



HOPLAND

MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Hopland Municipal Advisory Council Minutes

Regular Meeting – Hybrid

September 18, 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, Jane Cupples, Dale Andrew, Vacant, Vacant

Alternate: Bernadette Byrne

Administrative Support: Melissa Frausto - LACO Associates

1. Call to order & roll call

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 pm. All members were present except Dale Andrew. No member attended the meeting virtually.

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.

- Approval of the August 21, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

Bernadette moved to approve the consent calendar with a second from Julie. All members present voted in favor.

4. Discussion and possible action on community updates and issues

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

Sheriff Kendall various updates from the Sheriff's Office: 1) recently there has been a surge in property crimes within Mendocino County; 2) the new jail project continues to progress. The foundation has been completed and conduit installation is underway; 3) the Sheriff's Office has welcomed back a deputy and currently has three (3) deputies in training and four (4) attending the police academy; and 4) last month, he attended a meeting with the Attorney General regarding the challenges faced by smaller counties, like Mendocino County, in securing competitive grants. The Attorney General agreed to allocate grant funds specifically for smaller counties. Additionally, he urged the Hopland community to vote in the upcoming election and shared his thoughts on Proposition 36.

- Hopland Fire Protection District: *General updates from Chief Franklin*

For HMAC information, visit Hopland Municipal Advisory Council-HMAC on Facebook, at
www.hoplandmac.com, or email info@hoplandmac.com



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Chief Franklin shared that the Hopland Fire Protection District (HFPD) has been busy since June, traveling throughout the state to respond to various emergencies. These include a fire in Los Angeles, several wildfires in Oregon, and incidents in Lake County. As the coordinator for Mendocino County, Chief Franklin organized the strike team and applied for 75 prepositions to support fire and flood relief efforts. Unfortunately, some prepositions were denied. Franklin explained that the approval of prepositions depends on various factors, including weather conditions and a scoring system. The State allocates funds based on these scores. He emphasized the difficulty of securing resources statewide and noted that the preposition process can be more efficient. Additionally, Chief Franklin announced that the HFPD has acquired a new type 6 engine, a Dodge 1500 equipped for wildland firefighting. It is the first of its kind for the HFPD. The engine is a stripped-down model with basic features but was carefully selected after extensive research.

Julie asked if Chief Franklin has been in contact with Hannah Bird [*Hopland Research and Extension Center (HREC), Community Educator*] about the upcoming Fire Preparedness Meeting. Chief Franklin confirmed that she is working on organizing the event for October 27th at 10 AM at the firehouse. Bernadette added that Chief Franklin, Hannah and Eva King [*Mendocino County Fire Safe Council (MCFSC), Outreach Coordinator*] are meeting to determine Firewise boundaries and present the potential Firewise community boundaries at the Fire preparedness meeting. Hannah is also working on a poster to promote the meeting. Amy Frost (*Public Comment*): Amy suggested reaching out to MendoFever to help promote the meeting as well.

- c. Board of Supervisors: *General updates from Supervisor Glenn McGourty*
No update/ discussion
- d. Hopland Public Utility District: *General updates*
Joan Norry [*Hopland Public Utilities District (HPUD), Board of Directors*] shared that Caltrans has amended the Hopland Highway 101 ADA Project to reduce the grading depth and to be completed within one (1) construction season. The shallower grading depth will reduce the conflict with existing utilities discussed previously. Julie added that that she has received requests from Caltrans for easements over her properties and that Caltrans will install conduits when grading is occurring as part of the project so that lighting can be installed in the future.

Julie inquired about the availability of water and sewer hookups in Hopland. Joan explained that the HPUD has sufficient capacity for future residents and that the HPUD is cautious about allocating hookups. Recently, they received a request for multiple hookups but only granted one. Furthermore, not all issued hookups are currently in use, as some are intended for future development. Additionally, half of Hopland is located in a flood zone, which limits development potential.

Joan stated that the HPUD contracts with the Willow County Water District (WCWD) for administration of the HPUD but the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) consolidation with water



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districts in the greater Ukiah valley (Willow County Water, Calpella County Water, Redwood Valley County Water, Millview County Water, and most recently the Ukiah Valley Sanitation District) to form the Upper Russian River Water Agency (URRWA) will likely change the delivery terms. To address this and the absence of rate increases for the past decade, the HPUD plans to commission a rate study. This study will evaluate the financial implications of the changing delivery terms and inform future rate adjustments. The HPUD intends to hire a specialized agency to conduct the rate study and review its finances. Joan added that the HPUD is not joining the URRWA because it does not serve its needs. The HPUD's system is relatively new, and the URRWA will renegotiate the fees paid by the HPUD. Jared Walker will remain the General Manager but under the URRWA.

Amy Frost (Public Comment): Amy expressed concern about paying higher rates without receiving additional water in return. Joan acknowledged that the HPUD is not part of the URRWA but will likely be affected by it if or when the City of Ukiah begins to annex land. Julie added that the City of Ukiah likely desires tax revenue from these properties. Joan clarified that annexation would not directly impact HPUD, which is self-sufficient. The current contract will remain in effect for one to three years before the HPUD will need to renegotiate.

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

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

Amy shared that the Shanél Valley Academy (SVA) is the west coast winner from the 2024 Kubota Hometown Proud grant program. The SVA also received funds from the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) California Farm to School Incubator Grant program. These grants will be used to expand the school's agricultural program by constructing a barn, stable, and walk-in refrigerator. The SVA is also applying for a grant from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CALOES) to improve safety at the school. These funds will go towards fencing and security cameras. Lastly, the SVA has kicked off the 4H program.

A member of the public expressed frustration with reckless driving by young people on MacMillan Drive. They mentioned unsuccessful attempts to request support from Glenn McGourty (*Board of Supervisors, District 1*) with obtaining a "slow down" sign. Amy Frost stated that she has tried to reach out to Nephele Barrett [*Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG), Executive Director*] to establish a school zone, but that Nephele stated the area does not meet the requirements. Julie offered to provide the public with the contact information for Supervisor-Elect Madeline Cline (District 1, starting January 1, 2025). Julie also suggested making a list of projects the HMAC is interested in, including establishing a school zone.

- g. Hopland Research and Extension Center: *General updates from Hannah Bird*
No update/ discussion



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- h. Hopland Farmers Market: *General update*
No update/ discussion
- 5. **Discussion and possible action on Fire Preparedness Community Meeting**
No update/ discussion
- 6. **Discussion and possible action on County of Mendocino Financial Reporting Process**
No update/ discussion
- 7. **Discussion and possible action on Caltrans Hopland Highway 101 ADA Project**
No update/ discussion
- 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**
No update/ discussion
- 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. HMAC Vacancies
No update/ discussion
- 12. **Discussion on agenda items for October 16, 2024 HMAC meeting**
No update/ discussion
- 13. **Adjournment**
The meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm.