to consolidate cemetery districts. Commissioner Hafen moved and Vice-Chair Goss seconded to approve the February 9, 2015 minutes as submitted. Unanimous approval, motion carried.

**5. Public Comment**

Chair Larrieu opened the meeting for public comment. Jeff Greening stated that LAFCo really needs to address the healthcare issue. Chair Larrieu advised it would be added to a future agenda. Public comment period closed.

**6. Authorize payment of Claims for March, 2015 and ratify claims for February, 2015**

- a. Commissioner Oels moved for the approval of the payment of March, 2015

claims and the ratification of February, 2015 claims. Vice-Chair Goss seconded. Unanimous approval; motion carried.

b.

## **PUBLIC HEARING:**

7. **Service Review for Districts within Central Plumas County more or less including services provided by the Central Plumas Recreation and Park District, Crescent Mills Cemetery District, Crescent Mills Lighting District, Greenville Cemetery District, East Quincy Community Services District, Indian Valley Healthcare District, Indian Valley Recreation and Park District, Plumas Healthcare District, Quincy Community Services District, Quincy Lighting District, Quincy-LaPorte Cemetery District, Taylorsville Cemetery District, County Service Area 6 – Genesee Valley, and County Service Area 11 – Ambulance (continued from December 8, 2014 and February 9, 2015).**

Benoit sent out letters to all the Districts that were the subject of the MSR's. None of the CSA's or county agencies replied. Responses were received from East Quincy, Greenville, Indian Valley Healthcare (acknowledged receipt but no further comments), Quincy CSD, Plumas Healthcare District, Quincy-LaPorte and Taylorsville Cemetery. Also received a response from Highway CSA's 6 and 11, the Lighting District, Crescent Mills Cemetery District, the Central Plumas Park and Recreation District and Indian Valley Park and Rec District. There is an issue with the out-of-area service agreement granted to Plumas Rural Services. Benoit has spoken with Michelle, the Director at Plumas Rural Services, about an application that was supposed to have filed within 60 days of the granting of the agreement and it hasn't been done yet. Michelle is working on it. The issue came up because East Quincy Services District thought it had been annexed and it hadn't yet. The responses are in the MSR draft given to the LAFCo board members.

Chair Larrieu opened the floor to public comment. Commissioner Hafen stated he was surprised at the response LAFCo received and asked the commission to change the way the MSR's are done to include the responses received in the future. Benoit agrees and says he'd also like to include responses in the SOI's.

Dick Castolini with the Quincy Services District said he would appreciate some time to review the MSR before it is approved as they had over 40 comments in the original draft MSR. Benoit says he did send an email out to all the districts with this draft MSR for their review, but agrees that all subject Districts should have time to review prior to final approval. Benoit can produce a final MSR with addendums after it's approved. Commissioner Swofford moved to continue the approval of the MSR until the June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Commissioner Oels seconded. Unanimous approval; motion carried.

**8. Hearing for the Sphere of Influence update for the Crescent Mills FPD and for fire services provided by the Indian Valley CSD.**

Continued until the June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**9. Hearing regarding the Proposed 2014-2015 LAFCo Budget and Work Program for 2015-2016.**

Benoit advises the budget is status quo in term of the dollar amounts. Benoit proposed not to do all of the Service Reviews this year; just the ones that are considered “hot button” issues, such as Feather River Canyon CSD, the healthcare district consolidations and SOI’s. The SOI is where LAFCo would make their recommendations on what needs to be consolidated. Commissioner Hafen asked about the list of districts yet to be reviewed, specifically the Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District, the Plumas County Flood Control & Water Conservation District and the Feather River Resource Conservation District. Does LAFCo really need to do an MSR on these? Benoit says yes, LAFCo is required to do an MSR. They don’t have to be as comprehensive as the MSR’s already done. Commissioner Hafen asked why the Sierra Valley RCD is not on the list. Benoit said there is no record of them; are they active? Commissioner Swofford said that Sierra Valley RCD is based in Sierra County, which is why they’re not on Plumas Co. records. Benoit advised focusing on the priority districts first and not get mired down in MSR’s but move on to SOI’s. Benoit advised the board there is a conference scheduled in the fall in Sacramento, and highly recommended this be the conference that as many board members should attend as possible. The recommended budget was set at \$1,500, but it not going to be enough. The decision of who to send will need to be made by June. Alternate Thrall asked that whoever attends the conference should provide a detailed report to the board of the conference, along with copies of any handouts given. Commissioner Hafen pointed out that the budget copy provided in the packet to the board members shows the letter “t” on the 2014-2015 Final Budget for Professional Services – LAFCo Staff. Benoit advised the number for 2014-2015 was \$40,000. Benoit recommended focusing on the Feather River Canyon CSD as one of the districts to focus on for 2015, along with the other CSD’s. Commissioner Hafen asked about doing the RCD’s since the RCD’s don’t provide municipal services. Alternate Thrall pointed out that she had been advised NRCS was supposed to provide office support and financial backing to RCD’s but hadn’t been. She had asked to be shown that in writing in the hopes that it might help the RCD’s if LAFCo were to do an MSR. Benoit asked if there was a District Conservationist in Plumas Co. Alternate Thrall said no. Commissioner Hafen said he remains skeptical that RCD’s would be subject to an MSR if they don’t provide municipal services. Benoit responded that Shasta

