



**SUMMARY MINUTES  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
707 NEVADA STREET, SUSANVILLE  
DECEMBER 23, 2008**

**9:32 A.M. CALL TO ORDER**

**PRESENT:** Supervisors Bob Pyle, Jim Chapman, Lloyd Keefer and Brian Dahle; County Counsel Craig Settlemire, Acting County Administrative Officer (CAO) / Personnel Director/Risk Manager Ron Vossler and Deputy Clerk of the Board Susan Osgood. CAO John Ketelsen is absent. Vice Chairman opens the meeting. Chairman Hanson arrives at 9:42 a.m.

**CLOSED SESSION:** Vice Chairman Keefer announces that no closed session was held. Following the flag salute, the invocation is offered by Vice Chairman Keefer.

**AGENDA APPROVAL, ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS:** Supervisor Chapman requests the meeting be adjourned in memory of Molly Williams. Supervisor Dahle requests the meeting be adjourned in memory of Michael J. "Mickey" McCrary. Supervisor Keefer requests the meeting be adjourned in memory of Shelby Lyn Allen.

**ACTION:** Approve agenda with noted changes.

**MOVED BY:** Dahle

**SECONDED BY:** Pyle

**UNANIMOUS:** Yes

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** 1) Director of Community Social Services Melody Brawley wishes the Board a Merry Christmas. Notes their system was down for a few days but her staff has been working late and will continue to work late to make sure business is taken care of before Christmas. 2) CHP Lt. Eric Liband of the California Highway Patrol (CHP) wants to keep the lines of communication open with the Board. Reports for the first time in the history of Susanville CHP they will be getting a cadet from the academy on February 2nd. Wishes the Board a Merry Christmas. 3) Poet Laureate Violet Stout reads her holiday poem entitled "Christmas Tears".

**AGENDA APPROVAL, ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS, Continued:**

Acting CAO Vossler requests that Item H2 Health and Social Services item, be pulled from today's agenda.

**UNAGENDIZED BOARD REPORTS:**

Supervisor Pyle: Designates the following from his discretionary funds: \$500 to Smiles for Life.

Supervisor Dahle: Received a call from Tom Esgate (Lassen County Fire Safe Council) and Todd Sloat (Biological Consulting, Inc.) regarding the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's ability to pay on Prop 84 funds. They heard there is a problem with their bonds and that would affect Fire Safe Council projects. (Supervisor Hanson arrives at 9:42 a.m.)

Supervisor Chapman: 1) Introduces Janesville resident Jeff Monsell who will be looking at the local political process as his senior class project. 2) Wishes everyone a good holiday.

Supervisor Hanson: 1) Continues to work on the electrical transmission issues; will keep the Board up to date. There is a lot of discussion on transmission lines through Lassen County. 2) Attended the Herlong Community meeting December 18, a bi-monthly meeting hosted by Warden Ives of Federal Correctional Institution, Herlong (FCI Herlong). Sierra Army Depot's (SIAD) Colonel Schiller made a presentation. Supervisor Hanson is proud to represent both FCI Herlong and SIAD. There are 750 to 800 full time employees on the base with a total of 1,300 including contractors. 3) Wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**ACTION:** Take the noted action on the following Consent Calendar items:

COUNTY CLERK ITEM - MINUTES

Approve minutes of December 9, 2008.

AUDITOR & TREASURER DEPARTMENTS ITEM - REPORT

Receive and file Treasurer's Fund Balance Report and Auditor's verification for the month of November, 2008.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT ITEM - TRAINING

Approve travel authorization request for Lori Speer and Deanne Glenn to attend the mandatory Standards & Training for Corrections (STC) Core Training in San Leandro, January 9 - February 6, 2009. The total cost of the training is estimated at \$6,831.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ITEM - PARKS DIVISION - BID AWARD

1) Award the Consultant Contract for the completion of the Location and Design Hydraulic Studies for Skyline Road Extension to Pacific Hydrologic, Inc., Redding, CA in the amount of not-to-exceed \$12,000, and 2) authorize the Public Works Director to sign the agreement upon approval from County Counsel.

SURVEYOR DIVISION - PARCEL MAP - #2007-050 BAER

Adopt Resolution No. 08-093 approving Parcel Map #2007-050 Colleen Baer.

TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR ITEM - REPORT

Receive and file Treasurer's Investment Report for November, 2008.

PRISON TRIAL COSTS ITEMS - PRISON TRIAL COSTS REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM ITEMS

Receive and file recap of CCC Prison and High Desert State Prison Trials Cost Reimbursement Billing for November, 2008.

