



**MEETING MINUTES**  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF MONO  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**Special Meeting**

Benton Community Center,  
Benton, CA 93512

**May 18, 2010**

6:25 PM Meeting Called to Order by Vice Chair Hazard

Pledge of Allegiance led by Supervisor Hunt

**OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

Supervisor Hazard:

- Apologized for the lack of notification about an April RPAC meeting.
- A new refrigerator has been ordered for the community center.

Public Comments

Ceal Gargon: Pointed out that the zip code 93512 for Benton is often listed as Bishop; other areas have a similar problem. Expressed concern that census funds and sales tax are not being properly credited to Mono County.

- Supervisor Hazard has spoken with the local postmaster about this situation, who has not acknowledged this as a problem. Asked for this issue to be agendized for Board discussion.

Marion Dunn: Asked about status of funding for a building to house EMTs, 24/7, or at least five days a week.

- Supervisor Hazard: A citizen committee reviewed this issue and made a report about phasing in an EMT program; assumptions about the project were based on development, which has not materialized. Also, it is difficult to get volunteer EMTs. The County will have to continue reviewing the program; funding will be an issue. Hazard continues to brief the Board regularly on this issue, and continues to work at the State level for resolution to problems pertaining to EMTs.

Tim Scott: On a weekend excursion, someone in the party got injured and the group couldn't get a cell phone signal so they couldn't get emergency services. Scott asked about improved cell phone service in the Tri-Valley area.

- Supervisor Hazard: Cell phone towers are installed by a third party. Hazard has asked Verizon to make a site visit to Benton to consider installing a cell tower on the EMS property; the company won't consider it at this time. Hazard continues to look for partners who will move this issue forward.

## REGULAR AGENDA

### COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

- 1a) NACO Prescription Program Outreach (Mary Booher) - Presentation by Mary Booher providing public outreach regarding the NACO Prescription Drug Discount Program.

**Action:** None.

Mary Booher, CAO's Office: This program is a partnership between NACO (National Association of Counties) and Caremark pharmacies. This is a discount prescription drug program, which is externally funded so there is no cost to the County. The program provides up to a 22% discount. Booher provided program cards.

### SOCIAL SERVICES

**Additional Departments:** Public Works

- 2a) IMAAA-Benton Senior Center (Julie Tiede) - Presentation by Julie Tiede to receive community input regarding relocation of Benton Senior Center.

**No Motion Action:** Direct staff to relocate the Benton Senior Center into the Community Center.

Julie Tiede, Social Services Director: Spoke about the Benton Senior Center and the need for extensive upgrades and construction in order for the building to be habitable. For the short term, the County is considering using part of the community center by installing movable partitions to create a space. This project should be in place by the end of the budget year.

- Supervisor Hazard: Would like to maintain flexibility with the space while developing a senior program relevant to the community.

Public Comment:

Ceal Gargon: Before proceeding, suggested the County find out whether or not the proposed space would be used by the seniors.

### PUBLIC WORKS

- 3a) Hammil Valley Flood Control Channel Clearing (Evan Nikirk) - Receive staff report regarding access waivers signed in support of requests to provide vegetation removal in the flood control channel in the vicinity of Dawson Ranch Road and Black Rock Mine Road in Hammil Valley. Consider and potentially authorize Public Works to coordinate with Cal Fire to clear vegetation from said channel. Provide any desired direction to staff.

**M10-119 Action:** 1) Receive staff report regarding access waivers signed in support of requests to provide vegetation removal in the flood control channel in the vicinity of Dawson Ranch Road and Black Rock Mine Road in Hammil Valley. Authorize Public Works to coordinate with Cal Fire to clear vegetation from said channel. 2) Find that vegetation removal on private property in Hammil Valley by County and Cal Fire forces serves a public purpose as it will enhance the flood control capabilities of those structures. 3) Find that such work involves the maintenance of existing structures with no expansion of existing use and is

therefore exempt from further environmental analysis pursuant to Section 15301 of the CEQA guidelines. Authorize the Public Works Director to file a Notice of Exemption for the project with the County Clerk. 4) Find that Public Works Director (in consultation with County Counsel) entered into access agreements with most of the affected property owners to provide one-time assistance with County and Cal Fire forces. 5) Authorize the Public Works Director to waive gate fees that would otherwise be charged for wood waste and debris hauled to County disposal sites as a result of this project. 6) Authorize up to \$20,000 from contingency fund for completion of this project.

**Hunt/Farnetti, 5-0**

Supervisor Hazard: Issues pertaining to the flood channel have been under investigation by the Grand Jury. The only portion of the ditch owned by the County is on the EMS property; however, the ditch in its current condition would be problematic in a flood situation and would cause problems for the entire community. Board action would be a short-term solution while Public Works continues working on a floodplain mapping project, which would provide the opportunity to apply for grant funds.

Evan Nikirk, Public Works Director: Distributed photos showing the current condition of the channel, which was not constructed properly. Residents have asked for improvements to the channel, so the County has been obtaining signed access agreements since the channel crosses private property. Cal Fire inmates are available to help with the project, at a cost of about \$900 per week; County staff cost would be about \$5,100 per week. The crew would clear the channel of vegetation and haul it away.

Marshall Rudolph, County Counsel: In response to a question by Supervisor Bauer, confirmed that his office has reviewed this issue and drafted the agreements. The position of his office is (and has been) that the County has no legal obligation to clear the channel; nevertheless, it appears that some residents believe the County has such an obligation and it is unknown whether they would pursue litigation based on that belief. By taking this action, the County would not be making a long-term commitment.

Supervisors Farnetti and Peters agreed that this issue needs to be addressed by the County in order to avoid costs of future problems.

- 3b) Workshop on Tri-Valley Floodplain Mapping Efforts (Garrett Higerd) - Receive staff report regarding the status of floodplain mapping efforts in the Tri-Valley area.

**Action: None.**

Garrett Higerd, Public Works, presentation outlined the following:

- Reviewed the impacts of past flooding on roads, residences, and agriculture.
- The County is part of the National Flood Insurance Program; the basis of the system is floodplain mapping.
- Reviewed the history of the mapping project.
- Showed an example of a map created using the LiDAR process; showed photos of how the LiDAR process works and showed images of the final results.
- Showed figures depicting progress on recent FEMA mapping.
- Outlined next steps, and how the mapping project will affect residents.
- FEMA has funded this project.
- Received Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps for the entire County, which allowed the County to comment on the maps.

Public Comment:

- The digitized maps will be very useful when getting flood insurance. This is a positive project for the citizens.

ADJOURN: 8:33 p.m.

ATTEST:

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BYNG HUNT, CHAIR

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LYNDA ROBERTS  
CLERK OF THE BOARD

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