



**STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SIERRA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING**

Lee Adams, Chair, District 1

P.O. Box 1 - Downieville, CA 95936 - 530-289-3506 - supervisor1@sierracounty.ca.gov

Peter W. Huebner, Vice-Chair, District 2

P.O. Box 349 - Sierra City, CA 96125 - 530-862-1004 - supervisor2@sierracounty.ca.gov

Paul Roen, District 3

P.O. Box 43 - Calpine, CA - 209-479-2770 - supervisor3@sierracounty.ca.gov

Jim Beard, District 4

P.O. Box 1140 - Loyalton, CA 96118 - 530-414-8126 - jbeard@sierracounty.ca.gov

Scott A. Schlefstein, District 5

P.O. Box 192 - Loyalton, CA 96118 - 530-993-4900 - supervisor5@sierracounty.ca.gov

The Sierra County Board of Supervisors met in regular session commencing at 9:00 a.m. on January 5, 2016 in the Board of Supervisors' Chambers, Courthouse, Downieville, CA.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Supervisor Roen

ROLL CALL

Present: Lee Adams, Supervisor, Chair, District #1
Peter W. Huebner, Supervisor, Vice-Chair, District #2
Paul Roen, Supervisor, District #3
Jim Beard, Supervisor, District #4
Scott A. Schlefstein, Supervisor, District #5

Staff: Heather Foster, County Clerk-Recorder
Jim Curtis, County Counsel
Van Maddox, Auditor/Treasurer Tax-Collector
Tim Beals, Director of Planning and Transportation
Darden Bynum, Director of Health and Human Services
Tim Standley, Sheriff-Coroner
Laura A. Marshall, Assessor/IS Manager/Solid Waste Fee Administrator

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Supervisor Adams presented a gavel and stand to Chair Beard as the outgoing Chair of the Board.

PASSING OF THE GAVEL

Chair Beard passed the gavel to the new Chair, Lee Adams.

SELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

The Board moved to nominate Supervisor Huebner as the new Vice-Chair.

APPROVED. Motion: Beard/Roen/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

The Board moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

APPROVED. Motion: Roen/Huebner/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

14. CONSENT AGENDA

14.A. Amendment to Agreement No. 2015-006 between Kings View Corporation and Sierra County. (BEHAVIORAL HEALTH)

APPROVED, Agreement 2016-001

14.B. Amendment to Agreement # 2015-099 with Dudek for increased scope of work to cover additional CEQA background studies on Sierra Hot Springs project. (PLANNING)

APPROVED, Agreement 2016-002

14.C. Resolution authorizing the Auditor to make certain changes to the 2015/2016 Final Budget to reflect HAVA Section 261 grant funding and increase expenditures in the Elections budget. (ELECTIONS)

ADOPTED, Resolution 2016-001

14.D. Approval of appointment of Patricia Kiehl to the Nevada County Resource Conservation District. (CLERK OF THE BOARD)

14.E. Minutes from the regular meeting held on December 1, 2015. (CLERK-RECORDER)

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APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

The Board moved to approve the Regular Agenda.

APPROVED. Motion: Huebner/Roen/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

REGULAR AGENDA

2. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

At 9:03 a.m. Chair Adams opened the public comment opportunity.

Mr. Jason Christian, Portola addressed the Board regarding the Governor's Proclamation of Tree Mortality Emergency and explained this is a significant opportunity for Sierra County and its northern sierra neighbors to address the high fire danger in the regions woodlands. Mr. Christian continued to review in detail the directives outlined in the proclamation and suggested the Board add this to a future meeting agenda for discussion.

Chair Adams commented that RCRC has a seat on the mortality working group and he has been attending those meetings and will bring this information to the Board as it comes forward.

Supervisor Roen commented that the biomass committee hasn't appointed a chair yet, but once this is done they will start making contact and having these conversations.

