



SAN BENITO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Don Marcus
District No. 1
Vice-Chair

Anthony Botelho
District No. 2

Pat Loe
District No. 3
Chair

Reb Monaco
District No. 4

Jaime De La Cruz
District No. 5

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

REGULAR MEETING MARCH 7, 2006 ACTION MINUTES

The Board of Supervisors of San Benito County met in the Board Chambers on the above date in regular session. Supervisors Monaco, De La Cruz; Botelho, Marcus and Loe were all present. Also present was County Administrative Officer Susan Thompson, Acting County Counsel Irma Valencia and Clerk of the Board Linda Churchill. Chair Pat Loe presided when the following was had to wit:

9:30 a.m. CALL TO ORDER:

Youth In Government Day participant Tiffany Bustos of San Benito High School called the meeting to order.

- a) Pledge of Allegiance was led by Youth in Government Day participant Tiffany Bustos.
- b) *Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, acknowledged Certificate of Posting.*
- c) **Introduction of participants of “Youth In Government Day”.** The following students of San Benito High School introduced themselves: Tiffany Bustos, Joel Smith, Alan Guttirez, Stefany James, Robert Ramsey, Sarah Mullen and Zachary Johnson.
- d) **Public Comment:** Richard Place, Hollister resident, came forward. Mr. Place commented with regards to the Home Health Care Workers and the consideration by the Board of Supervisors for a raise for these workers. Mr. Place encouraged the Board to deeply consider this raise noting that these workers really contribute to our economy and this is an investment and not a cost because it reduces the overall costs and provides a living benefit to those people they are serving.
- e) **Department Head Announcements:** There were none.

f) **Board Announcements, Introductions and Presentations:**

The supervisors all welcomed the participants of Youth in Government Day. Supervisor Botelho reported that he recently attended a course on Agriculture Terrorism stating that this was a very interesting course and a real wake up call and found it to be a very beneficial learning tool. Supervisor Botelho thanked the San Benito County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office, particularly Ron Ross, and the Sheriff’s Department for coordinating this well attended and important event.

Supervisor Marcus reported that there was a workshop with CalTrans held on February 28, 2006 where the Board of Supervisors and the public heard a report from CalTrans on where we are going with certain highway projects. Supervisor Marcus stated that he felt very strongly that the Board needs to continue to direct the Council of Governments (COG) and the COG Director with regards to one particular strip of Highway 156 between Hollister and San Juan Bautista. Supervisor

Marcus stated there is millions of dollars in state funding available for this particular improvement and there is a plan in place that we need to focus on and we need to assure the community that we are going to keep this project out in the forefront and work with CalTrans on the design and ask for some specific dates as to when this Highway is going to start being improved and what is the plan to improve it.

Supervisor Monaco reported that he had the opportunity last Saturday to throw out the first pitch at the Hollister Heat Opening Day at the Veteran's Memorial Park. Supervisor Monaco stated that he was impressed with the number of youth along with their parents who use that facility for very wholesome activities noting that the Veterans Park was a real gem in our city.

CONSENT AGENDA:

CLERK OF THE BOARD:

- 1) **Approved** the minutes of the special meeting of February 16, 2006.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE:

- 2) **Approved** appointment of Management Analyst II at Step E of Range 24.0 in the Internal Services Department effective March 13, 2006. *File #630*

REGULAR AGENDA:

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

- 3) **Receive and discuss mandated and non-mandated programs within San Benito County.**

County Administrative Officer Susan Thompson gave a report, along with a Power Point presentation, explaining the mandated and discretionary programs and budgetary items that the County of San Benito operates under and at what level of discretion the Board actually has under the law to fund certain types of programs that we have in the community and what kinds of discretion the Board does not have.

Handouts of the Power Point presentation were provided along with the Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Tentative Budget Timeline and a sample of the budget format for this year.

