



Minutes – January 26, 2016
Horseshoe Bar/Penryn Municipal Advisory Council

Members Present:

Wayne Russell
Mike Bishop
Patricia Neifer
Anita Yoder
Randy Maggert
Susan Mahoney

Mambers Absent

County Staff Present:

Leah Rosasco

Board of Supervisors

Jim Holmes

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The regular meeting of the Council was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Introduction of MAC Members

3. The Agenda was approved

The January 26, 2016 Agenda was approved as written. Motion made by Susan Mahoney, 2nd by Randy Taggert, motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of November 17, 2015 were approved with change. Motion made by Wayne Russell, 2nd by Mike Bishop, motion carried.

5. Public Comment: None for Non Agenda Items

Bayford Butler – Glad to see Penryn population on town sign on I-80 has finally been corrected and now shows the correct census population figure of 831 instead of 5,223.

6. Public Safety Reports:

a. Placer County Sheriff's Office – Deputy Berthelsen

Reported recent burglaries in Loomis and Newcastle, and mailboxes' thefts. Deputy Berthelsen encouraged the public to get mail during daylight hours and to eliminate theft of cell phones and other valuables visible on car seat by locking car doors. Homeowners can also install light motion detectors for better light and keep shrubs trimmed around the home. Installation of video cameras and alarm systems are also useful to enforcement agencies.

b. California Highway Patrol: No one in attendance

c. Penryn Fire: Penryn Fire – Chief Higgins

Chief Higgins advised residents to have locally visible addresses, wide driveways, and vegetation trimmed to help fire agencies and to keep fire equipment safe.

d. South Placer Fire Staff – Battalion Chief Matt Feeley

Battalion Chief urged safe disposal of ashes and reported just under 2,200 calls for the year.

e. Cal Fire - Battalion Chief Jim Mathias

Reported 22 students just finished equipment and water training. Asked residents to keep brush trimmed around house to provide easier entry for fire engines. Observe burn days by calling before burning. A high weather pressure is predicted for this Friday through Sunday which will bring lots of rain, fog and smoke, causing roads wash out and making it unsafe to drive through water and expose safety personnel to danger.

Chief Mathias cited Governor Brown prediction of a recession for the next 7-10 years. He reported there will be more improvements to Cal Fire, more investigators, newer technology to update the current equipment, and replacement of the copter fleet.

Families are advised to hold family fire drills and to help firefighters responding in fire situations by knowing how many family members are inside the home.

7. County Updates – Supervisor Holmes

Budget - County is in the process of establishing priorities for the 2016-2017 budget, which goes from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. There is also a mid-year session to provide an update on the 2015-2016 final budget and meeting workshops are held for all departments to evaluate potential impacts of the Governor's proposed budget. Some of the priorities of next year budget are Capital Deferral Maintenance Financial Sustainability, Environmental Sustainability, Criminal Justice Master Plan Implementation - Jails, Placer County Fire Funding Sustainability and Placer County Library System Planning.

Medical Marijuana - BOS voted the Placeholder Ordinance in place giving right to Placer County to regulate Medical Marijuana. Six additional new people have been added to current staffing of the Agricultural Chair to help with regulations, and more funding has been set aside for additional equipment.

Homeless Center – A temporary shelter has been approved at a cost of \$226k. Search is underway for a site between Auburn and Tahoe to construct a homeless shelter. \$500k for the property, construction up to \$10-\$20 million plus ongoing costs.

The new crime lab will cost \$3,800

Morgue to be housed at the North Auburn barracks.

Q. What is the cost of providing for the homeless?

A. \$20k to 80k per year per person

Q. How is the staffing for the jail?

A. 24/7 staffing. Juveniles not present 24/7 as they go through work programs.

Leah Rosasco, Administrative Aide to Supervisor Holmes – Please sign up to receive agendas. Location for this MAC meetings changes from Loomis Library to Veterans Hall starting March 27. There will be selection of MAC members on that date. All MAC members are invited to attend BOS meetings on March 9 and March 16 to discuss Medical Marijuana. Vacancy on this MAC to replace Diane Nicholas, apply if interested to serve.

8. Action Items:

a. **County Park Mitigation Funds Project Request from the Loomis Union School District – Penryn Community Park**

The Loomis Union School District requested a recommendation of \$75,000 in Area #7 Park Dedication Fees to complete Phase 2 of the Penryn School Community Park improvements consisting of accessibility improvements and playground replacement.

Presenter: June Campbell and Jay Stewart, Loomis Union School District

Andy Fisher, Placer County Parks Department – Park Dedication Fees are development fees that come to the Department for the Loomis area for development projects. Recent requests were for \$75K for the aquatic center and \$100K for Griffith Quarry Park improvements, both approved.

Jay Stewart, Loomis Union School District – Several community groups have also made donations of \$55K and \$25K towards improvements to the playground for new safe structures for kids. This is a 3-parts projects and this is Phase 2 of the project which consist of replacing the aging playground, a new ADA ramp, new apparatus equipment, hardcourt improvements, and new baseball field. Cost is \$504K for all improvements including ramp. It is a state approved project and will go to bid for this summer's asphalt repair.

Phase 3 – reconfiguration of whole field

Q. More detail on the ramp?

A. Cost estimate for the ADA ramp seems to be on the high side.

Q. How is playing ground accessed now?

A. Not directly accessible, you have to go all around.

Q. Expect to be used by all students?

A. To be used by everyone.

Q. What about the lighting? It is very dark.

A. Lighting is not under consideration now.

Motion made by Wayne Russell, 2nd by Randy Maggert to approve a recommendation of \$75,000 in Area #7 Park Dedication Fees to complete Phase 2 of

the Penryn School Community Park improvements consisting of accessibility improvements and playground replacement, all ayes, motion carried.

