

July 10, 2018

1

SHASTA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Tuesday, July 10, 2018

SPECIAL MEETING

9:00 a.m.: Chairman Baugh called the Special Meeting of the Board of Supervisors to order on the above date with the following present:

District No. 1 - Supervisor Kehoe
District No. 2 - Supervisor Moty
District No. 3 - Supervisor Rickert
District No. 4 - Supervisor Morgan
District No. 5 - Supervisor Baugh

County Executive Officer - Larry Lees
Assistant County Counsel - James Ross
Administrative Board Clerk - Kristin Gulling-Smith
Administrative Board Clerk - Darcey Prior
Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board - Mary Williams

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - OPEN TIME

Monique Welin spoke regarding her positive interactions with Shasta County staff.

REGULAR CALENDAR

BOARD MATTERS

**REPORT ON POTENTIAL REVENUE OPTIONS FOR JAIL OPERATIONS
COUNTY COUNSEL**

This was the time set aside to receive information regarding potential revenue options for jail operations through placing sales taxes, assessments, or fees on the ballot in November 2018, as originally discussed at a public safety workshop on June 26, 2018.

Supervisor Kehoe spoke regarding actions taken over the last six months to increase jail capacity.

Supervisor Baugh spoke regarding the Board of Supervisors' plans for further efforts to expand public safety.

Assistant County Counsel James Ross gave a presentation regarding the various options that the Board of Supervisors could take to fund expanded jail operations. He explained the differences between general taxes and special taxes and the requirements for implementing them, as well as options regarding business taxes and parcel taxes. Mr. Ross also explained that the County could impose various types of fees to increase revenue.

County Executive Officer (CEO) Larry Lees stated that the potential of charging individuals for costs associated with their incarceration would likely not raise much profit. He also stated that the option of taxing commercial marijuana growth might impact potential future profit from commercial hemp growth. CEO Lees asked that the Board direct staff as to their preferences.

In response to questions from Supervisor Baugh, Mr. Ross explained the requirements and timelines for implementing different types of taxes in order to put them onto the ballot.

In response to questions from Supervisor Rickert, CEO Lees discussed potential revenue from different types of taxes or fees. County Auditor Brian Muir addressed further details of the various potential revenue streams.

In response to questions from Supervisor Kehoe, CEO Lees explained that the taxes under discussion would be county-wide. He also stated that a county-wide tax could be implemented without involving the Cities of Redding, Anderson, or Shasta Lake, but that working in collaboration with the cities would be preferred.

In response to questions from Supervisor Morgan, CEO Lees explained that there are current cost figures for the short-term jail expansion, but that the long-term figures are still under discussion. CEO Lees also stated that the County could specify that some of the revenue would be used for more Sheriff's deputies in outlying parts of the county.

In response to questions from Supervisor Moty, CEO Lees clarified that revenue has already been established for the first jail bed expansion, but that further revenue is being sought to cover further planned expansion. He also agreed that use of jail diversion programs and other law enforcement options would be options to consider.

In response to questions from Supervisor Moty, Mr. Ross stated that County Counsel's opinion is that, if incorporated areas are included in a county-wide tax, all incorporated areas would need to be included.

Supervisors Moty, Rickert, and Baugh discussed the importance of having multiple options to increase public safety and having agreement from the incorporated areas within the county on any county-wide tax.

Supervisor Moty stated his support for a transactional user special tax and proposed that the Board narrow the overall discussion.

Stan Neutze, Council Member for the City of Anderson, spoke regarding the use and fluctuations of sales taxes and proposed a dwelling tax for residential buildings and a square footage tax for commercial buildings. He also stated his support for collaboration between all incorporated and unincorporated areas of the county.

Johnni Hansen spoke of the importance to include fire safety considerations in the discussion about public safety, and of the importance to keep in mind the differing public safety needs of different parts of the county.

Ann Morningstar spoke in support of raising money for the jail, as well as for fire and other public safety needs.