Mr. Tom Dotta, Loyalton expressed concerns with unacceptable behavior of two County Supervisors. Mr. Dotta further read an email he received from Supervisor Huebner and expressed concerns that this discrimination is driving the majority of the Board to support the retaliation against him with the resolution declining the State of Jefferson which he is Chair of for Sierra County. Mr. Dotta added this will bring harm to him and to the people of Sierra County. This retaliation is apparent by with the statement that "he will never get anything done on the eastern side in the near future" and the Board should be cautioned that this is construed as retaliation against him and those he represents just because he exercises free speech.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

RCRC December 9, 2015 Board meeting highlights. (CHAIR ADAMS)

No reports were given.

4. DEPARTMENT MANAGERS' REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Sheriff briefly reported the heating issues at the Loyalton Substation have been resolved; the department just hired a new dispatch/correctional officer; and the department currently has another dispatch/correctional officer and deputy going through the background process so hopefully all available positions in the department will be filled by this summer.

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The Director of Health and Human Services provided an update on Environmental Health and water quality with respect to the Department's requirement by the Central Valley Regional Water Control Board to submit a letter regarding the County's intention on Local Agency Management Program (LAMP) for water quality. The state has imposed a new two tier system and Sierra County is one of 50% of counties that run our Health Departments in the red and is subsidized by realignment funds. The Department has to respond by May, so he is meeting with the Planning Director to determine what the costs would be for the required study and will report back to the Board on this. The Director further requested responding back to the Regional Water Control Board acknowledging their request.

5. FOREST SERVICE UPDATE

Chair Adams indicated that Yuba District Ranger Karen Hayden was not going to attend today.

11.B. Presentation by Mary Ervin of the Sierra County Exhibit Committee, California State Fair 2015 participation plaque. (CHAIR ADAMS)

Ms. Mary Ervin presented the Board with the California State Fair 2015 participation plaque and also informed the Board that they have submitted the application to participate in the 2016 California State Fair.

6. AUDITOR / TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR - Van Maddox

6.A. Discussion/direction on setting the minimum bid for four (4) tax defaulted parcels subject to the Tax Collector's power to sell that have previously been offered for sale and have not sold.

The Auditor provided background on the item noting these are properties that have defaulted on their taxes in the past five years and can be legally sold. Three (3) of these properties are being sold as one package which is the Loyaltan Mobile Home Park and the amount owed to the County is \$303,400. Following a discussion with the County Assessor, this amount doesn't appear to be an inappropriate amount to sell this property. The Auditor added he believes a letter from the state suspending the permit to operate as a mobile home park is forthcoming which will lead to revocation of the property being operated as a park. The Auditor concluded that he believes this is still a viable park and would recommend leaving the sales price at \$303,400 and this will come back to the Board for a vote at the next meeting.

In response to Supervisor Schlefstein's inquiry, the Auditor explained the mobile home park would go up for sale in April and if no one buys it the state would probably move forward with the revocation of the permit. If this happens, the property would probably be put back out to sale as raw land next year. The Auditor continued to explain he doesn't believe the current sale price is a deterrent to those who would buy and operate a mobilehome park.

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Supervisor Adams questioned with respect to the other properties listed, if there has been any contact with the neighbors of the property to see if they want to purchase it.

The Auditor explained his office did perform a silent bid and will probably do it again the next time it goes up for sale.

Considerable discussion ensued regarding the Tax Collector recommending the stated minimum bids; the revocation of the permit placing the burden on the City of Loyaltan and the County and has a number of social issues, etc.; and what the timeline of revocation is once the suspension is in place.

Supervisor Schlefstein further questioned what the Assessor would assess this property at if it was purchased at \$303,400.

The Assessor explained this wouldn't be considered a market sale and they would contact other counties for any other sales. If there were none they might consider this as the value but they cannot make a pre event appraisal. The Assessor added they wouldn't treat this property any differently than any other property in the County.

The Tax Collector also explained this is not an arms-length sale as the County cannot set the price higher than what is owed in taxes and penalties.