9. Information/Non-Action Item:

a. Penryn Fire Presentation

Representatives from Placer County and the Penryn Fire Protection District provided an overview of the District's operations and future operational challenges. Presentation will include discussion on countywide fire services as well as issues and options specific to Penryn Fire Protection District.

Presenter: Jim Holmes, District 3 Supervisor, Mike Posehn, Fire District

Aaron Wilson, Penryn Fire Department Chair – Pleased at the turn out tonight. Wilson turned over presentation to Mike Posehn, Penryn Fire Secretary.

The Penryn Fire Protection District (PFPD) will not be able to operate much longer without additional funding. The last recession of 2008 brought decreased property tax revenues to fire districts. Five other Placer County fire districts have similar problems – Newcastle, Loomis, South Placer, Foresthill and Placer Hills.

Expenses have outpaced revenues and the district is now drawing on its reserves to keep operations going. 2015/2016 will be worse with projected revenue of \$619,000 and expenditures of \$801,000, leaving a deficit of some \$182,000.

Revenue comes from five primary sources: property tax, special tax, fees, Newcastle Fire contract for administrative services and strike team reimbursement.

Property Tax – Prior to 1978, property tax shares were fixed for all fire districts. Penryn's share is 7.41%, or \$341,000 in FY 2015. Studies have shown that a minimum of 13% is needed to adequately fund a fire district.

Special Tax – Penryn residents passed Measure C in 1997 establishing \$75/parcel tax to enable district to employ a second firefighter part-time. In 2011 the State Assembly imposed an additional 'Fire Prevention Fee' on rural parcels, and Penryn residents pay \$117 fee, but none of that money goes to the Penryn Fire District.

Construction fire service fees and commercial fire safety inspection fees go towards capital equipment and not operating expenses.

Strike Team Reimbursement from the State of California is offset by overtime costs and increased maintenance costs. Strike teams are requested by the state to help with fires in other counties. If there are no fires for which help is provided by Penryn Fire District, there is no compensation.

Sales Tax – Placer County receives tax revenue from the State under Prop.172, 1/2 cents sales tax passed by voters in 1992. Although designed to assist law enforcement and fire districts, all the money goes to the Sheriff's Department, Probation, District Attorney and the County Executive's office. A percentage of Prop.172 money goes to education and public safety, none of it addresses the fire districts.

Newcastle, Loomis, South Placer, Foresthill and Placer Hills Fire Districts have asked Placer County to direct some of the Prop 172 money to the districts. The county now contributes a small amount to fund fire dispatch services.

The highest expenses are personnel costs which are expected to increase in 2015-16 from \$469 to \$579 and operations costs from \$192,000 to \$222,000.

Current salary and wages:

Chief:	\$80K/year (Penryn and Newcastle)
Captain:	3 FT employees at \$12.25/hour
Engineer:	2 FT employees at \$10.25/hour 3 PT employees at \$10.00/hour
Intern/Trainee:	8 volunteers are not compensated
Board Members:	\$75/meeting, one meeting per month

It is important to have experienced first responders who know the community. Present wages are pretty low compared to firefighters in the area and are expected to increase in order to retain them.

The current fire station is not up to building code and it is recommended to be demolished and build a new station in a different location.

The 1993 Type 1 Engine is over twenty years old, beyond its service life. Replacing it will cost in excess of \$450,000.

Long term solution would be to consolidate several fire districts. Short term solution would be for small fire districts to be joined together.

Supervisor Holmes – In response to some criticism from some attendees, Holmes responded he has been involved in this fire issue for 15 years and made it a priority to keep the Ophir Fire Station, slated for closure, to remain open. He was responsible for bringing the issue to the MAC to tonight’s meeting and encouraged people work together with the county to help find a sustainable solution to the fire department problems.

Some of the suggestions from audience:

1. Maybe solution would be to put the fire districts under county
2. Have a bond election
3. Penryn Fire District to update their website
4. Gather financial data

Brian Meyer, Penryn Fire District Attorney – Each year the county collects over \$39 million dollars in Prop.172 money from a ½ cent sales tax for “police and fire”, and contributes a negligible amount to fire districts. This year alone county collected over 13 million dollars which has gone into the Public Fund.

The decision to give more money to fire districts is at the discretion of the Board of Supervisors. All fire districts should get together and request information from the BOS on how the money raised through Prop. 172 is being spent. The county wants to keep all the money.

Russell: Is County mandated to provide fire services to the Penryn Fire District?

Holmes: No, Fire District responsible to provide own services.

Holmes invited Penryn residents to attend the BOS meeting and to offer suggestions. Posehn appreciated Holmes' efforts and commented that there was only one person attending the previous night's Fire District meeting. Holmes encouraged the community to attend next meeting on February 22 at 6:00 p.m.

Susan Mahoney: Thanks to fire department board members and proud of Penryn Fire Fighters' dedication especially working for such abysmal wages. Appreciates Holmes' efforts for addressing the issue and the BOS putting money up for study. Does not envision the BOS giving all the money to the Penryn Fire District – it is too small a district. There is a need for a bond measure. When the study is done, issue should be back to the MAC.

Randy Maggert: Issue should be taken to other Board of Supervisors.

Wayne Russell: If you want a Fire District, you have to pay and support it. Otherwise your department will be a training ground.

This comment came from a Penryn Fire Captain: Many firefighters spend years in their jobs and love their jobs.

10. MAC Committees Reports:

- Chair report/correspondence – Patty Neifer –None
- School Report – Randy Maggert – None
- Parks, Recreation and Service – Diane Nicholas - None
- Traffic, Safety and Fire – Mike Bishop – None
- Land Use and Planning – Anita Yoder – None

11. Future Agenda Items: None

12. Next Meeting: March 22, 2016

13. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.