



# Minutes

## County of Lake Board of Supervisors

### OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING HELD OCTOBER 19, 2006

The Board of Supervisors reconvened its meeting of October 17, 2006, at 6:10pm on October 19, 2006, at the Calpine Visitor Center in Middletown. Supervisors Brown and Lewis were absent. Supervisors Robey, Smith and Chairman Farrington were present, along with County Administrative Officer/Clerk of the Board Kelly F. Cox and County Counsel Anita L. Grant.

Mr. Paul Reading lead the salute to the flag of the United States of America.

Chairman Farrington read from the Board's agenda, explaining to the audience members the purpose of this evening's meeting.

Supervisor Robey provided an update on the current status of the Middletown Library project, followed by a question and answer session with members of the audience.

Ms. Martha Webster was invited to speak on the topic of the Middletown Area Town Hall (MATH). After welcoming the Board to Middletown, Ms. Webster provided the Board with background information on MATH and discussed the advantages of establishing a municipal advisory council. Ms. Webster also submitted a written statement to the Board members and to the Clerk.

Other members of the MATH organizing committee were introduced to the Board.

Ms. Beatrice Romo spoke as a representative of the hispanic community, addressing issues pertaining to public safety in the community and her interest in establishing a community patrol and neighborhood watch.

Mr. John Peschon spoke in support of establishing a vision for Middletown, encouraging such a vision to be "grandiose" in nature. He stated that a municipal advisory council would assist in accomplishing this vision.

Chairman Farrington asked for a list of other counties who have established municipal advisory councils. Mr. Steve Finch stated that 8 or 9 other counties, ranging in population from Alameda to Mendocino, have such councils. Other counties mentioned by Mr. Finch included Contra Costa, Merced, Placer, Sacramento and San Mateo. Mr. Finch responded to concerns Board members had expressed during a prior meeting, and indicated that a majority of the councils in other counties have appointed members rather than elected members.

Supervisor Smith expressed support of the proposal to establish an advisory council as long as its members were appointed rather than elected. He clarified that this was his primary concern when this proposal was presented during a prior meeting. The concern was based on the estimated cost of a formal election.

Mr. Finch emphasized that there would be no cost to the County to establish an appointed municipal advisory council.

Chairman Farrington also expressed concerns about the cost of an election if the council were to be an elected body. He stated this was also the basis of the concerns he expressed during a prior Board meeting.

Ms. Webster spoke again regarding the issue of an elected council versus an appointed one and stated that much discussion had previously taken place relative to this issue. She indicated that her organization is not entirely wedded to the idea of an elected board, but explained the concern expressed by some community members that if the council is appointed by the Board of Supervisors, there may be a perception it would lack independence from the Board and not accurately reflect the diverse opinions of the community.

Chairman Farrington suggested the group conduct its own informal election process independent of the County and bring forward the names of the individuals selected through that process to be appointed by the Board of Supervisors.

Supervisor Robey reiterated his previously stated support of the request to establish a municipal advisory council and pointed out that changes to the proposed resolution would be needed prior to its adoption, if the council is to be established as an appointed body.

It was the consensus of the Board that MATH would be asked to revise the resolution accordingly and resubmit it to the Board of Supervisors for adoption at a future Board meeting.

Moving on to other topics, Supervisor Robey provided an update on the current status of the Middletown Area Plan and indicated that the committee working on this plan will be meeting again as soon as possible. A consultant is being hired to assist the Committee complete its work.

Ms. Romo spoke about the need for additional funding to retain law enforcement personnel.

Sheriff Rodney Mitchell spoke regarding law enforcement efforts in the Middletown area and a meeting conducted in Middletown on October 18, 2006, regarding gang related issues. He expressed his commitment to addressing these issues for the benefit of the community.

Ms. Randi Djernes spoke about the cost of housing. Ms. Marlene Alger spoke regarding the need for community members to work together and make recommendations on what they can do to address gang related problems without relying so heavily on the Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Tom Darms also spoke about community efforts to address gang problems and Sheriff Mitchell spoke on the need for parental involvement versus government programs.

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Ms. Linda Diehl-Darms expressed appreciation to Sheriff Mitchell for his participation in the meeting of October 18, 2006, and also spoke about community efforts to combat gang problems.

Ms. Monica Rosenthal reminded the Board that Middletown is the southern gateway to Lake County. Other audience members discussed the need to expand Middletown school facilities, traffic related issues, CALTRANS and the Calpine Visitor Center.

Ms. Diehl -Darms expressed her support of the Board having come to Middletown to conduct this evening's meeting and asked that the Board considering scheduling additional meetings in Middletown in the future.

Supervisor Robey made closing remarks and thanked his fellow Board members and members of the community for having attended this evening's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

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Anthony Farrington  
Chariman, Board of Supervisors

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Kelly F. Cox  
Clerk of the Board