

Report to Directors, Angwin Community Council

Subject: Report of Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting, February 3, 2009

From: Herb Ford

After having had major surgery, which caused his absence during the January 27 meeting, it was good to see BOS Chair Mark Luce again presiding at today's meeting. Supervisor Bill Dodd was excused from today's meeting of the Board.

A dozen Consent Items were voted by the Supervisors today, one of which was a resolution "supporting full federal funding of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' capability for Fiscal Year 2010 for the Napa River/Napa Creek Flood Protection Project of \$92 million and continued annual funding at Corps capability level through Project completion." Whether or not the Corps can come up to its full capability relative to the Project remains to be seen.

A move toward "privatization" of operation of the Lake Berryessa Resort Improvement District and the Napa Berryessa Resort Improvement District was put before the Board. A number of persons, including Angwin's Dick Crain, spoke against the move out of fear that it might derail a major water treatment project of the districts. However, since the move is only exploratory (with the California Service Company (Cal Water), the Board voted 4-0 to study the merits of such a move Cal Water.

A county ordinance amending Napa County Code Section 18.132.030 to allow 500 feet of cumulative surface area expansion for accessory storage uses associated with restaurants on legal nonconforming parcels in existence as of July 1, 1993, was voted 4-0 by the Board. I may be in error, but it would seem that this ordinance allows a storage of water off-site of a restaurant that would operate in connection with a proposed hotel to be built in the "Cement Works" outlets area north of St. Helena on Highway 29.

Another ordinance that amends Section 2.100.181 was voted by the Board 4-0. This ordinance authorizes "the County of Napa to access state and federal level summary criminal history information for employment (including volunteers and contract employees), licensing, or certification purposes." All this allowing the county to do fingerprinting and making background checks.

Some \$800,000 in loan was voted by the Board as the last part of a \$4 million project of the Progress Foundation and the Gasser Foundation "to assist in the acquisition of six units (12 beds) of transitional housing for youth at risk of homelessness, and 18 units of permanent supportive housing for homeless or at risk of homeless adults with mental illnesses." Gasser will provide the land on which this facility will be built for the cost of \$1 per year for 99 years.

A look at the County's budget situation was given by the Associate Chief Executive Office of the County. No immediate extreme budget cuts were suggested in the face of falling income, but no new programs or increases of any kind were authorized either. Supervisor Dillon

opined that the current budget concern situation may not be “not a six-month’s problem but could be a 60-year problem.”

The Board authorized the Chair to sign a letter transmitting a response to the 2008-2009 Grand Jury’s request for an implementation and status update on recommendations made by the 2007-2008 Grand Jury. The updates relate to the Grand Jury’s recommendations on farm worker housing, the Napa County Fire Department, emergency communications, the Napa County Office of Emergency Services, the Napa County Department of Corrections, and Napa County Roads.

Because all of the Grand Jury’s recommendations relating to the Napa County Fire Department affect the Angwin Volunteer Fire Department to a greater or lesser degree, a listing of the recommendations and the County Fire Chief’s response are listed here:

Recommendation No. 3: The MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between the County of Napa and Volunteer Departments be amended to grant the County Fire Chief clear Authority to establish and enforce volunteer department training and operating policies and procedures.

Response, Napa County Fire Chief: The recommendation is being implemented.

Recommendation No. 6: All training of volunteer firefighters be provided by fully qualified instructors meeting all applicable standards.

Response, Napa County Fire Chief: The recommendation has been implemented.

Recommendation No. 7: The upgrading of the Napa County Fire Department Policies and Procedures Manual be addressed as a high priority with specific timeline goals established and monitored. A list of specific policies which must be implemented immediately are given.

Response, Napa County Fire Chief: The recommendation has not been implemented, but will be implemented within the second quarter of FY 08-09.

Recommendation No. 8: The volunteer stipend be based on the number of emergency responses made by the volunteer while retaining the training requirements as an eligibility criteria. In addition, a tiered compensation system, which rewards advanced qualifications, be implemented.

Response, Napa County Fire Chief: The recommendation will be implemented with the revised MOU as mentioned in Recommendations No. 1 and 3.

Recommendation No. 9: The County fund the required emergency response driver training for volunteer firefighters.

Response, Napa County Fire Chief: Funding to be provide the required training has been allocated in the FY 08-09 budget and will be provided. The recommendation will be implemented.

Recommendation No. 11: The funds to pay a Volunteer firefighter who was part of a County deployed strike team be made available on a routine basis and in a timely manner to insure that they are promptly compensated for their time.

Response, Napa County Fire Chief: The recommendation will be implemented.

Recommendation No. 12: Fire Stations. (Relates to relocation of Station #10 in Browns Valley.

Response, Napa County Fire Chief: The County Chief together with the Napa City Fire Chief are in the process of developing plans for a new station in Browns Valley that will include staff and equipment from both County Fire and the City Fire Department.

Recommendation No. 13: Apparatus. (Recommends quick replacement of all firefighting vehicles that predate 1991.)

Response, Napa County Fire Chief: The response to these recommendations regarding apparatus are as described below. (Namely, that NCFD has an apparatus replacement schedule that is evaluated annually.)

Recommendation No. 15: All fire departments within Napa County have the same rapid entry system locks with a 'universal' key.

Response, Napa County Fire Chief: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable.

Recommendation No. 16: Volunteer fire departments receive greater support from the County and in return, relinquish some of their long-held independence.

Response, Napa County Fire Chief: This recommendation has been partially implemented.

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