

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Round Valley Area Municipal Advisory Council (RVAMAC)  
Held Wednesday, November 4, 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

**Officials**

John Haschak, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Supervisor, MCSO Sheriff Matt Kendall, Howard Dashiell, Mendocino County Dept. of Transportation, Kari Shelley, Caltrans District 1, Alexis Kelso, Caltrans District 1, Tami McCanless, CHP

**General Public**

Pat Sobrero, Susan O'Brien, Mary Jane Cummings, Kay Richards, Mary Lou Mileck, Monique Ramirez, Jerry and Marnie Munn, Jodi Gregerson, Monica Gowan, Patricia and Forrest Gauder, Lynn Zachreson, Jessica Harness, Joshua Artman, Tekla Broz, and three unidentified participants.

2. The agenda was approved by consensus.

3. Supervisor's update

Supervisor Haschak announced that he had established a contact with FEMA and that FEMA would be bringing a mobile office to Covelo in the near future to help with claims arising from the August Complex fire. He encouraged anyone needing help or having questions to get in touch with him. He also urged anyone with comments or concerns about the county's cannabis ordinance to contact him as well because changes with the ordinance are happening now. Finally he mentioned that funds had to be reallocated for the Hwy. 162 bike trail since some sources of funding had been exhausted but the project is still moving forward.

4. Howard Street traffic concerns

Lew Chichester brought up concerns regarding speeding and reckless driving on Howard St. including recent fatalities. Sheriff Kendall remarked that it may be possible for the Sheriff's office and the CHP out of the Laytonille substation could coordinate so that there were two law enforcement units in Covelo at the same time, which would help with enforcement efforts. Lt. McCanless indicated that her agency was seeking grant funding to allow increased CHP presence in the valley and patrolling Hwy. 162. Sheriff Kendall mentioned the need for a tow operator who would respond in a timely manner when his deputies stop traffic violators under circumstances where the vehicle needed to be impounded and that such impoundment was a strong deterrent to future violations. Howard Dashiell responded to a question about adding stop signs by pointing out that the use of stop signs to slow down traffic was not acceptable per California Vehicle Code. He further explained the use of the engineered traffic study to

establish a statutorily defined speed limit. The method relies on establishing the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed by taking measurements over a period of time. This would create a “radar enforceable zone”. At present radar is not allowed on Howard Street. He maintained that posting a higher speed limit, which likely would result from the study, doesn’t make good drivers start driving badly but allows the “bad actors” to be ticketed based on radar enforcement. Lt. McCanless reiterated that the CHP is hoping to obtain grant funds to allow officers to patrol in the valley whose sole responsibility will be traffic enforcement, and who will work with the Sheriff and tribal police.

#### 5. Illegal discharge of firearms

Dane Downing reported a member of the public wanted to know if the use of gunshot locating devices could be used to determine where guns were being fired. Sheriff indicated this was unfeasible due to expense and logistical considerations. Sheriff Kendall also indicated that recently there has been a massive increase in suicides and drug overdoses in the county and that everyone should be educating their kids about the dangers of drugs which are often “cut” with fentanyl or other highly risky additives. Creation of a Neighborhood Watch is also a good idea in his opinion because it encourages people to get involved and pay attention. In many instances neighbors know who the perpetrators are but are reluctant to cooperate with law enforcement for fear of stigmatization.

#### 6. Support letter for Covelo Cannabis Advocacy Group for banning hemp in Round Valley.

After a lengthy discussion period and the voicing of opposition to hemp by a number of members of the public, Council voted by consensus to write the Ag Commissioner and the Board of Supervisors in support of the proposed ban. Jessica Stull-Otto will forward her notes to the Secretary to be incorporated into the letter.

#### 7. Meeting was adjourned by the Presiding Officer at 8:11 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>