

Local Emergency Services Study Group
Minutes
Tuesday July 28, 2020
9:00 am

1. Call to Order & Attendance

Chair Tom Cooley called the meeting to order. Each attendee introduced themselves, the following were present:

Beckwourth Fire Dept: Daniel Smith, Bret Russell
City of Portola: Tom Cooley, Pat Morton, Leslie Chrysler, Lauren Knox
EPRFPD: Jeanne Graham
Gold Mtn. CSD: Cary Curtis, Rene St. Pierre, Bill Robinson, Rich McLaughlin, Bill Seney
Sierra Valley Fire Dept: Vicki Anderson
Quincy Fire Department: Robbie Cassou
Eastern Plumas Health Care: Doug McCoy

2. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Daniel Smith, seconded by Pat Morton, to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2020 meeting. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

3. Agency Reports

Beckwourth

Daniel Smith reported the Board members are excited about the path being followed by the committee and feel that this time things feel different and they are looking forward to change.

Gold Mountain

Cary Curtis reported that they have placed discussion about efforts of the committee as a standing agenda item.

Rene St. Pierre noted that when Portola terminated their Fire Department and moved to a contract with EPRFPD it was a wakeup call to them and they see the need for change.

Eastern Plumas

Jeanne Graham reported that they had discussed the efforts of the committee and had also placed it as a standing agenda item.

Sierra Valley

Vicki Anderson explained that the Board's biggest question is how much it will cost.

Portola

Pat Morton noted that the City Council all agree on the need to move forward.

4. Update on next steps from the previous meeting

Grant Opportunities

Rich McLaughlin reported that they were looking at an economic development grant that may work for the group and would continue to investigate other avenues for funding opportunities.

Data Gathering

Tom Cooley provided an updated spreadsheet that includes housing units and explained that he would get budgets from each district.

Press Release & Letter to Agencies

Leslie Chrysler reported that the press release had been sent to Plumas News, KJDX and the Sierra Booster. Plumas news added and article to their web site. The email had been sent to the various agencies and she had received replies with contact information for most of the agencies.

5. Report from LAFCo

Plumas LAFCo Executive Director Jennifer Stephenson participated via Zoom.

Ms. Stephenson provided the committee a brief history of LAFCo and how agency reorganizations proceed through LAFCo. She explained that Plumas LAFCo supports the effort to reorganize the participating fire districts and has approved a budget of \$12,000 to help with applications costs, in addition to helping with the application fee the LAFCo board also approved funding executive time for the project.

Ms. Stephenson continued with a review of her memo to the committee that outlined the steps for a special or feasibility study including study costs, potential consultants, example studies and next steps to consider. She responded to questions from committee members relating to CEQA, voting, cost sharing, and taxation. She suggested the committee should reach out to County staff and Supervisors early in the process since they would be critical to the tax sharing process. She offered to attend meeting with the county if requested.

6. Case Studies and Best Practices

Daniel Smith reported that the sub-committee had met and reviewed various example studies. He explained that they were able to schedule a meeting with legal counsels of Beckwourth and Portola the meeting will be held on Monday August 24, 2020 at 10am at the Beckwourth fire hall. Arrangements to participate remotely will be made available.

7. Public Communications

Cary Curtis explained that a web site had been developed and the committee would need to provide a list of what they would like to see on the web site.

Ms. Curtis then introduced Bill Seney who reviewed his background in marketing and communications. Mr. Seney reviewed the type of information the committee would need to provide to develop an effective communication plan. He stressed the need to have a consistent message with a final goal.

The committee discussed the difference between consolidation and reorganization by forming new district. Ms. Stephenson noted her support of forming a new district rather than consolidation into one of the existing districts.

Mr. Cooley asked Mr. Seney if he was offering his services to the committee and asked the committee members if they would like to accept his offer. Mr. Seney indicated his willingness to provide the services to the committee and the members accepted his offer.

8. Next Steps

Tom Cooley requested any additional comments. Vicki Anderson suggested a list of pros and cons be created. Doug McCoy thanked the committee for inviting him to participate.

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am. The next meeting will be held on Monday August 24, 2020 at 10:00 am in the Beckwourth Fire Hall.

Respectfully Submitted

Leslie Chrysler, Secretary