Discussion ensued regarding how the mobile home park property would be appraised following the tax sale; back liens on the property; and any proceeds received above what is owed to the County would be allocated to others with liens on the property.

Following discussion, this item was continued to the next meeting for action.

9. PUBLIC WORKS / TRANSPORTATION - Tim Beals

9.A. Discussion/direction on policy for winter season issues related to certain county maintained highways.

The Director of Transportation explained there are a number of roads that are seasonally closed due to inclement weather, etc. and there is no authority without the Board's approval to close these roads. There are emergency close orders that can occur with a legitimate emergency, however to post a road as closed there has to be some support in an ordinance fashion giving the Board and/or the Road Commissioner, Public Works Director or Director of Transportation to make those closures.

The Director further expressed concerns with individuals accessing these back roads who get stuck and become a search and rescue; the significant resource damage to the roads; and the Sheriff's office having to divert resources to individuals who are stuck miles away from paved roads.

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The Director continued to explain that most of these occurrences are happening on county roads that bisect federal land and the federal law enforcement side is not responding. The Director further questioned if the Board has the desire to consider a policy with respect to access to these roads and what resources should and can the Forest Service provide to access the public who gets lost on federal land from county roads.

Chair Adams suggested bifurcating the two issues of what the County should be doing and what the Forest Service should be doing. Chair Adams added with respect to the County is it time to officially close these roads and leave it to CHP and the Sheriff on how they are going to enforce it.

Supervisor Schlefstein referred to a similar discussion a few years ago and the Board receiving push back due to recreational access to these roads. He would lean toward open access for the public policy and not try to micro manage the roads around here. Supervisor Schlefstein added with respect to the Dog Valley Road, possibly separating this road out as it has had so many problems.

The Director clarified in the past they have put up advisory signs on these roads.

Chair Adams suggested referring this to the Board of Supervisors Public Works, Road and Solid Waste Committee to vet some ideas. Chair Adams also suggested with respect to the problematic roads, to come up with a humorous sign to get their attention versus being too draconian in closing these roads.

The Sheriff explained he understands and appreciates the recreational aspect; however, the problem is when people get stuck the tow calls are coming in on 911 as tow trucks won't go out on these unpaved roads. It takes at least an hour for an officer to respond to the backside of Verdi/Bordertown which leaves the department without anyone in the community to respond. The Sheriff further indicated he is in favor of vetting this with the committee and coming up with a game plan.

Ms. Julie Osburn, Sierra County resident indicated she agrees with Supervisor Schlefstein's comments and doesn't believe the 1% of those that get into trouble should cause the road closures and ruin public access for the rest of the public; rather she believes the County should come up with a way to charge those people and use these funds to hire another officer to deal with the 1%.

Mr. Don Yegge, Sierra Brooks believes the signs need language to indicate where the roads are actually closed.

By consensus, the Board referred this issue to the Public Works, Roads and Solid Waste Standing Committee.

Supervisor Adams further questioned how the Board wants to address the Forest Service side of this issue. He was informed by the Sheriff that the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (NF) has offered the County \$1,500 this year for the law enforcement cooperative

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contract which reimburses the County for routine patrols on the national forest. In reviewing prior year contracts the Tahoe NF contract in 1981 was \$27,692 and if you take that amount with a cost of living adjustment from 1981 to today the contract should be \$75,346.

The Sheriff added that the Tahoe NF 2015 contract was \$13,000 and in 2012 it was \$24,000.

Chair Adams added that the Humboldt-Toiyabe NF contract in 1982 was in the amount of \$13,400 and should now be \$35,971, so just these two contracts alone are \$110,000 to the County. Also, the Plumas NF contract in 1999 was \$3,000 and with the cost of living adjustment it should now be \$5,200.

Chair Adams further suggested sending a letter to the Forest Service explaining this issue, inquire how they are treating other counties and also query what the Forest Service's internal law enforcement program is costing them these days. He would suggest the Forest Service is taking the money that was reserved to counties and diverting it to their own use and giving counties the scraps.

