

**MARIN COUNTY COUNCIL OF MAYORS AND COUNCILMEMBERS  
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, January 27, 2010**  
Drake Community Room (Jason's Restaurant)  
300 Drakes Landing, Larkspur, CA  
Hosted by the Town of Ross

**Members Present**

Belvedere: No members attended

Corte Madera: Carla Condon, Alexandra Cock, Diane Furst, Bob Ravasio

Fairfax: David Weinsoff

Larkspur: Larry Chu, Joan Lundstrom, Len Rifkind

Mill Valley: Andy Berman, Garry Lion, Shawn Marshall, Stephanie Moulton-Peters, Ken Wachtel

Novato: Denise Athas, Madeline Kellner, Jeanne MacLeamy

Ross: Bill Cahill, Scot Hunter, Chris Martin, Michael Skall, Rick Strauss

San Anselmo: Kay Coleman, Jeff Kroot, Barbara Thornton

San Rafael: Al Boro, Greg Brockbank, Damon Connolly, Barbara Heller, Marc Levine

Sausalito: Carolyn Ford, Jonathan Leone, Linda Pfeiffer, Herb Weiner

Tiburon: Alice Fredericks, Jim Fraser, Emmett O'Donnell, Jeff Slavitz

Also present were the following City and Town Managers: David Bracken, Corte Madera; Gary Broad, Ross; Wayne Bush, Interim City Manager, Mill Valley; Michael Rock, Fairfax; Pat Thompson, Interim City Manager, Larkspur; Debra Stutsman, San Anselmo; Ken Nordhoff, San Rafael; Adam Politzer, Sausalito; Peggy Curran, Tiburon, as well as Amy Koenig, Finance Director of Larkspur, and MCCMC Secretary/Treasurer Diane Crane Iacopi of Tiburon.

**Call to Order:** President Jeff Slavitz called the business meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and introduced Ross Mayor, Rick Strauss.

**Welcome and Introduction of Guests:** Mayor Strauss welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced guests Dick Spotswood of the Marin Independent Journal, Peter Banning of Marin LAFCO, Patsy White of the League of Women Voters, Chuck Dalldorf of the League of California Cities, as well as members of the Ross Town Staff: Gary Broad, Mel Jarjoura, Linda Lopez, Jim Reis, Elise Semonian, Tom Valle, and Hadden Roth.

President Slavitz asked if any new electeds were in the audience who had not attended the December meeting. Carolyn Ford of Sausalito and Jeff Kroot of San Anselmo introduced themselves and were welcomed by the group.

**Approval of Minutes:** From the meeting held on December 3, 2009

*Moved and seconded to approve the minutes. Motion passed.*

**Committee Reports**

- a. Golden Gate Bridge, Highway & Transportation District – Al Boro said that he had reported earlier on the Board's investigation of "creative" ways to raise revenues, including something called the "Bridge Experience" in Sydney, Australia. He said that a questionnaire had gone out to three newspapers with positive responses. Boro said that issues of safety and security were also being explored. On a second topic, Boro said that the Board had voted to adopt the "net" solution for a proposed suicide barrier and that the process of fund-raising from federal and private sources would begin in order to underwrite the \$50 million price tag. Finally, Boro said that the Marin County Transit District had purchased 10 new hybrid buses which would be on the streets soon.

- b. TAM (Transportation Authority of Marin) – Alice Fredericks reported that Measure A revenues were down 14.2% from last year, and that this, combined with reduced sales tax revenues, might trigger some spending from the TAM reserves. She discussed the effects the Governor’s proposed budget would have on transportation, and that a new excise tax would in fact cause an estimated \$1.86 billion reduction in gas tax revenues. She said that rail and transit issues would not be funded and that this was an “end run” around Proposition 42. She said that the proposed budget would also adversely impact Proposition 98 (schools) funding in the amount of \$1.48 billion annually. Fredericks said the proposed League of California Cities ballot initiative would attempt to close these loopholes in funding.
- c. League of California Cities – North Bay Representative Chuck Dalldorf said that signature-gathering for the League-sponsored ballot measure had started in earnest and that he would be outside immediately after the meeting with petitions for those who were interested. Greg Brockbank added that it was a fairly easy process to obtain signatures.
- d. Marin County Transit District – Barbara Heller and Stephanie Mouton-Peters gave a report. Heller reiterated some of Alice Fredericks’ remarks about the impacts of the State budget on local transit initiatives. Ms. Moulton-Peters said that the agency had already cut its budget by 7% and reduced transit services over the past year. She said that letters had been sent out to other transit agencies seeking consolidation of programs and other cost-sharing measures.

**Appointments to Fill Committee Vacancies:**

President Slavitz said that the following vacancies had been announced at the December 3, 2009 meeting, and nominations had been received. He said that nominations would also be taken from the floor.

