

TRINITY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

June 20, 2023

Trinity County Library Meeting Room
351 Main Street, Weaverville**MINUTES****HYBRID In-Person and Virtual Teleconference**

These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcription of the proceedings and discussion associated with the business on the Commission's agenda; rather, what follows is a summary of the order of business and general nature of testimony, Commission deliberation, and action taken. Votes are shown in abbreviated format when unanimous (Ayes-Noes-Abstain).

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

A. Roll Call

Vice-Chair Frasier called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

Members present: Commissioners Dan Frasier, Joseph Kasper and Alternate Commissioners Todd Corbett and Ric Leutwyler.

Members absent: Commissioners Liam Gogan, Heidi Carpenter-Harris, Andrew Johnson, and Anna Burke.

Staff Present: Colette Santsche, Executive Officer (EO), Krystle Heaney, Clerk/Analyst

Alternate Commissioners Corbett and Leutwyler were seated as voting members.

2. PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

No presentations were presented.

3. NEW COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT (Potential Action)

A. Expiring Commissioner Terms Update

EO Santsche introduced the staff report and provided an overview of the current and expiring commissioner terms. The terms for one Regular Public Member and one Alternate Public Member have expired. The open seats were noticed in the Trinity Journal. However, to date only one application has been received. Commissioners present noted that they had discussed the open seats with members of the public with limited success.

B. Public Member Appointment

EO Santsche introduced the staff report and provided an overview of the public member appointment process. Jake Grossman-Crist submitted an application and expressed interest in either the regular or alternate public member positions. Commissioners inquired as to the difference between regular and alternate members. EO Santsche noted that regular members are able to vote on matters that come before the Commission while alternates only vote if a regular member is absent. Additional discussion was held regarding Mr. Grossman-Crist's prior service on the commission and attendance requirements under the Brown Act and recently enacted AB 2449.

Motion to appoint Jake Grossman-Crist as Regular Public Member, with the option for Mr. Grossman-Crist's to accept the Alternate Public Member position if preferred, was presented by Commissioner Kasper, seconded by Commissioner Leutwyler, and passed by 4-0-0 voice vote.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of Minutes from the April 18, 2023 Commission Meeting.

Commissioners noted that they reviewed the prior meeting minutes and had no comments or changes.

Motion to approve the consent calendar was presented by Commissioner Kasper, seconded by Commissioner Corbett, and passed by 4-0-0 voice vote.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

No public comment was provided.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24

EO Santsche introduced the staff report and noted that the proposed budget was circulated to member agencies. One inquiry was received from Greater Hayfork Valley Park and Recreation District asking what LAFCo is and what types of services are provided to the member agencies. EO Santsche noted that there is a need to conduct more outreach with special districts to inform them about LAFCo and what its purpose is. It should also be noted that MSRs will be conducted for all agencies in the county but priority is being given to critical services such as fire districts, water providers, and wastewater providers, and districts that may need changes to their existing sphere of influence boundary, which is an important precursor to annexation.

EO Santsche reminded the Commission that this budget includes a 3% increase to help slowly reduce the existing budget deficit. The current reserves will cover the deficit but a larger increase may be required in future years. Commissioners noted that they were glad of the increase and would like to reduce the deficit over time.

Vice-Chair Frasier opened the public hearing and no public comment was received.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2023-04 approving the final budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24 as presented by staff was presented by Commissioner Leutwyler, seconded by Commissioner Kasper, and passed by 4-0-0 roll call vote.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Preview of a Draft Agency Profile for the Post Mountain Public Utility District Municipal Service Review (Information Only)

EO Santsche introduced the staff report and provided an overview of the Post Mountain PUD. The current draft document only includes the agency profile for review and comment. The next draft will include MSR and SOI determinations as required by law.

Post Mountain PUD provides fire protection and road maintenance to the Post Mountain/Trinity Pines subdivision. The District also previously received authority for electricity service acquisition (planning). The District has been struggling to provide services for a number of years. Their current level of funding is limited and they have previously utilized fire service funds for road maintenance. Until recently the District was unable to conduct business due to a limited number of board members and volunteer numbers have been low which has prevented the District from responding to medical calls. They have also fallen behind on conducting audits and therefore the County has been withholding their property tax funding.

The District has been working to correct some of their operating issues. They recently obtained a new Board member who is Hmong and may be able to assist with outreach in the community. They have also been working on obtaining an Engineer's Report in order to proceed with a Proposition 218 process to raise assessment fees in the District. The County has coordinated with the District to conduct audits and will be releasing property tax funding minus auditor fees.

Commissioners held discussion about the District including the poor state of roads in the area. Different agencies are responsible for different sections of road which leads to confusion regarding maintenance activities. It was also noted that the Rural Electrification Act, if still useable, may be able to provide electric service to the area. Post Mountain residents typically rely on generators which leads to increased fire danger. Additional discussion was held on population decline in the area, the ability of Hayfork FPD to respond to emergency calls if Post Mountain PUD cannot, and potential reorganization

options. EO Santsche stated that the next draft of the document will include an overview of alternative service structures with critical steps to maintain viability of the District in addition to other governance structure options such as reorganization and/or dissolution of the District.

B. Professional Services Contract for Executive Officer Services

EO Santsche introduced the staff report and provided an overview of the proposed amendment to the existing contract for EO services with Planwest Partners Inc. and noted that the Commission has the ability to go out for request for proposals if they wish to. Commissioners asked about Planwest’s experience with LAFCo and EO Santsche provided an overview of the firm’s experience with LAFCos throughout the state.

Motion to approve Amendment No. 3 to the Professional Services Contract with Planwest Partners, Inc. was presented by Commissioner Kasper and seconded by Commissioner Corbett and passed by 4-0-0 roll call vote.

8. EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

EO Santsche provided an overview of recent meetings with special districts and with the California Special Districts Association (CSDA). She recently met with Trinity County Waterworks District regarding potential annexation of two parcels needing service. She also inquired about the open General Manager position and they noted the agency is going through a transition phase.

EO Santsche also met with the Mountain Communities Healthcare District (MCHD). Last year, LAFCo approved MCHD to provide administrative, professional, and technical staffing support (“Managing Support”) to sustain ambulance services by agreement with the Trinity Life Support CSD within the boundary of the CSD. As part of LAFCo’s conditional approval, MCHD is required to officially activate ambulance powers within one year. EO Santsche was able to walk them through the process and is expecting an application within the year.

Lastly, EO Santsche met with Chris Norden from CSDA. He expressed interest in forming a Trinity County Chapter of CSDA and has been conducting outreach with some of the special districts in the area. There is currently a chapter in Humboldt County, but it is not well attended at the moment.

9. COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS

No comment was provided.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vice-Chair Frasier adjourned the meeting at 4:43 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Colette Santsche
Executive Officer

Dan Frasier
Vice-Chair

DATE: _____

DATE: _____