The Sheriff clarified that the numbers for the Tahoe NF contract includes the Plumas NF.

The Director added that the impact from the Reno/Sparks area to the Long Valley and Dog Valley areas is off the charts and has increased considerably since the 1980's.

By consensus, the Board authorized drafting a letter to the Forest Service.

Chair Adams clarified the draft letter will be brought back to the Board for approval.

7. ASSESSOR / SOLID WASTE ADMINISTRATOR - Laura A. Marshall

7.A. Agreement for professional services between Allen A. Haim and the County of Sierra to provide legal services to the Assessor.

The Assessor briefly explained this is a renewal of the existing contract with an increase to the base contract fee.

The Board moved to approve the agreement for professional services between Allen A. Haim and the County of Sierra to provide legal services to the Assessor.

APPROVED, Agreement 2016-003. Motion: Huebner/Roen/Unanimous Roll Call Vote:
5/0

8. INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGER - Laura A. Marshall

- 8.A. Presentation of bids and adoption of resolution approving agreement between the County of Sierra and Ultra Link Cabling Systems, Inc for the Network Cable Addition Project.

The IS Manager indicated three bids were received and reviewed by IS staff to make sure the contract meets the requirements in the RFQ. The IS Manager indicated she would like to accept the contract from Ultra Link in the amount of \$29,656.89. The IS Manager also reviewed the funding break down, noting the general fund share of cost will be \$1,910.98 and she would request using the remaining amount authorized for the annual payments for the new phone system to cover the general fund expense.

The Board move to adopt the resolution approving the agreement between the County of Sierra and Ultra Link Cabling Systems, Inc. for the Network Cable Addition Project and authorized using the remaining amount for annual payments for the new phone system to cover the general fund expense of \$1,910.98.

ADOPTED, Resolution 2016-002, and **APPROVED**, Agreement 2016-004. Motion: Roen/Huebner/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

13. TIMED ITEMS

13.A. 10:00AM SOLID WASTE APPEAL - LESLIE GENE SCOTT

Appeal of Solid Waste Assessment Fees filed by Mr. Leslie Gene Scott for APN 003-050-025-0; located at 23 Johnson Way, Downieville, CA.

The Clerk briefly explained that Mr. Scott was unable to attend the meeting and has provided his argument in an email that has been distributed to the Board.

Deputy County Counsel recommended when the Board closes the hearing to make a motion of intent and direct County Counsel to come back with findings that would reflect the Board's final decision.

The Solid Waste Fee Administrator indicated that the property is located at 23 Johnson Way in Downieville and distributed and reviewed in detail the following exhibits:

- Exhibit 1 – Portion of Sierra County Code pertaining to Section 15.12.080 - RI Residential One Family District – 1 page
- Exhibit 2 – Section 8 of the Sierra County pertaining to the definition of “single family residence” – 4 pages
- Exhibit 3 – Sierra County Resolution No. 2015-061 – 12 pages

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The Fee Administrator concluded that this property meets the definition of a single family residence in the Sierra County Code and as such her recommendation is to deny the appeal as this property meets the requirement of having a fee assessed.

The Fee Administrator also clarified that there is a system in place to remove a single family residence from the definition of residential by contacting the Building Department and severing specific service requirements that set the property as a home. Mr. Scott has chosen not to do this, so the fee has been applied correctly.

In response to Chair Adams' inquiry, the Solid Waste Fee Administrator indicated Mr. Scott was notified of the alternative to convert the property to another use.

Chair Adams explained this is not unlike some other appeals the Board has previously had and he appreciates folks with multiple homes who can only be at one place at a time. However, this is similar to his situation with his AT&T bill at his house in Inyo County, wherein he chooses to pay \$31 a month as AT&T has warned him that if he cancels the service he will not get it back. He appreciates the frustration but it seems the service is available and if Mr. Scott chooses not to use it, this is his decision.

The Board made a motion of intent to deny the appeal and directed County Counsel to draft the resolution with findings.

