



SAN BENITO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Margie Barrios
District No. 1
Chair

Anthony Botelho
District No. 2

Robert Rivas
District No. 3

Jerry Muenzer
District No. 4

Jaime DeLaCruz
District No. 5
Vice Chair

County Administration Building – Board of Supervisors Chambers, 481 Fourth Street, Hollister, California

SPECIAL MEETING BOARD RETREAT THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2011 ACTION MINUTES

The Board of Supervisors of San Benito County met in the San Benito County Behavioral Health Department, 1131 San Felipe Road, Hollister, CA. 95023 on the above date in special session. Supervisors Botelho, Rivas, Muenzer, De La Cruz and Barrios were all present. Also present was County Administrative Officer Rich Inman, County Counsel Matthew Granger and Clerk of the Board Denise Thome. Chair Barrios presided.

CALL TO ORDER 8:30 A.M.

- a) County Administrative Officer Rich Inman led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- b) Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, acknowledged Certificate of Posting.

SPECIAL AGENDA

Public Comment:

Those speaking under public comment were; Hollister resident Alan Barker and Hollister resident Marvin Jones.

1. Discuss individual Board member concerns.

Held lengthy discussion with regards to the Board member's concerns. Each Board member felt that the budget was the biggest concern.

County Administrative Officer Inman explained the budget process for this year.

Those speaking under public comment were; Marvin Jones, Alan Barker, Bev Miller and SEIU representative Lewis Myers.

2. Discuss prioritizing impact fees.

County Administrative Officer Rich Inman asked for direction on prioritization order of impact fees.

A lengthy discussion ensued.

Those speaking under public comment were; Richard Bettencourt, Alan Barker, Marvin Jones and Sally Bettencourt.

The Board prioritized the impact fees as follows:

1. Traffic
2. Capital Improvement – Law Enforcement Equipment
Capital Improvement – Jail and Juvenile Hall
3. Habitat and Conservation
Parks and Recreation
4. Fire Mitigation
5. Road Equipment
6. Drainage

3. Discuss the 2011 Board meeting schedule.

County Administrative Officer explained the difficulties of back to back Board meetings. He further explained the benefits of having Board meetings twice a month instead of three and also the cost incurred.

County Counsel Matt Granger noted that a special meeting could always be set if the need arose.

Consensus of the Board was to have meetings on the first and third Tuesdays with the exception of July and September which would be the second and fourth Tuesdays due to holidays.

County Administrative Officer Inman indicated that they would put the item on the March 22, 2011 meeting.

Clerk of the Board Denise Thome spoke of the agenda and backup documents being uploaded to the County website for the public and departments to access, saving large amounts of paper, copying fees and staff time.

County Administrative Officer Inman brought up the subject of Board members receiving their agendas electronically and work off a laptop for Board meetings.

4. Discuss Treasurer Oversight Committee.

Discussion was had regarding the possibility of a monthly treasurer's report.

Clerk-Auditor-Recorder Joe Paul Gonzalez, stated that government code required that a quarterly report be done, not monthly.

Chair Barrios directed the Budget Committee to meet with County Administrative Officer Rich Inman and Treasurer-Tax Collector Mary Lou Andrade to see what is expected.

Sally Bettencourt spoke under public comment.

Supervisor Rivas felt that Ms. Andrade should do a quarterly update to the Board publicly.

The Board adjourned for a lunch break and reconvened into special session.

5. General discussion of County issues.

County Administrative Officer Rich Inman passed out budget policies and

noted that there were some changes from last year's policies. He stated that whatever they agreed to that day he would put on the March 22, 2011 agenda for formal adoption. Mr. Inman proceeded to go through each policy.

Discussion was had regarding privatization of services.

County Counsel Matt Granger warned the Board that there were some legal issues with privatizing.

Sally Bettencourt spoke under public comment.

Further discussion ensued regarding the use of reserves.

Supervisor Rivas brought up the matter of public comment and indicated that his observation was that it was a dialogue. He felt it was inappropriate for the Board to engage in dialogue with those speaking under public comment. He added that by not engaging in dialogue it would save time and run more smoothly.

County Counsel Matt Granger discussed decorum and efficiency. He stated that boards that he had observed followed three things:

1. Imposed a time limit and held them to that time limit.
2. Make sure all public comment is addressed to the Board and not staff or other people in the audience.
3. Responding to comments and questions by the public. He noted that some cities that he came from that did not respond to questions under public comment and instead the Chair would direct appropriate staff if necessary, to contact the speaker.

Mr. Granger stated that at the end of the day it was up to the Board noting that it was a smaller rural county and the sensitivity to the public.

Chair Barrios stated that she was in charge of the meeting, but did not know that she wanted to impose the restriction on supervisors to not speak.

Supervisors De La Cruz and Botelho felt that Supervisor Rivas raised a good point and that sometimes they engaged too much.

Chair Barrios agreed that for items not on the agenda they shouldn't engage in any conversation. She asked supervisors to think about it individually and left it to them to decide as to how extensively they wanted to respond to items on the agenda.

Sally Bettencourt spoke under public comment.

County Administrative Officer Inman stated that Planning Director Gary Armstrong called and wanted to schedule a joint meeting with the Planning Commission to talk about the General Plan issues. He brought up the issue that they were an advisory commission. He stated that he would clarify what issues they wanted to discuss and would e-mail Board members.

Supervisor Rivas suggested that they might not need a joint meeting.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned the meeting to March 22, 2011 for a regular meeting.

MARGIE BARRIOS, CHAIR

San Benito County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Denise R. Thome, Clerk of the Board