- SMART (Sonoma/Marin Area Rail Transit Commission) – (MCCMC appointment to fill remainder of Peter Breen’s term ending January 2011 – nominee must be TAM commissioner or alternate, not from Novato or San Rafael)  
  
Nominee: Joan Lundstrom  
Action: Motion to appoint and seconded/Vote: Unanimous
- DISCO (Marin County Disaster Council) – (Board of Supervisors appointment; names submitted by MCCMC to replace Susan Brandborg, term ending March 2011)  
  
Nominee: Len Rifkind  
Action: Motion to appoint and seconded/Vote: Unanimous
- Golden Gate Bridge & Highway Transportation District – (MCCMC appointment of delegate to two-year term, expiring January 2010; Al Boro, incumbent)  
  
Nominee: Al Boro  
Action: Motion to appoint and seconded/Vote: Unanimous
- Marin County Transit District Board of Directors – (MCCMC appointment of delegate and alternate to two-year terms, one term expiring in January 2010; (Barbara Heller, incumbent; delegate Madeline Kellner and alternate Moulton-Peters’ terms expire in January 2011)

Nominee: Barbara Heller  
Action: Motion to appoint and seconded/Vote: Unanimous

- Major Crimes Task Force (MCCMC appointment of delegate and alternate for two-year terms, expiring January 2010; Pat Eklund, incumbent; alternate position, vacant)

Nominee: Pat Eklund, delegate  
Action: Motion to appoint and seconded/Vote: Unanimous

Garry Lion announced that he would be interested in serving as the alternate and was subsequently nominated by Chris Martin of Ross.

Action: Motion to appoint Garry Lion as alternate, and seconded/Vote: Unanimous

- League of California Cities, North Bay Division Executive Committee, (MCCMC appoints two delegates and one alternate, annually; alternate position is vacant, current delegates are Jonathan Leone and Greg Brockbank)

Leone and Brockbank said that would be interested in continuing to serve. No one was nominated for the alternate position.

Nominee: Jonathan Leone and Greg Brockbank  
Action: Motion to appoint and seconded/Vote: Unanimous

- Homeless Policy Committee (New vacancy – see letter from Supervisor Susan Adams in packet seeking one or two members from MCCMC)

Nominee: Greg Brockbank and Len Rifkind  
Action: Motion to appoint and seconded/Vote: Unanimous

**Other Reports:** None

**Public Comment:** None

Mayor Strauss introduced speaker Rand Anderson of CalPERS .

**Program:** *“California Local Government Pension Costs: An Overview from CalPERS of Past and Future Contribution Rates”*

Speaker: Rand Anderson, Manager, CalPERS Constituent Relations Office

In his power point presentation, Mr. Anderson showed a graph of changes to CalPERS past and future contribution rates over 30 years. He said that rates had gone up from 4 to 8% of pay. He said that this was partly driven by benefits but also by the increase in the number of public employees state-wide, as well as a decline in investment returns. He noted that 25 years ago, rates were as high as they are now, also due to [poor] investment returns. He said that CalPERS had implemented an investment return “smoothing policy” to accommodate fluctuations, such as the losses incurred over the 2008-09 period.

Mr. Anderson discussed the impact of benefits on CalPERS rates, including the enrichment of benefits for public safety personnel, as well as state employees, starting with the passage of

SB 400. He said that a CalPERS actuarial had stated that the rates were “unsustainable.” He said that with \$200 billion in its trust fund, CalPERS could continue to pay benefits for 18 years (at the current rates).

Mr. Anderson said that while government had grown “substantially” over the past 30 years, elected officials needed to also follow the statistics of payroll growth (higher salaries). He said the largest payroll growth had been in the police and fire personnel sector (135%), and California Highway Patrol (86%).

Mr. Anderson took questions from the audience pertaining to what employers could do to address the escalating rates. Anderson said that one method being employed was to create a two-tier benefit system for new hires; he said that it would be illegal to attempt to reduce benefit formulas for current employees, even if they were willing to do so. He also discussed a “golden handshake” (two-year service credit) incentive for early retirement.

Mr. Anderson answered questions about the CalPERS investment strategy and whether it was tied to a real estate portfolio. Mr. Anderson acknowledged that CalPERS funds were underperforming in real estate and private equity, but he also said that he administered a (non-real estate) fund that was earning 18%. He reiterated that CalPERS was treating the recent (24%) losses as a one-time “special event.”

In response to a question about 457 plans, Anderson said that CalPERS also offered 457 plans but did not have statistical information about their performance because they are self (employee) directed plans. He said he did not know what percentage of California employees have 457 plans but noted that his personal 457 plan had not performed well over the last term.

Al Boro commented that said some cities would not be able to sustain the CalPERS rates. He also commented that there did not appear to be any leadership at the State level to “take on” the big state employee unions and that this made any actions taken by local agencies, such as in Marin County, seem inconsequential.

Anderson said that the Governor was stating publicly that there was a need to go to a lower tier for new hires, and that new some State employees had been moved to defined benefit plans after three years of employment.

One member asked whether SB 400 could be repealed. Mr. Anderson reiterated that it would be illegal to take away existing retiree benefits. However, he said that there were ballot initiatives in circulation that would significantly lower [new] employee benefit rates. He said that one such initiative, if passed, would require a public employee to work 45 years in order to receive a 75% (of salary) pension.

Mr. Anderson said that CalPERS was sponsoring conferences to elicit dialog for solutions to the problem at the grass-roots level. He noted that CalPERS was not making a specific set of proposals.

President Slavitz thanked Mr. Anderson for a very enlightening discussion.

**Adjourn:** 8:35 pm to the next meeting hosted by the Town of San Anselmo at Jason’s Restaurant in Greenbrae.

Submitted,

Diane Crane Iacopi, Secretary-Treasurer