INTENT TO DENY. Motion: Roen/Huenber/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

11. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

11.A. Resolution declining to join the proposed State of Jefferson and advocating improved representation of rural California counties. (CHAIR ADAMS)

Chair Adams provided background on the matter explaining he didn't necessarily want to get in the middle of this issue as he realizes there are strong passions on both sides of the issue. However, he is somewhat bothered by the fact that unverified petitions are purporting to represent Sierra County as a legal entity. It seems to him either this Board or the voters of the County should be weighing in on this versus unverified petitions. This really speaks about what kind of reputation we have or want in Sacramento with respect to the state regulatory agencies.

Chair Adams added the reality of this is Sierra County has a \$23.9 million annual operating budget and \$10.05 million of this is received from the state, \$2.2 million is received from the federal government, and \$3.7 million is received from local property taxes. He is not personally willing to play double down or roulette with 42% of the County's income. The 2016/17 budget is going to be rough with the loss of the secured rural schools funding and a decrease in HUTA funding. Also, 70% of Sierra County is national forest lands and many of our regulation gripes are with the federal government, so regardless of whether we are the State of Jefferson or State of California our gripes with the federal government will remain the same.

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Chair Adams concluded this is all about a website stating Sierra County declared on 9/29/2015 to join the State of Jefferson and he would like to point out to whoever this is being sold to, that from this Board's view point that is not the case.

Supervisor Schlefstein referred to the petitions, explaining when citizens go out and into their communities with a petition this concept is called direct democracy and this is what free citizens in a constitution republic do; they took advantage of their rights in protest of what is currently going on with the state. He agrees we haven't heard from them and hasn't seen a presentation yet; however, he doesn't believe this resolution is necessary and he is not going to vote for it. This is not necessarily because he doesn't agree with one side or another at this point.

Supervisor Beard indicated he takes exception of the Board not supporting the State of Jefferson as he is member of the Board and does support the State of Jefferson. He also represents the people of District 4 and the majority of the people in District 4 support the State of Jefferson.

Chair Adams indicate he appreciates the direct democracy comment, but there is a difference in his mind between petitions and unverified petitions. There are two options open to the citizens to take official/verified action: one, gather verified petitions for an advisory measure on the ballot; or two, convince the majority of this Board to make a declaration of the Board. Neither action has been done. Again, he takes the petitions seriously, however he would like them verified to know there is in fact the representation of Sierra County.

Chair Adams continued to note there was the ability to put this on the ballot and his understanding is there will be some declaration in Sacramento tomorrow, so this is somewhat of a time sensitive issue. At the end of the day this Board and the County is represented by a majority of the members of the Board and he is comfortable with whichever way this goes.

The Board moved to deny the resolution declining to join the proposed State of Jefferson and advocating improved representation of rural California counties.

FAILED. Motion: Beard/Schlefstein/Failed (Supervisors Huebner, Roen and Adams NO)

Supervisor Huebner indicated he would like to hear from the public on this issue. He received a number of phone calls regarding this and he believes this is up to the public to make this decision when it goes to the ballot and not based on his opinion as a supervisor. Supervisor Huebner continued to express concerns of hearing from other counties that the Sierra County Board of Supervisors voted to declare joining the State of Jefferson.

Ms. Julie Osburn, Sierra County resident in support of the State of Jefferson indicated their committee held multiple town hall meetings which four members of the Board of Supervisors attended. They have heard that Supervisors Adams and Huebner were not in favor of this and they never heard back from Supervisor Roen. They didn't feel the need to reeducate the Board as they held town hall meetings for them. They are asking the Board to represent over 1000 people who have signed the petition, which is actually a statement of

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support. The State of Jefferson is not going to spend \$15,000 for a vote from the public when they can go out and volunteer their time to educate the people and get signatures supporting this. She would like the Board to recognize that those who are here from the State of Jefferson are here to represent 1000 people who have signed their statement of support. Also, she would like point out that Cindy Ellsmore and HSRA are here to support their side of this and they have not seen any statement of support from Keep it California.