Richard Kerns spoke regarding the City of Shasta Lake's law enforcement budget and the need for permanent incarceration space within the County.

Tom Hildebrand expressed concerns about the speed of public safety improvements and the need for transparency regarding raises and salaries for County employees.

Sheriff Tom Bosenko spoke regarding tax options and the costs of running the jail and the need for other facilities, such as a work camps or an adult rehabilitative center. He explained that the costs of running the jail and the Sheriff's Department exceed the County budget, even before factoring in the costs of the other needed facilities.

In response to questions from Supervisor Baugh, Sheriff Bosenko stated that he believed the best option for revenue would be a sales tax that encompassed both the unincorporated and incorporated areas of the county.

In response to questions from Supervisor Rickert, Sheriff Bosenko explained that expanded public safety services, including Sheriff deputies, in the unincorporated areas would be a given if the budget allowed for it. He also explained that patrols are limited throughout all outlying areas of the County.

In response to questions from Supervisor Morgan, Sheriff Bosenko reiterated that he believed the largest revenue generating option would be a sales tax.

Baron Browning, Council Member for the City of Anderson, expressed his belief that the Board of Supervisors should meet with the various City Councils and Chambers of Commerce before making a final decision, to ensure that all areas and groups within the County are in agreement with the chosen option.

Mr. Muir stated that it is very difficult to pass a specialized tax, but that a general tax in conjunction with an MOU with the cities expressing how the money would be spent may be an option to consider.

In response to questions from Supervisor Morgan, Mr. Ross stated that anything to be placed on the ballot for November 2018 must be to the Registrar of Voters by August 10th, and that specific procedural steps to meet that deadline vary based on what option is chosen.

In response to questions from Supervisor Rickert, Donnell Ewert, Director of the Health and Human Services Agency, explained the projected needs for a jail diversion project, for both building a facility and for ongoing operating costs.

Monique Welin spoke regarding options to expand public safety and mental health treatment and the need to include all the communities within the county in any decision.

In response to questions from Supervisor Rickert, Mr. Ross stated that the County may express an opinion regarding a proposed ballot measure but may not spend money to campaign regarding a measure. CEO Lees stated that the Board, whether as a whole or individuals, could discuss or advocate for a measure, but could not spend any public money in any way regarding that measure.

In response to questions from Supervisor Moty, CEO Lees agreed that the intention of the discussion was for the Board to give direction to staff, not to make a final decision at this time.

Supervisor Moty made a motion to direct staff to determine the costs for additional jail bed space, additional deputies, and additional expenditures on things related to the jail diversion program or similar programs. He also motioned that staff contact the cities for their input on how the tax should be spent.

In response to questions from Supervisor Moty, CEO Lees explained that the decision between a general and a specific tax would not have to be made at this meeting, and worked through the timelines for the different options. Mr. Ross stated that a general tax can only be adopted at a regularly scheduled Board meeting, not a special meeting.

Supervisor Moty stated his preference for a special tax rather than a general tax, and Supervisors Kehoe, Morgan, Rickert, and Baugh stated their support of that preference.

Mr. Ross stated that a special tax can be adopted at a special meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

CEO Lees proposed that the issue be brought back to the Board at a special meeting, in order to allow extra time to consult with the cities within the County and to allow the city mayors to discuss the proposed tax with their city councils.

By motion made, seconded (Moty/Kehoe), and unanimously carried, the Board of Supervisors directed staff to return with information regarding costs for additional jail bed space, additional deputies, and the jail diversion program or other similar programs which may alleviate jail occupancy, including any associated costs for construction, repair, maintenance, and operation; directed the CEO to gather information from community partners and incorporated cities regarding their support of a countywide tax and use of potential sales tax revenue, and gave discretion to the CEO to add additional programs or areas of consideration resulting from these discussions; and directed staff to specifically focus efforts on a specialized countywide sales tax with revenue directed to these uses.

10:36 a.m.: The Board of Supervisors adjourned.

Chairman

ATTEST:

LAWRENCE G. LEES
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By _____
Deputy