



HOPLAND

MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Hopland Municipal Advisory Council

Minutes

Regular Meeting – Hybrid

July 17, 2024 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: Melissa Frausto - LACO Associates

1. Call to order & roll call

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm. All members were present except Julie Golden. No member attended the meeting virtually.

2. Public comment & announcements on non-agenda items

No comment/discussion

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 May 15, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

Hannah moved to approve the consent calendar with a second from Bernadette. All 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 that during the recent heat wave there has been a decrease in service calls during daylight hours, with a gradual increase as temperatures cool down at night. He discussed the potential impact of Proposition 37 on drug-related prosecutions and reported that concrete is expected to be poured soon for the foundation of the new jail facility. Additionally, Sheriff Kendall shared that two (2) deputies have completed training and two (2) have graduated from the police academy. Lastly, Sheriff Kendall expressed the Sheriff Office's goal to increase law enforcement presence in Hopland since only one (1) patrol car covers both Hopland and Boonville and most of their time is spent driving.

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

Chief Franklin reported that the Hopland Fire Protection District (HFPD) is experiencing an exceptionally busy fire season. Compared to previous years, the HFPD has responded to a higher volume of fires in Hopland and recently the HFPD strike team was deployed to assist in Lake County. In addition to responding to fire calls, the HFPD has also been involved in responding to car accidents and medical aid calls. Chief Franklin also expressed concern over a decline in volunteer firefighters. Lastly, Chief Franklin shared that the Board of Supervisors (BOS) agreed to waive penalty fees for the HFPD's training tower. However, the HFPD will still have to obtain a building permit.

Dale asked who pays for air support during fires. Chief Franklin shared that State funds are used in the State Responsibility Area (SRA).

Amy asked if there was suspected arson on Mountain House Road in June. Chief Franklin shared that the incident is under investigation.

Hannah asked about the requirements to become a volunteer firefighter. Chief Franklin shared that to volunteer at the HFPD, you must be a Hopland resident or work in Hopland, be at least 18 years old, and possess a valid driver's license, and added that being a volunteer firefighter is a significant time commitment. Additionally, Chief Franklin noted that volunteers are paid a small amount.

c. Board of Supervisors: *General updates from Supervisor Glenn McGourty*
No update/ discussion

d. Hopland Public Utility District: *General updates*
No update/ discussion

e. Hopland Cemetery District: *General updates*
No update/ discussion

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

Amy shared that the May fundraiser for the Shanél Valley Academy (SVA) was successful. The SVA raised \$19,000 in donations, which was doubled by a matching gift from a grandparent. The SVA plans to use the funds to purchase new playground equipment.

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

Hannah reported that the Hopland Research and Extension Center's (HREC's) recent fundraiser was a success. The funds raised will be used to finance school field trips. She also shared that the HREC is planning a prescribed burn for October. The burn will only proceed if weather conditions permit, which will be determined the day before. The controlled burn will contribute to riparian restoration efforts. Additionally, HREC has introduced cattle to the property and is preparing for the public deer hunting season, which begins in August and runs through October.



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- h. Hopland Veterans Memorial Building: *General updates*
No update/ discussion

5. Discussion and possible action on Fire Preparedness Community Meeting

Bernadette and Hannah will meet soon to discuss the Fire Preparedness Community Meeting.

6. Discussion and possible action on Caltrans Hopland Highway 101 ADA Project

Dale shared that he attended the Caltrans community meeting in June. One concern raised by community members was the potential impact of construction on businesses along Highway 101. Caltrans addressed this by outlining a plan to work on the road in sections, providing regular updates to the public about which sections will be under construction. Caltrans anticipates the project to take up to three (3) construction seasons, depending on the construction start date and funding. Dale added that, originally, the meeting was intended to present various project scope options. However, after a thorough assessment of the road, Caltrans has decided to modify the plan to include a concrete base with asphalt on top, which they believe will eliminate the need to relocate utility pipes. According to Dale, Caltrans intends to fully fund this new project approach.

7. Discussion and possible action on Hopland Farmers Market

Bernadette shared that she recently attended the Hopland Farmers Market (Farmers Market) and it was poorly attended with limited vendors. She also mentioned it was recently canceled due to extreme heat. Bernadette added that current market signage is only visible from Highway 175. Amy offered to reach out to Mikalya Adams to suggest adding additional signage along Highway 101.

Bernadette shared that a friend questioned why the Farmers Market was held outdoors instead of in the Pear Packing Shed. Amy clarified that the Pear Packing Shed is a liability to the Great Redwood Trail Agency's (GRTA) due to its current condition.

8. Discussion and possible action on Hopland Rest Stop Project and GRTA Master Plan

No update/ discussion

9. Discussion and possible action on Downtown Hopland Pedestrian Lighting

Dale reported that Caltrans has expressed a willingness to install conduits within the concrete during construction of the Hopland Highway 101 ADA project. However, the cost of lights and their installation would be the community's responsibility. Dale believes that opting for solar pedestrian lighting could eliminate the need for conduits altogether.

10. Discussion and possible action on Hopland Community Plan

No update/ discussion

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

- a. Water Committee Updates
No update/ discussion

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12. Discussion on agenda items for August 21, 2024 HMAc meeting

Amy proposed a discussion on the County's financial reporting process.

Hannah would like to coordinate with Dr. Laura Elisa Garza Diaz [*UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE), Area Water Quality, Quantity, and Climate Change Advisor*] to present and discuss local water issues.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.