



LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE City of Chico/County of Butte



Minutes of February 3, 2016

3:30 P.M.

Conference Room No. 2, Chico Municipal Center, 421 Main Street

Members present: Fillmer, Kirk, Sorensen, Wahl

Members absent: Morgan

1. **Approved Minutes**

Approved Minutes of November 4, 2015 (Motion: Kirk, Second: Sorensen)

Vote:

2. **Homeless Support and Prevention Initiatives – Discussion**

City Councilmember Fillmer advised that Jon Clark, Executive Director, Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) was in attendance at today's meeting because BCAG has identified homelessness as one of its goals this year. Mr. Clark stated that BCAG has a federal lobbyist, that homelessness is an item included in their platform and that they will be looking to see if there is funding to help address the issue.

Paul Hahn, Butte County Chief Administrative Officer, said that as was discussed at the last meeting, homelessness is not just a Chico or Oroville problem but a countywide problem that needs a countywide approach. He and Mark Orme, Chico City Manager, have talked with the other city managers within the County and they are all interested in working together and have gotten buy in from their respective councils. There is a meeting tentatively scheduled for April 15th, between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. where two to three members of each council, the Board of Supervisors, all the City Managers, Police Chiefs, Sheriff, District Attorney and relevant staff will come together. A possible location is the Southside Community Center in Oroville because it is centrally located. Oroville selected three councilmembers at their meeting last night to participate, and the Board of Supervisors will be asked soon to select two members. There will also be another meeting on February 19, 2016 of the City Managers to discuss how to format the countywide meeting, starting with what is currently being done, best practices and then formatting it so that direction may be given on next steps. Fillmer suggested committees could be formed, and said there are a lot of agencies doing things, such as the Department of Water Resources, that others do not know about. Everyone has a different perspective because they are dealing with different aspects of the problem. Hahn said the group could identify best practices from other cities and counties because the problem is being dealt with everywhere. Kirk advised that agencies are losing funding and may not be able to provide the services they did in the past. Hahn stated that Housing and Urban Development (HUD) cutbacks are also impacting services.

City Manager Orme thanked the County for stepping up and being willing to set up the countywide meeting and Fillmer volunteered to help.

Fillmer provided an update on the Torres Shelter. At last night's City Council meeting a motion was made to have the City Manager look at funding and report back to the City's Finance Committee. The Torres Shelter advised that they only have enough funding to stay open six to eight more weeks. Hahn advised that the County provides many Behavioral Health services to the Shelter.

3. Septage Pond Facility – Update

Hahn advised that the County needs to eliminate the septage ponds for the future of landfill operations. They have met with the septage haulers to look at alternatives. Since that time, they were contacted by two private sector possibilities that may be an alternative. The County has also talked with the City of Chico about bringing the septage to the City's Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP). The City is open to the idea, but there are concerns around the strength of the septage, which may require pretreatment first, and look at the WPCP's capacity. Another alternative is to transport it to Lincoln but the costs could double for the customers. Hahn advised that permitting a new private venture and construction of facilities take time. From the County's perspective the quickest and easiest solution is to work out something with the City.

4. Nitrate Compliance Program - Update

Matt Thompson, City Associate Civil Engineer, showed a map of the Phase 3S construction planned for the next two years. The state has reviewed the project and determined it is eligible for funding. The plan is to advertise by the end of this month and construction should go quickly.

Casey Hatcher, Butte County Management Analyst, advised that there is a private Home Owners Association (HOA) Hollybrook/Waterford neighborhood that may pose a challenge. This neighborhood has individual septic systems in the front yards of the homes. A community meeting with the HOA and its Board was held. The HOA will have to vote to allow the utility easement. The Board understood the need to move from septic to sewer but it will require a 67% vote of the association members who are apathetic. The HOA Board will conduct a door to door campaign to educate the homeowners and outreach will continue. The project will likely lead to a discussion on annexation of the area.

Four phases of the Nitrate Compliance Program have been completed. A map and statistics were passed out showing the progress made and the connections completed. This is a helpful tool in showing compliance with the Prohibition Order.

5. Economic Development and Regional Tourism – Update

Jen Macarthy, Butte County Deputy Administrative Officer, advised that the Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID), Explore Butte County, has been formed. A Board has been seated with a cross section of representation, with the exception of Gridley who chose not to participate, and By Laws have been adopted. The first meeting was held last month and the meetings are subject to the Brown Act. The group plans to develop a strategic plan before engaging any consultants. City Manager Orme advised that the Board approved reimbursement to the County and City for the portion of their contribution that was used for the contract with Civitas.