In response to Chair Adams' inquiry, Ms. Osburn clarified that their committee has verified 850 of the 1000 signatures which is over 51% of the voting populous in the General Election held in 2014.

Mr. Tom Dotta, Sierra County resident and Chair of the State of Jefferson Committee also referred to the town hall meetings and the attendance by members of the Board. He also referred to an email from Chair Adams who indicated he would not vote to put this on the ballot, but would rather see the citizens put it before the voters if they wish; a letter dated 9/2/15 he mailed to the Board and the Clerk asking for a letter in support of the people; and an email dated 8/26/2015 sent to his District 3 Supervisor which he didn't receive a response to.

Mr. Dotta further reviewed in detail his concerns with the proposed resolution including the resolution not mentioning California being \$3 trillion in debt from unfunded liability due to California's inability to manage money; the urban people having a different set of needs than rural people; there are only six representatives north of Sacramento and 114 south of Sacramento; the statement that Sierra County is a welfare county and where does the County's money go; the State of Jefferson having provided the necessary financial statements on the State of Jefferson's website and the County Supervisors should have taken the time to read the information they acquired; not the County's job is not to provide jobs to support the economy, rather it is to provide an atmosphere where they can partner with the private sector to help and not strangle them; the California Fish and Wildlife not paying their bills; the number of schools that have closed in the County; Sierra County not having a full time jail; and Sierra County not being able to afford to provide the \$11,000 to the Sierra County veterans.

Mr. Dotta added that the State of Jefferson will take care of their resident's needs and not the \$100,000 retirements and paychecks. In closing, the Board has left as a record over the past year of massive school closings due to regulation and job loss; loss of health care; a huge issue with the trailer park; the closing of the Loyaltan Mill and Co-gen Plant; the loss of the bank in Loyaltan; the school buses are now operated by an out of county operator; the landfill is closing; and businesses are struggling. However, the Board still wants to be a part of debt-ridden California.

Mr. Dotta further questioned how many millions of unfunded liability does the County owe and will pass on to their kids and grandkids. The State of Jefferson represents the people.

Chair Adams referred to Mr. Dotta's comments regarding urban versus rural, noting with the exception of San Francisco every county has rural. With respect to equal representation, he understands the frustration with the makeup of the legislature, but as it stands it is equal; one person one vote. Also, one doesn't have to attend one of the State of Jefferson meetings

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to become educated on this subject. As far as state economies go, Nevada had a worse debt problem than California had at the height of the recession.

Chair Adams continued to explain that California has some real tough issues. Part of its frustration is the income tax paid by the richest of Californians and when they do well the state does well, but when they don't the state doesn't. Also, the Department of Fish and Wildlife has been a poor neighbor and property owner, but through the efforts of CSAC and RCRC they have started paying and are working on getting payments in arrears. Alpine County is the only other county without a full time jail. The State of Nevada has had this same debate where those folks of Incline Village wanted to separate from Washoe County because they don't feel represented by the Truckee Meadows basin.

Chair Adams also addressed the Veterans Service Officer (VSO) issue, noting Alpine County does not have internal VSO and their closest officer is located in South Lake Tahoe. Inyo and Mono County share a VSO stationed out of Bishop.

Chair Adams further clarified that his concern is to provide basic services to the people of Sierra County including police protection, fire protection, medical protection, clear roads to get to emergency services, etc.

Supervisor Huebner indicated his district includes Verdi, California and in the last three years he has attended a number of Reno City Council meetings for Verdi and what he is hearing from the Reno City Council is they are broke and almost filing for bankruptcy.

