

Report to Directors, Angwin Community Council

Subject: Napa County Board of Supervisors meeting, February 24, 2009

From: Herbert Ford

“Peace Corps Week,” Feb. 23 - Mar. 2, 2009 was named by BOS Chair Mark Luce in a proclamation read out in the first BOS action of the day. It was noted that several score “veterans” of the United States Peace Corps now live in Napa County.

Several new leadership persons were introduced to the Board, including an assistant auditor-controller, and a new county fire marshal. The former fire marshal, Gabrielle Avina has been named to a new position in Cal Fire which will include leadership responsibility for several counties.

In its “Consent Items,” the Board gave approval and authorization to Chair Luce “to sign Amendment No. 2 to Amendment No. 3819 of the Memorandum of Understanding with the nine Volunteer Fire Departments to provide for fire suppression, prevention, emergency medical and other related services to residents of Napa County.

According to the Executive Summary of this action, it is noted that, “This MOU identified a clear chain of command for the Fire Department while outlining everyone’s roles and responsibilities within the organization, and creates a framework that maintains the Volunteer Fire Department’s strong community identities and relationships with their neighbors.”

Additionally, “Oversight for the Napa County Fire Department as outlined in this MOU will be through an Advisory Board comprised of all nine of the Volunteer Fire Chiefs, as well as Chief Officers from CAL Fire. A chairperson and vice chairperson will be elected on an annual basis amongst the group, with both of these positions rotating between a volunteer member and career member of the Advisory Board.”

The Board Chair was authorized to sign Amendment No. 1 to Revenue Agreement No. 3579 with the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs increasing the current year contract amount by \$47,624 for a new maximum of \$1,250,750, thereby resulting in a new three-year contract maximum of \$3,687,995 for the term July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2010 . . .”

The amounts must surely say something relative to the huge costs associated with drinking and puffing!

An interesting appearance before the Board during a Board of Equalization portion of today’s agenda occurred. A man sought to have his tax assessment lowered on the basis that he was being assessed on the basis that he was a married man, although he had never been married, and he and his former female companion had split. It turned out that had he registered with the State as a “domestic partner,” as homosexuals and others in the State can do, his assessment would not have been as high as it is. “Perhaps I ought to become a homosexual,” he jokingly opined, as he learned his assessment would not be lowered.

A review of the current state of the county's budget as presented to the Board showed no trouble spots. Such periodic review is ongoing to forestall any part of the county's expenditures getting out of round.

Elections Chief John Tuteur reported that a special State election will be held on May 19. About six State issues will appear on the ballot. Instead of having 55 polling places in the county, for this election there will be 22, one of which will be in the Angwin Fire House.

Angwin-wise, the most important of today's agenda items was the urban bubble matter referred to today's meeting from the January 27 meeting in Yountville. At that meeting the two ways in which the Board could vote was deadlocked 2-2 because Supervisor Luce was undergoing surgery and could not be present for the meeting. So at this meeting he was to give his views, and thus break the deadlock. It didn't work quite that way.

Today's discussion was confined to the Board members themselves, no member of the public was allowed to speak. The two actions before the Board were -

1. Adopt a resolution amending the County General Plan to implement changes to the County's Land Use Map that was 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). – **OR** –

2. Adopt a motion referring alternative Land Use Map Changes to the County Planning Commission for review and recommendation within 45 days pursuant to CGC Section 65356.

Chair Luce went the second way, sort of. On a 3-2 vote on a motion he had proposed, a review of all Angwin (mostly PUC) urban bubble land was referred back to the Planning Commission to be studied with the idea of creating a new zoning - Public Institutional - being assigned to a good portion of the land. At the same time Luce called for the EIR currently being conducted relative to the college's ecovillage plan to continue without interruption. He said the Planning Commission could present its views for the next scheduled General Plan Update which comes up in two years. At that time the fate of the ecovillage plan will have been determined, and the Board can get closer to "wrapping up the Angwin urban bubble matter."

It was obvious throughout that Supervisor Dillon was very unhappy with Luce's motion. She made an impassioned speech about the inadequacy of Angwin roads, its water, and perhaps one or two other issues she might have mentioned which I did not catch. All of those issues, of course, must be addressed in the EIR process now going on relative to the ecovillage. The votes that passed the motion came from Supervisors Luce, Wagenknecht and Caldwell, which Supervisor Bill Dodd had other concerns that caused him to vote against the Luce proposal.

It was a most interesting 1:30 p.m., session that went until near 3 p.m. It was a clear victory for Pacific Union College in the thwarting of a stoppage of the ecovillage EIR process, which some opponents were hoping for.

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