Macarthy also advised that research was being conducted on the feasibility of establishing a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) to lower utility costs for residents and businesses. A CCA purchases power on behalf of the community while PG&E continues to be responsible for the infrastructure, transmission, and distribution. Sonoma County customers were saving 6% – 8% over PG&E costs, however the CPUC recently increased the Power Cost Indifference Adjustment fee which goes to PG&E to allow PG&E to remain whole even though they are losing customers. With the fee increase, cost savings for CCA customers could be diminished/erased. Sonoma customers are now saving only 1% and Marin County customers will be paying more than PG&E rates. As a result the County is putting the discussion on hold until the power cost indifference fee issue plays out. Orme agreed that it isn't wise to bring the proposal forward to the governing bodies right now.

City Manager Orme advised that Columbia College just opened in Chico. Columbia is not in competition with Chico State or Butte College but is filling the gap for working adults who want to further their education. They will be starting with online classes and when they have enough students they will start to offer classroom courses. They are an accredited college and have been used widely by those in the military. Columbia College is based in Missouri and was looking for cities across the country that met certain criteria. Chico was exactly what they were looking for and came out as number one in their

search. They currently employ one person plus adjunct professors, but when they open a campus they could employ 10 to 16 employees.

6. **May 4, 2016 Potential Agenda Items – Discussed**

Homeless Initiatives, Septage Pond Facility, Nitrate Compliance, Veterans Hall Update, Chico Municipal Airport Update, Old Humboldt Road Issues.

7. **Public Comment:** None

8. **Adjournment:** 4:27 p.m.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE City of Chico/County of Butte



Minutes of May 4, 2016 Meeting

Members present: Kirk, Morgan, Sorensen, Wahl
Members absent: Fillmer

1. **Approved Minutes**

Approved Minutes of February 3, 2016 (Motion: Kirk, Second: Sorensen)
Vote: 4/0/1

2. **Homeless Support and Prevention Initiatives – Discussion**

Paul Hahn, Butte County Chief Administrative Officer, advised that the City and County administrators held a symposium on homelessness. It was well attended with over 100 people. The purpose was to educate folks on what is being done countywide to address homelessness. Law enforcement, hospitals, homeless providers, County department heads, and others all spoke to the impacts of homelessness and the actions their organization was taking to address the problems. It was a successful event and they received good feedback. Next steps, the city/county administrators will be meeting again on Friday. Mark Orme, City of Chico City Manager, said the opportunity was well received. The Homeless Taskforce expects that there will be next steps. Next steps could be to identify gaps in service and duplication of services and to have a regional approach countywide. The Homeless Taskforce has provided information on gaps that will be discussed at Friday's meeting. The feedback received is of great value.

Mark Sorensen, City of Chico Mayor, said the event went well and accomplished the goals of the group. He said it was interesting to see what gaps there are. Larry Wahl, Butte County Supervisor, said the overlap of services was an obvious problem with a solution. He asked if all cities and counties want to participate in a regional approach, and how will it be funded. Maureen Kirk, Butte County Supervisor, said that housing and jobs are big things. Hahn said the Housing Authority is losing HUD funding and the city will receive a letter requesting help with funding. This will also be talked about Friday. There is a lot of duplication and competition for funding. The question is who is the right organization or group is to pull it all together.

Marie Demers, City of Chico Housing Manager, addressed the issue of overlap. She said many organizations seem to be doing the same thing but they are working in collaboration. Within Chico there is lots of coordination. She is not sure duplication is wholly accurate. Sorensen suggested that if two or three were to join together there would be operational efficiencies and lowering of overhead. Hahn said the Butte Countywide Homeless Continuum of Care's request is a logical place to coordinate, and that HUD requirements now require coordinated efforts.

3. **Septage Pond Facility - Update**

Hahn advised that the County continues to look for alternatives. The County is not required to have ponds but there is a great demand for them. The price to clean out septage tanks at homes will likely double so they are looking at alternatives, but it will take time. The separation of solids from liquids and taking the liquids to the City's Waste Water Pollution Control Plant is being looked at. They plan to bring alternatives to the Board of Supervisors this summer. Mike Crump, County Public Works Director, said there is a need to close the liquids pond soon and the solids pond needs to close in the

next 3-4 years. Hahn said if the County comes up with a plan it will be developed as an enterprise fund.