Ms. Nordis Ostrom, fifth generation Sierra County resident and retired school teacher, explained that in her capacity as a school and union representative she was privy to school budgets. Ms. Ostrom continued to refer to the amount of funding schools receive from the state to run small schools. With respect to the State of Jefferson she hasn't seen the planning to develop a budget to see where those funds are coming from. She feels it would be irresponsible of the Board to approve anything moving forward with the State of Jefferson based on the fact that there is a lot of ignorance; we need something that is really defined, researched and is realistic. Ms. Ostrom added that the US Constitution dictates how many representatives we have and it is based on population, so we would have to change the constitution. Also, without the larger populations in this state she doesn't see how we could maintain any school at all; it just isn't feasible.

Supervisor Schlefstein noted there are two groups that disagree with each other, he understands both sides especially the State of Jefferson side. Supervisor Schlefstein reiterated that he doesn't believe the Board needs to do anything; why is the Board involved in making a statement for one side or the other, rather this should be left up to the people.

Supervisor Beard expressed concerns with Ms. Ostrom's comments regarding the State of Jefferson movement being based on ignorance. Supervisor Beard continued to express concerns with saddling his kids and grandkids with a trillion dollars of debt, noting this is what he relates to being ignorant.

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Chair Adams noted his only frustration with this is the unverified petitions purporting to represent Sierra County, otherwise he would have been happy to stay out of this.

Ms. Osburn indicated that no one said the State of Jefferson was going to be easy and also questioned what the other 49 states do without California's money. The declaration to include Sierra County based on signatures of the people has already been executed. They do not need the Board's permission or approval; Sierra County will be included in the legislation and/or the court case. She would urge the Board not to adopt this resolution as they are basically spitting in the faces of the 850 people who signed their declaration.

Chair Adams referred to the comment regarding what other states do without California's money, noting these states don't live without California's money. For every \$1.09 California pays to the federal government we only get \$1.00 back and Texas, for example, pays \$0.91 and gets \$1.00 back.

Ms. Dawn Brown, Sierra City indicated she doesn't believe the Board has a good choice in either capacity. This movement must go through the legislative process regardless of whether the Board adopts the resolution and she would think the Board should remove themselves from this business and let the people of California vote on it.

Ms. Lynn Steward, Sierra City stated California is too big a state to govern fairly.

Ms. Cindy Ellsmore, Sierra City thanked Caltrans for their excellent service to Sierra County. Ms. Ellsmore added she is in support of the proposed resolution to decline joining the State of Jefferson. Thirteen county boards have heard the impacts of this proposal and have declined to join this misguided anti-government effort. Keep it California's presentation to the Board of Supervisors in December clearly showed the financial impacts on county services and schools. They found that \$18 million, over 60% of schools and county budgets, are provided by the state; contrast that with the \$1.3 million county residents pay in state income taxes. Even the State of Jefferson model shows large tax increases; over 700% for Sierra County residents to maintain the current level of services and quality of life. The job losses alone would be devastating to families, schools and businesses without the State of California's support. The promise of lower taxes is false.

Ms. Ellsmore added that governing is education of the parties involved from the legislature and administrative agencies to your own constituents and ultimately it is about compromise. The State of Jefferson proponents are very interested in representation but not having people vote on this issue, if so they would start a state initiative to gather signatures to split the state or alternatively increase the number of legislators. Instead, they are gathering signatures that will not and cannot be validated. Ms. Ellsmore further requested the Board vote in favor of the resolution before them declining to join the State of Jefferson.

Mr. Don Yegge, Sierra Brooks noted he had originally had signed the statement of declaration as they feel mistreated by California; however, he requested removing his name from the statement after seeing the financial impacts. Mr. Yegge added he supports Chair Adams' resolution as he knows just from past initiatives put on the ballot, Sierra County voted

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it down. If the state senate and legislature are allowed to think we are strongly in support of the State of Jefferson, then they can play games with us and things could get worse for Sierra County.

Chair Adams noted he had a discussion with the Clerk regarding the local initiative process and the cost for putting this on the ballot is minimal especially if done during a regular election cycle. If this is consolidated with the November ballot it takes 10% of the voter's signatures who voted in the last election.