**MOVED BY:** Keefer

**SECONDED BY:** Dahle

**UNANIMOUS:** Yes

**HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES - FAMILY AND CHILDREN PROTECTIVE SERVICES**

Director of Family and Children Protective Services Terri O'Bryan presents information on the Lassen County Family and Children Protective Services System Improvement Plan which is part of a three year process. The process involves three primary steps including: Peer Review; Self Assessment and System Improvement Plan. The Board of Supervisors previously approved program improvement plans for Family and Children Protective Services in 2004 and 2006 and the County Self Assessment in August of 2008. Requests the Board approve the System Improvement Plan submitted. Chief Probation Officer Letha Martin is also in attendance to report on the education aspect. States probation is a mandated partner through case plans. Discussion is held. Supervisor Chapman states the work being done is very important and he would like to have some communication models developed within the evaluation process so the positive information reaches broader segments of the community. States it is good to get successful information out to the community, not the occasional failure. States Melody Brawley's report earlier is a good example. Deputy CAO for Health and Social Services Kevin Mannel feels there is a delicate balancing act presenting information to the public. Notes that the Veterans Services Officer routinely has articles in the local paper and Friday Night Live recently had information in there. He has been cautious putting out some information but feels these are excellent suggestions. Supervisor Keefer agrees the department could be a little more proactive with public relations. Discussion is held on funding issue. Supervisor Chapman requests staff to come back in the near future for a public education or awareness campaign. Chairman Hanson compliments Health and Social Services staff and Probation staff.

**ACTION:** Approve the Three Year Child Welfare Self Improvement Plan.

**MOVED BY:** Dahle

**SECONDED BY:** Pyle

**UNANIMOUS:** Yes

**PUBLIC HEARING - REZONE AND AGRICULTURAL PRESERVE #2008-053 - HERMSMEYER**

Request by Craig E. Hermsmeyer and Rebecca L. Hermsmeyer, is to establish an agricultural preserve on various parcels totaling approximately 640 acres; enter said land into a Williamson Act Contract; and rezone said lands from A-1 (General Agricultural) and U-C-2 (Upland Conservation/Resource Management District) to E-A-A-P (Exclusive Agricultural/Agricultural Preserve Combining District). The subject parcels are located at 661-025 Mathews Road, 4.3 miles southeast of Bieber. A.P.N.: 015-010-09, 10, 15, 17, 18, 22, and 24.

Assistant Planner Thomas Maioli: Presents staff report on the Hermsmeyer request. States that according to Lassen County Ordinance 18124.10 this project is exempt from CEQA 15317 as a categorical exemption. The Land Conservation Committee met November 20, 2008. There are 223.79 acres which are suitable for consideration; the project meets all requirements. The 640 acres has many class 3, 4 and 7 soils. Zoning change would be consistent with exclusive agriculture. States the project consists of 150 acres in alfalfa and grass production, 350 acres of peppermint; 130 is grazed; and 5 acres of lilac flowers as well as 8 agricultural wells and 2 domestic wells. This project was before the Planning Commission on December 3, 2008 and approval was recommended.

Applicant Craig Hermsmeyer: In the last couple of years they built distillation apparatus for peppermint and they are cautiously optimistic the peppermint will have a real future in the community. Their operation is called Big Valley Mint.

The public hearing is closed at 10:30 a.m.

Discussion is held by the Board on Williamson Act contracts and the possibility of the State not funding. Supervisor Dahle addresses previous discussions the Board has held regarding Williamson Act contracts and the possibility of the State not paying for them. Feels this discussion needs to be had with all Williamson Act contracts. Questions adding language to the contracts to hold County harmless if they do not get money for subvention funds. County Counsel Settlemire states the County and land owners each make a ten year commitment; and each gets renewed every January one. Several County Counsel offices have discussed the issue; there is not a clear answer on whether cancellation of the contracts is an option. That would be a more involved process and there have to be grounds for it. Consensus is that counties can not do an early termination of these contracts if the State pulls the money out. If the County gave notice of non renewal, it would still be ten years before it runs out. Further discussion is held. Supervisor Chapman presents historical information on the Williamson Act; is very concerned that the program will not be funded. States he made a decision quite a while ago to not approve further Williamson Act contracts. Would like to support our agriculture operations but does not feel this is something that is beneficial to the County. Feels the State will not be supporting these programs.

- ACTION REQUESTED:** 1) Receive the Planning Commission's recommendation on rezoning;  
2) Conduct a public hearing pursuant to County Code Section 18.124.050;  
3) Introduce and adopt, by title only, Ordinance No. 467-A-358 implementing the rezone of the 640 acres of property from A-1 and U-C-2 to E-A-A-P.  
4) Receive the Land Conservation Committee recommendation on the establishment of an agricultural preserve;  
5) Adopt Land Conservation Committee findings;  
6) Adopt Resolution No. 08-094 establishing an agricultural preserve and authorize the execution of a Williamson Act Contract with Craig E. and Rebecca L. Hermsmeyer.

**MOVED BY:** Dahle

**AYES:** Hanson, Pyle, Keefer, Dahle

**NOES:** Chapman

**SECONDED BY:** Pyle

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENTEES:** None

**UNANIMOUS:** No

The Board wishes everyone a Merry Christmas.

**ADJOURNMENT IN MEMORY**

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 10:50 a.m. in memory of Molly Williams, Michael J. "Mickey" McCrary and Shelby Lyn Allen.

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Chairman of the Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

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Susan Osgood, Deputy Clerk of the Board