

Report to Directors, Angwin Community Council

Subject: Report of Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting, January 27, 2009

From: Herb Ford

After a dead battery delayed me for nearly an hour in attendance at today's BOS meeting, I arrived at just before 10 a.m., to find that no "business" had yet been transacted, only an hour-long fare welling for Pam Kendig, the county's long-time auditor-controller. So nothing saves that lost.

The 25-item "Consent Items" up for Board approval went quickly, and Supervisors then turned to the question of approval of \$675,000.00 for the Napa Valley Conference and Visitors Bureau. After some question as to whether either the whole or a part of the Bureau might go broke in the near-term future, the Supervisors voted the requested amount. The money will "begin the implementation of the Napa County Destination Brand Strategy."

Although details were understandably not forthcoming, the Board granted permission to BOS Chair Mark Luce "to absent himself from the State for more than 30 days pursuant to Government Code Section 1063." I understand Chair Luce has had a major surgery. This meant that Vice Chair Diane Dillon served as Acting Chair of today's BOS meeting.

County Ag Commissioner Dave Wittmer, along with two other dignitaries, gave the BOS a "brief overview" (which lasted more than half an hour) on the Great Wine Capitals General Assembly held in November 2008 in Capetown, South Africa. It is my understanding that Dave, and Supervisors Wagenknecht and Dodd represented Napa County at the event. Attendance at this event seems to have become an annual participation by the county wherever in the world the Assembly is held.

Auditor-Controller Pam Kendig, in one of her last acts before retirement, presented and requested acceptance of the "County of Napa Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, County of Napa Single Audit Report, and the County of Napa Management Report for Fiscal Year 2007-2008." At the presentation, Kendig's part of the county's operation was lauded by members of the Bartig, Basler & Ray, Certified Public Accountants, for what they said was an outstanding financial report.

Napa County Fire Chief Ernie Loveless requested of the BOS a "review and discussion of the proposed Amendment No. 2 to Agreement No. 3819 of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Volunteer Fire Departments to provide the highest level of fire suppression, fire prevention, emergency medical and other related services to residents of Napa County." Although Supervisor Keith Caldwell (not long ago American Canyon's Fire Chief) spoke positively of whatever is involved in the Amendment (I was not given a copy of it, nor was it given as a handout generally), I found it significant that the fire chiefs of Angwin and Deer Park, and no doubt of other areas who were in the audience too, uttered not a single word about this matter.

At not long after 1 p.m., the BOS Acting Chair opened the afternoon Public Hearing, begging that there had not been enough time for quicker transfer from the morning meeting in Napa, and lunch, and the onset of the afternoon meeting at the Lincoln Theater in Yountville. The meeting was a request of the county's director of Conservation Development and Planning to "1. Adopt a resolution amending the Napa County General Plan to implement changes to the County's Land Use Map that were proposed but not adopted when the Board considered changes collectively referred to as the Proposed Land Use Map Amendment (PLUMA) on December 9, 2008. The proposed General Plan amendment would amend the County's Official Land Use Map (General Plan Figure AG/LU-3) to re-designate approximately 76 parcels in the Angwin and Pope Creek areas from Urban Residential (UR) to Rural Residential (RR), as shown in Exhibit A-1. – **OR** – 2. Adopt a motion referring alternative Land Use Map changes to the County Planning Commission to review and recommendation within 45-days pursuant to CGC Section 65356."

The matter was explained by Hillary Gitelman to the audience of maybe 200 people (watch your newspaper for a better estimate), and the Public Hearing was opened. Some 50 persons (by my count) spoke. Then Acting Chair Dillon began a long-winded self-examination in which she made assertions and stated positions which, according to my view, went far beyond the matter of the adoption the resolution or suggesting changes having to do with the 76 parcels. Then the other three Supervisors were given opportunity to express their thoughts.

It turned out that there was not a clear vote one way or another on the matter, and it was referred to a public discussion among Board members only on February 14 at 1:30 p.m. Most folk, on whatever side of the question they came down were, I felt disappointed, many feeling that the entire three and a half hours of the meeting was close to a total waste. If, however, Acting Chair Dillon's views ever do become the way the county goes, Angwin's Pacific Union College financially useable land holdings would be stripped from it to the extent that the future of the college would not be merely uncertain, it would be dead for certain! This despite the Acting Chair's quoting of the General Plan statement that calls for special attention be paid to care for the health of the college.

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