Chair Adams clarified that this resolution is stating, to any group purporting to represent the County, this Board has not taken an action to support this effort, and if anyone brings forward a ballot initiative he will support this initiative process.

In response to Mr. Dotta's inquiry, the Clerk clarified the County has not adopted an ordinance implementing the fee to file an initiative.

The Board moved to table the proposed resolution indefinitely.

FAILED. Motion: Schlefstein/Beard/Failed Roll Call Vote: 2/3 (Supervisors Huebner, Roen and Adams NO)

Following further discussion, the Board moved to adopt the resolution declining to join the proposed State of Jefferson and advocating improved representation of rural California counties.

ADOPTED, Resolution 2016-003. Motion: Huebner/Roen/Majority Roll Call Vote: 3/2 (Supervisors Beard and Schlefstein NO)

12. COUNTY COUNSEL - James A. Curtis

12.A. Resolution providing for reimbursement to veterans who are residents in Sierra County for out of county travel to appointments with a Veterans Service Office.

Deputy County Counsel briefly introduced the item noting this was prepared as a more cost effective option versus having the Plumas County Veterans Service Officer (VSO) travel to Loyalton.

Supervisor Roen indicated that the Chair sent an email to the state for clarification on whether there is a match required and what the County can do to provide services within the County as there are none. Supervisor Roen further urged the Board to refer this to an ad hoc committee to vet this further in order to support the veterans in the County the best way possible.

Chair Adams explained he wrote to CalVet and questioned whether a local match is necessary to receive the funding and if so, what is the match percentage; if the funding could be split between Plumas and Nevada County to provide better services countywide; if the

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funding could be used to reimburse mileage; and also for a breakdown of state funding by each county.

Chair Adams also mentioned that he reviewed the CalVet website and El Dorado County provides services in both Placerville and South Lake Tahoe; Nevada County provides services in Grass Valley only, so Truckee veterans have to drive to Grass Valley or go to Reno, NV; Alpine does not have a VSO and the closest officer is in South Lake Tahoe or Amador County; and Inyo and Mono County have a joint venture, so presumably Mono County passes its funding to Inyo County. Inyo only provides services in Bishop which is 84 miles from Bridgeport, so it is easier for someone in Bridgeport to go to South Lake Tahoe which is only 62 miles away.

Mr. Don Yegge, Sierra Brooks provided background on the matter noting the money sent to Sierra County was passed through to Plumas County through an MOU and that funding was cut in half. Mr. Yegge added that he informed Jimmy LaPlante (Plumas County VSO) that the majority of the vets are on the west side of the county and he agreed. He also discussed with Mr. LaPlante about making plans to expand services to the west side of the County.

Mr. Yegge further explained that in order to receive any funding from CalVet, the County has to have a paid VSO with a designated office. The Board's offer to pay for mileage isn't a bad one, but he doesn't believe CalVet would do it. He does believe there is funding available through the Department of Health and Human Services, there just needs to be a request from the public to provide mental health services to the veteran.

Chair Adams further addressed a letter that went out stating what the Board did was offensive, noting he wants to make sure the services are as equal as possible throughout the County; their intent is to do this better and see what kind of money the County can leverage through the state to provide the best services possible.

By consensus the Board referred this matter to an ad hoc committee consisting of Supervisors Roen and Beard and Chair Adams to serve as an alternate.

The Auditor clarified that the Mental Health Services Act funding can't be used for veteran services, but may be possible to use for outreach.

10. COUNTY SERVICE AREA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting of the County Service Area (CSA) Board of Directors.

At 12:10 p.m., Chair Adams recessed the Regular Board meeting and reconvened as the County Service Area Board of Directors.

At 12:11 p.m., Chair Adams adjourned as the County Service Area Board of Directors and reconvened as the County Board of Supervisors with all members present.

January 5, 2016

ADJOURN

At 12:12 p.m., with no further business, Chair Adams adjourned the meeting.

LEE ADAMS, CHAIR
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:

HEATHER FOSTER
CLERK OF THE BOARD