

## **Minutes of the regular meeting of the Round Area Valley Municipal Advisory Council (RVAMAC)**

Held Wednesday, October 7, 2020

Online by Zoom at URL

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81233910849>

The meeting was called to order by Presiding Officer Jessica Stull-Otto at 6:00 p.m.

1. The meeting was attended by the following persons:

### **Council members**

Dane Downing, Kathy Britton, Jessica Stull-Otto, Lew Chichester, Charles Sargenti, James Russ, Kat Willits

### **Officials**

John Haschak, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Supervisor

### **General Public**

Pat Sobrero, Susan O'Brien, Mary Jane Cummings, Kay Richards, Mary Lou Mileck

2. The agenda was approved by consensus.

3. Jim Russ provided an update on Tribal matters affecting the community.

Assemblymember Jim Wood, during a meeting with Mr. Russ, voiced an opinion that the funding for the proposed fiber optic cable for Round Valley and other communities in Mendocino was unlikely to materialize. Supervisor Haschak commented that he had heard the same sentiment expressed by Mr. Wood and noted that the funding allocation had gone from \$300 million to \$150 million already. Mr. Russ also recounted how Mr. Wood had obtained funding amounting to \$100 million to establish fiber optic from Arcata along Highway 299 through to I5 in the Central Valley, which was a hopeful sign that communities to the south could also get such funding, but now that doesn't seem likely. It also did not help that Frontier Communications and Willits Online wrote letters to the relevant agency stating that service in Round Valley was adequate.

President Russ also indicated that the tribe was open to expanding the water system in the business park, recently acquired by the tribe, to provide a water system in town chiefly for fire suppression purposes in the business district.

He also summarized the recent Covid-19 outbreak in the tribal community. Although it was the largest spike in cases to date, the outbreak was contained and managed using contact tracing and did not spread further, even though there were a small number of individuals who did not cooperate with the effort.

4. Pat Sobrero presented on the request by Friends of the Library for a letter of support for obtaining grant funding. The request, which also included some changes to the scope of the grant request, to be made subsequently, was approved by consensus. The changes to be made involve temperature taking kiosks and installation of air purifiers to address indoor gatherings in the library during Covid-19.

5. Dane Downing reported on a discussion with Mendocino Community College regarding how the college could support local economic development by offering courses in applying for jobs, courses in basic trades, and development of an apprentice/mentorship program with local businesses.

6. Jessica Stull-Otto reported on her involvement with the MOVE 2030 economic development effort for Mendocino county. Specific projects included promoting general knowledge of solar power, developing a feasibility study of a community solar system, microgrids, and small distributed energy systems, and encouraging solar storage systems for Public Safety Power Shutoffs.

7. James Russ returned to the discussion regarding a town water system and what steps are needed to move forward. Lew Chichester pointed out that an engineering study grant was the first step to obtain funding for the project and that it needed to be sponsored by a qualified agency. Possible agencies include the Community Services District or the water district or other entities such as the Tribes. Supervisor Haschak added that the 10 Mile Creek community outside of Laytonville had obtained such a study grant for the purpose of applying for funding for a bridge.

8. A MOU for shared office space with the Covelo Community Services District and the Round Valley Water District was approved by consensus subject to editing provided by Mary Jane Cummings.

9. Meeting was adjourned by the Presiding Officer at 7:41 p.m.

FOR MORE INFORMATION THE VIDEO OF THE MEETING ON ZOOM CAN BE VIEWED AT:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-oYmcOwWnLdS-CUoRy1sknJApLxtog9d?usp=sharing>