4. 900 Esplanade - Update

Grant Hunsicker, County General Services Director said there is 4000 sq ft leased to *MONCA*. It was anticipated that remodeling would be completed by 2019 but *MONCA* is ahead of that schedule. Phase 2 will come first because they have the funding. They are slated to start this summer. Phase 1 is the ADA ramp and funding is coming from a grant with matching funds from *MONCA*. The County is responsible for hazardous materials, and did an analysis which showed it would be less expensive to abate during construction. The County may replace the front entry doors, hardware, and other things while contractor on site. If the abatements comes in over appropriations the Board will be advised. Pat Macias, president of the *MONCA* Board of Directors, said the state grant matching funds will be \$150,000 for the ADA ramp. The State did a site visit and *MONCA* is one of 20 applicants left. There is now an art installation of neon lights in all 6 windows (6 pm – 12 pm) and they have completed the last pop-up museum. Next is the permanent pop-up at 900 Esplanade. Macias handed out flyer for the upcoming CAMA museum stroll where 11 museums in Chico will be open. Also, they are collecting recordings of peoples stories from 900 Esplanade, and you will be able to put on a headset and find out what has been done in the building and its history.

5. Old Humboldt Road - Status

Crump distributed maps of the area. The city limits are up to 2nd set of power lines. Wahl said his concern is that it is a dumping ground for trash and suggested a regular cleaning of it on both city and county areas. Another issue is Hog Springs where trough is. It is busted up and critters don't get the water. And the 4-wheelers are going between the road and rock wall. Crump stated that the County does checkup on the area from time to time and Hahn asked if the City could help.

Kirk asked the status of the Oak Valley development getting a water tank, and Sorensen said the issue has been getting Cal Water to agree on an engineering design. Matt Thompson, City Associate Civil Engineer, advised that it also wasn't included in the environmental review.

6. Nitrate Compliance Program – Update

Thompson said the next phase is 3S. They will send the contract to the State for approval to award. The area includes Stewart Ave./Oak Lawn/Cedar/Warner/Glenwood. There have been 21 miles of sewer main installed and 73% have received sewer service. Casey Hatcher, County Management Analyst said the community meeting is targeted for mid-June to let them know about the work. One heavy area is college area and they may not be done before the students come back.

7. Economic Development and Regional Tourism – Update

Jennifer Macarthy, County Deputy Administrative Officer, provided a TBID – Explore Butte County update. They started collecting in December. A seven member board has formed and is coming together nicely. They have put together an RFP for a strategic plan which was issued yesterday and due June 1st. The group is working through roles and responsibilities, outreach, a lot of interest from Chambers and the fair grounds.

Orme said there is a lot of activity right now. Smuckers is expanding and going to have some grain type products. They will be located in the County who is working to make the expansion go smoothly with neighbors, etc. Outreach to the neighborhood is important.

At the airport ChicoBag is moving into a building there. A lot of stuff at the airport with tech companies, properties changing hands there and along Hwy 99.

Hahn said the County is looking at leasing two buildings and the airport area looks promising. They would be moving from East Park Ave. BCAG will be extending bus services out to the airport which is important for the County to move the social services division there and it won't cost the County additional money for that service.

Orme also advised that two major projects, the Walmart expansion and Meriam Park are taking a lot of staff time. Meriam Park is getting its legs, lots of energy, and millions within the next year. Hahn discussed the Whisper Ridge Golf Course development and its First Tee golfing program. The 49ers have a STEM program at Levi Stadium that brought in 30,000 kids the first year/60,000 the next. Whisper Ridge is working with the 49ers for the design of a similar center at the Lake Wyandotte area which could have a regional benefit. The 49er's STEM Center would be rooted in football/golf/natural resources. Part of fee at Whisper Ridge would allow for kids to participate in the Lake Wyandotte Center. The 49ers flew out architects, etc., for two days to look at the area and begin their design.

Orme also advised that the development in front of Costco is an Ulta Beauty store.

8. August 3, 2016 Potential Agenda Items – Discuss

- Kirk asked about CARD and CUSD participating in these meetings. Since the meeting are open meetings CARD and CUSD are welcome to attend at any time. It was decided to invite CARD to the next meeting for an update on projects and programs.
- Homeless initiatives update.
- Septage - if there is an update.
- Possible update on City's replacement of the 1903 sewer trunk on River Road. (Thanks to Mike Crump and his crew for their help on the project.)
- Possible update on Fire

9. Public Comment None

10. Adjournment 4:29 p.m.