

Board considers response to grand jury

Contributed by Elizabeth Larson
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LAKEPORT ‐ The Board of Supervisors will consider approval of a lengthy response to the grand jury's 2007-08 report at its Tuesday meeting.

The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. in the board chambers at the Lake County Courthouse, 255 N. Forbes St., Lakeport. TV Channel 8 will broadcast the meeting live.

The 254-page grand jury report was released to the board and other department heads on July 9, two days before it was made public.

It offers basic overview of numerous county departments, as well as dealing with more pointed issues and complaints, the latter submitted by the public.

The board will submit a detailed response to the grand jury, including numerous responses by county department heads.

Among those responses will be one by District Attorney Jon Hopkins, who the grand jury criticized in its report for failing to file a set of juvenile court petitions in a timely manner in order to assist with an investigation into a Child Protective Service matter. The petitions were needed in order for the grand jury to access confidential records.

The report said the grand jury began requesting the petitions be filed in May 2007. After repeated requests, Bron Locke, the grand jury foreman, filed the petitions himself this past March in order for a hearing the following month.

The request for information was denied based on a technicality, according to the report, which found that Hopkins “must cooperate fully in the capacity of advisor and representative” to future grand juries.

Hopkins' response, which accompanies those of other department heads, states: “This is a complex area of the law requiring a degree of expertise, and due to shortages and other staffing issues, assignment of this matter would have meant not covering the criminal cases properly.”

The grand jury also investigated a complaint regarding low water pressure on Alterra Drive in Lakeport, which suffered two fires endangering property. One of them, which occurred last summer, endangered an entire subdivision, as Lake County News has reported.

The report found the water lines in the Alterra Drive area are not to code and recommended replacing the entire water system in the subdivision within one year.

In his response to those findings, Special Districts Administrator Mark Dellinger said the subdivision's water lines are made of a defective material. Further, he said \$100,000 has been appropriated to replace as many service lines in the area as possible.

Other items on the Tuesday agenda include the following.

Timed:

‐ 9:10 a.m.: Consideration of proposed Resolution of Intention to establish proposed “Zone P” (Clear Lake Keys) of County Service Area No. 23, approve the engineer’s report, the form of ballot and balloting process for the assessment, and setting a public hearing for protests and balloting determination, and set public hearing to consider protest against the proposed assessment zone for Oct. 28 at 9:15 a.m.

‐ 9:15 a.m.: Hearing, notice of nuisance abatement, 16853 Big Bear Road, Lower Lake, owned by Christine Van Zandt.

‐ 9:45 a.m.: Consideration of request for board direction regarding application with the Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) for funding to construct a new Juvenile Correctional Facility at an estimated cost of \$20 million, of which \$5 million would be required to be funded by the County General Fund.

‐ 10 a.m.: Consideration of request for modification of Capacity Expansion Fee Payments (to be paid in eight quarterly installments of \$11,220, beginning at time of building occupancy) by Mohammed Hussain (Three Brothers Travel Plaza, Upper Lake).

‐ 1:15 p.m.: Consideration of proposed resolution of intention to establish proposed “Zone O” (Clearlake Riviera) of County Service Area No. 23, approve the engineer’s report, the form of ballot and balloting process for the assessment, and setting a public hearing for protests and balloting determination, and set public hearing to consider protest against the proposed assessment zone for Nov. 4 at 9:15 a.m.

‐ 1:30 p.m.: Discussion regarding the Countywide Transportation Impact Fee Program Draft Report.

Untimed:

‐ Consideration of proposed resolution approving the amendment to the standard agreement between the county of Lake and the State Department of Mental Health for Fiscal Years (FY) 06/07, 07/08 and 08/09, and authorizing the director of Mental Health to sign Agreement No. 06-76027-000.

‐ Consideration of proposed resolution approving the standard agreement between the county of Lake and the State Department of Mental Health for Fiscal Years (FY) 07/08, 08/09 and 09/10 (for specialty mental health services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries in Lake County) and authorize the director of Mental Health to sign Agreement No. 07-77179-000.

‐ Consideration of request to approve State Domestic Preparedness Grant Application in the Amount of \$231,362 to be allocated to Budget Unit No. 2704 ‐ Office of Emergency Services, for enhancement of the Office of Emergency Services capabilities to prevent, respond to, recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters and other emergencies. The board also will hold a closed session for a performance evaluation of Special Districts Administrator Mark Dellinger and a conference with legal counsel regarding one potential case of litigation.

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