Ms. Thompson answered questions from the Board as well as from the Youth In Government Day participants. *File #865*

- 4) **Hold discussion regarding recruitment for the position of County Counsel and provide direction to staff.**

Assistant County Administrative Officer Susan Lyons reported that the County Counsel recruitment conducted by Waters Oldani Executive Recruitment closed on February 24, 2006 and 13 qualified candidates have been identified. Ms. Lyons noted that books containing the resumes of the candidates are expected to be ready for distribution by March 10, 2006.

Discussion was held as to how to handle the interview process.

BOARD ACTION: *Set a special meeting (Closed Session) for Tuesday, March 14, 2006 beginning at 8:30 a.m. to review resumes and information gathered by Waters Oldani Executive Recruitment for the County Counsel candidates. File #160*

- 5) **Approve consolidation of Mental Health and Substance Abuse services and creation of the Behavioral Health Department.**

County Administrative Officer Susan Thompson provided background information noting that this was a very significant proposal for the Board of consider. Ms. Thompson reported that there has been a lot of work done leading up to bringing this item forward and included Administrative staff, Mental Health staff, Substance Abuse staff and they also met with the Substance Abuse Advisory Board and the Mental Health Advisory Board regarding this proposed re-organization.

Ms. Thompson reported that what they were primarily attempting to do is to take a look at the service delivery system in San Benito County in a more holistic approach. Ms. Thompson further reported that this re-organization would create a savings of over \$100,000.

Discussion was held and questions of the Board and participants in Youth in Government Day were answered.

Mental Health Director Alan Yamamoto addressed the Board of Supervisors stating that there was more likeness between these two departments than any other departments in the County and Behavioral Health is the cutting edge model to combine both of these services. Mr. Yamamoto stated that the caseloads impact each other's services. Mr. Yamamoto stated that it would be the prerogative of the Substance Abuse Advisory Board and the Mental Health Board to make a choice if they wish to combine or not and it was ratified by the Substance Abuse Advisory Board that they wished to stay an independent board.

Chair Loe asked Mr. Yamamoto to come back on a future agenda regarding the structures of the advisory boards and consider whether or not we should add members.

Eva Reyna, Hollister resident, came forward. Ms. Reyna, who is a member of the Substance Abuse Advisory Board, stated that this caught the advisory board off guard and they did not know what was going on with the administrator. Ms. Reyna stated that there are people that have only substance abuse problems and not mental problems. Ms. Reyna said she was not against all of the proposals and the advisory board was caught between all of what is happening. Ms. Reyna asked that Mr. Yamamoto and Susan Thompson meet with staff and explain what is going on.

BOARD ACTION: *Upon motion made by Supervisor Monaco and seconded by Supervisor Botelho, approved the consolidation of the Substance Abuse Services unit into the Department of Mental Health and rename the department the Behavioral Health Department and approved related organizational structure, staffing and classification and recommendation included in the staff report as summarized in Exhibit 1 of the report. (Unanimous vote.)*

(Note: Effective dates listed on Exhibit 1 as March 1, 2006 should read March 7, 2006.)

File #810

CLOSED SESSION:

Matters discussed during Closed Session include existing and pending litigation, personnel matters and real property negotiations. Reportable actions taken by the Board during Closed Session will be announced during open session. (Gov. Code Section 54957.1(a) & (b), Ralph M. Brown Act.)

6) Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation

Authority: California Government Code Section 54956.9(a)

- a) William Damm & Mary Damm vs. San Benito County Board of Supervisors, Tina Bertuccio, et al.

No reportable action. File #235.6

The vote of each member of the Board of Supervisors upon each matter at the foregoing meeting, unless otherwise stated, was as follows:

AYES: SUPERVISORS: Monaco; De La Cruz; Botelho; Marcus & Loe
NOES: SUPERVISORS: None
ABSENT: SUPERVISORS: None

There being no further business the Board adjourned to its next regularly scheduled meeting on, Tuesday, March 14, 2006 at 8:30 a.m. for a special meeting.

PAT LOE, CHAIR

San Benito County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Linda Churchill, Clerk of the Board