



HOPLAND

MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Hopland Municipal Advisory Council Minutes

Regular Meeting – Hybrid

October 18, 2023 at 5:30 pm

Hopland Fire Protection District Community Room
21 Feliz Creek Road, Hopland, California

The Hopland Municipal Advisory Council (HMAC) meetings are held in-person and virtually via Zoom Video Communications. Meeting access information is available on the Agenda for this meeting.

Members: Julie Golden, Amy Frost, Hannah Bird, Jane Cupples, Dale Andrew

Alternate: Bernadette Byrne

Administrative Support: Rebecca Dalske, Melissa Frausto - LACO Associates

1. Call to order & roll call

The meeting was called to order at 5:35pm. Julie Golden, Amy Frost, and Dale Andrew were present.

2. Public comment & announcements on non-agenda items

No discussion/comment

3. Consent Calendar

The following consent items are expected to be routine and non-controversial, and will be acted on by the HMAC in a single action without discussion, unless a request is made by a Council Member or a member of the public for discussion or separate action.

- a. Approval of the September 20, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Julie motioned to approve the consent calendar, with a second from Dale. All council members present voted in favor.

4. Discussion and possible action on community updates and issues

- a. Mendocino County Sheriff's Office: *General updates from Sheriff Kendall*

Sheriff Kendall shared the Sheriff's Office has increased patrols in the County, with less focus on State lands and highways. They are currently investigating another homicide that occurred last week but are waiting for lab results to determine the cause of death. The Sheriff's Office has received a bid for construction of a new jail east of the existing jail. The proposal will be heard by the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on October 31st. Additionally, the Sheriff's Office recently conducted a successful 60-day body camera pilot program. They hope to have new body cameras officially rolled out in 40 days. The software used with the body cameras will provide the Sheriff's Office with an evidence program that is able to accept videos from other cameras.



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Julie asked about mental health programs at the jail. Sheriff Kendall shared that the Sheriff's Office is working on building up the counseling services in the jail, to include a tribal counselor.

Joan Norry (*Public Comment*): Joan asked if there is a place between going to jail and prison for people with mental health and addiction. Sheriff Kendall shared that people have the choice to go Ford Street for addiction. However, if people refuse treatment, then they will go to jail. He added that the Sheriff's Office has also saved approximately 19 lives (on the street) with Narcan over the past two years.

b. Hopland Fire Protection District: *General updates from Chief Franklin*

Chief Franklin shared that the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Calfire) lifted the burn ban in the County. On Friday, the Hopland Fire Protection District (HFPD) will be supporting a controlled burn to be conducted by Calfire on approximately 290 acres at the Hopland Research and Extension Center. The controlled burn is part of Calfire's vegetation management program. The HFPD is expecting to receive calls as it will be visible throughout Hopland. Additionally, the HFPD recently signed a contract for a Type 6 fire engine that can hold 450 gallons of water and get into areas with tight access. Chief Franklin also shared that the HFPD currently has six (6) permanent full-time employees.

Amy asked for an update on the red-tagged structures. Chief Franklin shared that the carport is now permitted, and the County is moving the permit for the training tower forward, but the HFPD now needs to bolt it to the foundation, which will require engineering.

c. Board of Supervisors: *General updates from Supervisor Glenn McGourty*

Supervisor McGourty shared that the BOS recently discussed the Redwood Valley Community Action Plan (RVCAP) and have provided the Department of Planning and Building Services (PBS) with direction to continue moving forward. According to Glenn, it is clear that County Counsel and PBS staff recommend that the RVCAP only include suggestions for development standards, not binding regulations that could potentially cause review bottlenecks during the permitting process. Glenn added that recent cannabis prohibition zones proposed in Redwood Valley and Willits both failed, and the BOS will now seek to amend the petition process for proposing these zones. Additionally, he shared that the County's budget balanced last year with one-time funds. The County is currently trying to bring salaries up to market rate to entice more workers. The County is currently recruiting an Agricultural Commissioner and Air Quality Management District (AQMD) Director, in addition to other positions. He also shared that work will soon begin on a broadband connection from the Lake County line to Calpella.

d. Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG): *General updates from Nephele Barrett*
No update/ discussion



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e. Hopland Cemetery District: *General updates from Katharine Cole*

Katharine Cole shared that during a recent clean-up day, the Hopland Cemetery District (District) was able to remove the final hazardous tree, enabling the District to take down the public warning signs. She shared that the District experiences an increase in vandalism around the Halloween season and will lock the gates on the 28th and Halloween. Katharine encourages the public to contact the District if anything unusual is noticed. Additionally, there are multiple Board of Directors terms that will expire in 2024.

Julie asked how money raised for the District can be donated. Katharine shared that donations should go to the County with a cover letter detailing the intended specific use of the funds.

f. Hopland Public Utility District: *General updates*

Joan Norry (*Hopland Public Utility District (PUD), Chair*): Joan shared that on October 12th, the Hopland PUD received a letter from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) that identifies 147 points of conflict with the Caltrans ADA project. The letter included 96 pages of plans with the points of conflict identified. She shared that the requested improvements would require millions of dollars of funding and Caltrans has stated it will not provide funding. With only 325 people served by the Hopland PUD, the cost appears unreachable. She asserted that this is the first correspondence the Hopland PUD has received Caltrans regarding this project and that the letter requires some level of action by December 1, 2023. The HPUD will have their first meeting with Caltrans at the end of October and an update will be provided to the HMAC in November. Members of the public suggested that the Hopland PUD consider involving the local politicians.

Rebecca shared that in early 2022, Caltrans prepared an Initial Study (IS) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and ended up finding that the project would have no impact. Caltrans adopted a Negative Declaration for the project in August 2022.

g. Shanél Valley Academy: *General updates from Amy Frost*

No update/ discussion

h. Hopland Research and Extension Center: *General updates from Hannah Bird*

No update/ discussion

5. Discussion and possible action on Hopland Certified Farmers Market

Mikayla shared that she plans to attend the bimonthly meeting of the Great Redwood Trail Agency (GRTA) Board on October 19th to provide public comment on the proposed use of the pear packing sheds near the corner of Highway 101 and 175 for the Hopland Farmers Market. Mikayla also shared that she has received interest and support from community members and will soon form a committee for the farmers market.

For HMAC information, visit Hopland Municipal Advisory Council-HMAC on Facebook, at

www.hoplandmac.com, or email info@hoplandmac.com



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6. Discussion and possible action on Hopland Community Plan

See discussion under item 4c for Supervisor McGourty's update on the RVCAP. At the June 21, 2023 HMAC meeting, PBS Director Julia Krog shared that PBS is only able to assist one MAC at a time with a community plan, and so will not be able to work with the HMAC until after the RVCAP is complete. Amy emphasized that the hopeful focus of a Hopland Community Plan would be to foster economic development in the downtown area of Hopland.

7. Discussion and possible action on Hopland Rest Stop Project

Julie would like to invite Mendocino County BOS Maureen Mulheren and John Haschak from the BOS GRTA ad hoc committee to discuss the Hopland Rest Stop project, particular use of the area for a farmers market, and potential funding needs for the project.

Supervisor McGourty (*Public Comment*): Glenn shared potential funding mechanisms to look into for operation of a public space: Business Improvement District or a Community Services District (CSD).

8. Discussion and possible action on Downtown Hopland Pedestrian Lighting

No update/ discussion

9. Discussion and possible action on Hopland Grange

Katharine Cole (*Public Comment*): Katharine shared that she is working to find an active member of the American Legion, which may allow the American Legion to accept the Hopland Veterans Hall.

10. Council Members' and staff reports regarding assigned tasks, committee meetings, and other items of general interest

a. Water Committee Updates

No update/ discussion

11. Discussion on agenda items for November 15, 2023 HMAC meeting

Julie would like to receive an update from the Hopland PUD on their discussions with Caltrans and invite members from the BOS GRTA ad hoc committee to discuss the Hopland Rest Stop project.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:17pm.

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