



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

Chalfant Community Center,
Chalfant, CA 93514

Special Evening Meeting

February 16, 2010

6:07 PM Meeting Called to Order by Vice Chair Hazard
Chairman Hunt was absent due to travel out of the country.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Supervisor Farnetti

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Mark Magit, Assistant County Counsel: Running for Superior Court Judge. Plans to attend RPAC meetings, and looks forward to meeting people in the community. Election Day is June 8, 2010.

Naomi Garcia, resident: Enjoys living in Chalfant; took many things into consideration when moving to Chalfant.

REGULAR AGENDA

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1a) 2010 Census (Supervisor Hazard and Rebecca Garrett) - Overview of upcoming census and its importance for the Tri Valley area.

Action: None

Rebecca Garrett, Mono County resident and census worker: Gave update about the census process. Census day is April 1; local questionnaires will go out soon. She will make presentations at schools to help students understand the purpose of the census, and will speak to community clubs, put up flyers, and have information available in public places. Because of the PO Box system in Mono County, forms will be hand delivered to residences; any resident that doesn't return the questionnaire will be visited six times. Response rate can be found online by using a zip code. Each returned questionnaire will bring \$17,000 to Mono County. There is still a need to hire census workers; a recruiting session is scheduled for February 27th. The hours are flexible, and the basic worker will be paid \$15 per hour plus 50 cents per mile. Distribution of questionnaires and follow-up will take about 5-10 weeks.

Additional Departments: Environmental Health

1b) Water Quality (Supervisor Hazard and Louis Molina) - Update regarding water quality in the Chalfant area.

Action: None

Louis Molina, Environmental Health: Provided a brief history about the water quality issue in Chalfant (high uranium levels). A letter was sent to all residents in Tri-Valley regarding uranium and suggesting they test their water. People were asked to provide data about their water so the Environmental Health Department could determine how wide-spread the problem was; 15 people submitted information. Their water was below the MCL (maximum contaminant level); one resident in Benton was slightly above. The uranium problem seems to be site specific: it could be high in one area and low in another. This is an educational process and people should test their wells. If uranium is high, they should install a unit that will eliminate the problem (the County does not regulate private wells). Uranium impacts the liver and kidney functions. A state certified lab does the testing; the environmental health department has a list. Cost will be \$30 to \$60. Installation of a reverse osmosis system is recommended at the point of drinking water use; it costs \$200 to \$400.

- 1c) Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) (Supervisor Hazard) - Soliciting community members for the formation of the Chalfant Valley RPAC.

Action: None

Supervisor Hazard: Asked members of the community to join the RPAC as board members (five members). The RPAC is a community group designed to provide feedback to the Board of Supervisors. He would like citizens to take the lead at RPAC meetings and lead discussions on issues. The RPAC is an opportunity for the community to discuss issues amongst themselves.

- 1d) County Park (Supervisor Hazard) - Discuss the future planning of Chalfant Park and Community Center.

Action: None

Supervisor Hazard: Gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining Chalfant Park Planning.

- History: Last year formed a park committee to determine future of the park and funding sources. A work group repainted the community center and the playground equipment was replaced (Phase 1, improvements to the community center and playground equipment).
- The community needs to determine next steps.
- Outlined Phase 2 possibilities: dog park; retain tennis court and basketball hoops; create a skateboard park; create a small R/C car park.
- Outlined Phase 3: potential to use softball field as a soccer field; rehabilitation of this area would be very expensive to construct and maintain.
- Outlined possible funding sources.
- The community needs to consider the future of the community center. CSA (County Service Area) funds can be used for a community center.
- Will have a more formalized discussion at the next RPAC meeting.

A community member suggested adding a gate in the fence along the west side (Highway 6).

- 1e) Shooting Areas in Chalfant Valley (Supervisor Hazard) - Discuss community concerns about certain shooting areas in Chalfant Valley. This discussion will focus on this single question: "Should the existing Mono County no shooting ordinance covering East Chalfant be extended to cover West Chalfant?"

Action: None

Supervisor Hazard: Outlined a map showing the existing "No Shooting Area", and read the section of the Mono County Code pertaining to no shooting. This issue has come forward because he received a call from a resident about shooting in West Chalfant. Last fall he sent an email asking for feedback and comments; received 16 responses (25% of the emails sent).

Support and opposition were about equal. There are many different issues to balance.

Public Comments:

- Naomi Garcia: Opposed expanding the ordinance. Purchasing property abutting BLM land (for shooting practice) may have been considered when people moved to Chalfant. Also, residents need to be able to protect their property.
- Pat McKeever: Walks along the hills and hearing gunfire is un-nerving. It seems reasonable to have the no shooting area.
- Joe deFyre: Any area with density should have rules against high-powered rifles. Supports the shooting ordinance. People will probably agree that they don't want humans to be endangered.
- Robin Locksly: The ordinance seems un-necessary; the Sheriff's department would handle problems. This is a rural area. Should make some of the arms exempt from the current ordinance, such as bows and BB guns.
- Margaret Phelps: Sheriff's Department responded to a shooting complaint by referring her to the map and telling her she was in a shooting area.
- Jeff Moxley: There are many laws already in place.
- Unidentified audience member: There are laws in place; they don't need more laws. Opposes extending the ordinance to West Chalfant.

Sheriff Scholl: Encouraged residents to call his office when they have a complaint; it is illegal to shoot towards a home. His office will take action if a person feels threatened by shooting. He will address this with his staff.

Supervisor Hazard: His primary concern is the opinion of the residents of West Chalfant who will be impacted. There is not a majority opinion on this issue; he suggested holding an informal vote on the west side. He is willing to take to take this issue to the RPAC for additional feedback. If there is not a clear majority about this issue, then the community should consider an advisory vote.

Marshall Rudolph, County Counsel: In answer to a question about whether or not the Board can make exceptions to the ordinance in specific communities, the answer is yes.

Mark Magit, Assistant County Counsel: A full understanding of State law should be part of the community's discussion. The County's shooting zones exceed what is required by State law.

ADJOURN: 7:53 p.m.

Duane "Hap" Hazard
Vice Chairman

ATTEST:

LYNDA ROBERTS
Clerk of the Board

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