LAFCo ended up involved in a lawsuit for that issue. Shasta LAFCo lost and had to go back and do MSR's. Benoit advised that the term municipal service is a misnomer. The term should be service review, not municipal review. Commissioner Hafen asked why Graeagle CSD hadn't been done yet. Jennifer Stephenson said that due to funding concerns that year some of the districts had to be delayed. Commissioner Hafen clarified that LAFCo will be doing Cromberg Cemetery District, Dixie Valley CSD, Feather River Canyon CSD, Feather River RCD, Graeagle CSD, Johnsville PUD, Meadow Valley Cemetery District, Mohawk Valley Cemetery District and Sierra Valley RCD this year. Commissioner Swofford motioned to adopt the budget for 2015-2016 as printed and continue the work program discussion to June 8th. Commissioner Oels seconded. Roll call vote, unanimous approval; motion carried.

- 10. LAFCo File 2014-ANNX-0003 A Request by Holly Rohrbach to annex 9.3 acres more or less to the LaPorte Fire Protection District. This annexation is known as the Hessel Annex to the LaPorte Fire Protection District consisting of APN 003-310-001 located at 2916 Little Grass Valley Road near the community of LaPorte.**

Benoit advises that LAFCo has 100% landowner consent and the District has consented, so there is no vote required. Benoit recommends approval. Commissioner Hafen pointed out that only two board members had signed the approval. Were there really only two board members? Benoit states there are actually three board members, but since two members had agreed, the quorum requirement was met. Public comment period opened. No public comment; public comment period closed. Vice-Chair Goss motioned to approve LAFCo File 2014-ANNX-003, Commissioner Swofford seconded. Roll call vote, unanimous approval; motion carried.

- 11. Request by Dwight Ceresola regarding LAFCo File 2011-ANNX-0001 regarding content of Resolution 2012-0003 specifically requesting LAFCo amend the Resolution 2012-0002 to remove specific tax amounts and deleting parcels from the Resolution that are already within the district.**

The Resolution essentially had language regarding payments by those being annexed. The proposal is to correct the Resolution not to state a specific amount. The annexation LAFCo just did not have a specific amount stated. There are a couple of other procedural issues mentioned in the staff report related to this annexation. The county is now conditioning a property tax sharing agreement on the district's ability to do a special tax or assessment. Benoit would like to have on our annexations a requirement that when LAFCo receives a citizens initiated annexation, the district also signs an indemnity agreement with LAFCo. LAFCo is not the judge that will determine whether or not a special tax or assessment is valid. The property tax sharing agreement should be done as soon as possible, even as early as with the property map approval. The annexation application

should include an acknowledgement that the property owner is aware the district may charge a special assessment or tax. Dwight Ceresola asked LAFCo to look at how the documents are presented to LAFCo. Is there any way to document the process? Benoit recommends that counsel be present, along with Craig Settlemire, to give a brief presentation regarding Prop. 218, etc. in August or October. Greg McCaffrey, Fire Chief for Beckwourth, spoke about the paragraph Benoit was speaking about. Mr. McCaffrey states that the dollar amount was included in the Resolution. Benoit says that there is a change in the law this year stating that a plan for services is required for everyone, landowners and districts. From now on, anytime an application is submitted, the applicant will have to provide a plan for services. Commissioner Hafen asked how LAFCo could provide relief for Mr. Ceresola? Benoit says there is nothing LAFCo can do; it's out of Lafco's purview. Commissioner Swofford moved to approve Resolution 2015-0004 correcting condition #11 of Resolution 2012-0003. Vice-Chair Goss seconded. Roll call vote; unanimous approval. Motion carried.

**12. Executive Officer's Report**

- a. Benoit says we're working on the City of Portola detachment of some Eastern Plumas Rural Fire area. We'll be receiving an application from Quincy VFD for a new annexation. Plumas County will also be submitting an application for Plumas Rural Services into East Quincy Services District.

**13. Commissioner Reports – Discussion**

Alternate Thrall reminded the board she'd like to have the healthcare district discussion added to the next agenda.

**14. Adjourn to the next LAFCO meeting – June 8, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.**

The next meeting will take place on June 8, 2015. Chair Larrieu adjourned the meeting at 11:24 a.m.