

TEMPLETON AREA ADVISORY GROUP (TAAG)

Minutes of the Board Meeting

Thursday May 19, 2022 6:30 PM

Monthly meetings of the Templeton Area Advisory Group (TAAG) board resumed in-person as of this session. There was no Zoom conferencing.

This meeting took place at the Templeton Community Services District Board Room, 502 Fifth Street in Templeton.

Minutes submitted by Sonja Bolle.

2022-2023 TAAG BOARD MEMBERS

Scott Shirley, Delegate/Chair

Murray Powell, Delegate/Vice-Chair/Treasurer

Doris Diel, Delegate/Secretary

Dede Davis, Delegate

John Donovan, Delegate

Jerry Jones, Delegate

Scott Silveira, Delegate

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board chair Scott Shirley called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Scott Shirley, Delegate/Chair	present
Murray Powell, Delegate/Vice-Chair/Treasurer	present
Doris Diel, Delegate/Secretary	present
Dede Davis, Delegate	not present
John Donovan, Delegate	present
Jerry Jones, Delegate	present
Scott Silveira, Delegate	present

3. AGENCY REPORTS AND UPDATES

3.1 Sheriff's Office

Commander Michael Manuele made the report referring to figures of April 2022.

Areawide, there were 1636 calls in April as compared to 1674 for April of last year (a 2% drop). Templeton saw a greater drop year to year, but more significantly saw a large drop in reports generated: 71 in April of last year, 42 this year.

There were several reports in the categories of assault and battery (domestic violence), disturbance, theft (notably of two catalytic converters), vandalism, trespassing and suspicious circumstances. No burglaries or phone scams were reported in this period.

Cmdr. Manuele noted a curious rash of “jewelry swap thefts,” in which victims wearing jewelry are approached to buy more and are somehow scammed of their own pieces.

The Sheriff’s office is now using body as well as car-mounted cameras.

Cmdr. Manuele reported with pleasure that the local deputy who was injured a year and a half ago worked hard to return to public service and is now back on patrol in North County.

3.2. California Highway Patrol

Lt. Chandler Stewart of CHP made the report referring to figures of April 2022.

24 crashes were investigated, 17 on the freeway and 7 on county roads, 5 resulting in injury.

Areawide there were 587 citations written, with 131 in Templeton (123 on the freeway and 8 on county roads). 62 were speed violations (2 on county roads), up from 40 last year. One area of general concern is a rise in citations for speeds in excess of 100 mph, although there were none within Templeton boundaries in this period.

There were a total of 215 enforcement contacts, up from 160 in April of last year, a consequence of increased traffic on the roads, according to Stewart. However, fatal collisions are down (“that’s the main thing we look for,” he noted).

One DUI injury crash will be prosecuted as homicide; it is an important accomplishment for the department to have uncovered sufficient evidence for prosecution.

3.3. Supervisorial District One

no report

3.4. Supervisorial District Five

no report

3.5. County Planning Department

ERIC TOLLE introduced himself; he is taking over from Cheryl Ku as TAAG’s county liaison with the Planning Dept, with the Board of Supervisors, or for any county business. He relocated from New Orleans, has 14 years experience in planning, with 10 years in the public sector. He worked for Fresno county for 4 years.

XZANDREA FOWLER, Planning Division Manager and Environmental Coordinator for the county, also gave a brief bio, beginning with study at Cal Poly SLO and her first job with the city of Arroyo Grande. She is a specialist in land use, planning and historic

preservation, with stints in the city of Davis. Her experience includes work with the Paso Robles groundwater basin project and the California Coastal Commission. She oversees a staff of 22.

MURRAY POWELL asked for clarification about notification of the 30-day public comment period for projects in the TAAG area. There are a number of environmental determinations, it's a complex system. Powell wants a better announcement of comment periods, or a better way to keep track of them, so that people have the opportunity to comment.

FOWLER: Not all applications take the same path. NMD (Mitigated Negative Declaration) and EIR (Environmental Impact Report) are the only things that require a public comment period. Courtesy notices can have lag time depending on the timing of meetings and their path through the process.

I can work with Powell to see that there is timely notification.

3.6 Templeton Community Services District

Geoff English, TCSO board member: Reported on the meeting of Tuesday, May 17.

It's the time of year for weed abatement. We need to make sure everyone is taking care of that. Non-compliant properties are cited; work is done and the owners charged. 75-100 properties were not up to date at last report. June 1 is the deadline.

TCSO has a budget workshop Tuesday, June 7 at 4 pm. in the TCSO board room and by Zoom. All are invited. There is not much public participation, although the budget does affect the community. There are significant challenges with regard to inflation, staffing costs, etc. which may affect services this year.

TCSO belongs to the Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA), which provides services to county waste management providers. Calif Senate Bill 1383 [regarding organic waste] is driving up costs. We are seeing a 10% increase from our waste hauler. IWMA helps us limit our costs by providing resources to all member agencies. The joint powers agreement does not work in favor of community service districts, though. We provide 30% of IWMA's revenue, but get only 1 out of 9 seats on the board.

MURRAY POWELL: Are we obligated to participate in IWMA?

ENGLISH: No, but we still have to meet requirements of SB 1383, and IWMA helps cut costs of doing that. For example, they provide advertisements and flyers; they get out information [about the changes in disposal of food waste]. We would have to have someone on staff doing all that. We discuss at our meetings whether we could do it on our own.

POWELL: I understand the cities voted not to allow CSDs equal power?

ENGLISH: Atascadero is the only city that voted in our favor.

SONJA BOLLE: Is it a matter of population balance?

ENGLISH: No, it's history. The cities formed the organization; community service districts came later. Templeton formed a CSD in 1979, Nipomo also, and a few others. One of the latent powers of a CSD is waste hauling, along with parks and recreation, sewage treatment, a few others. IWMA had its rules and regulations in place when we entered. CSDs are actually growing more than some of the cities. We are a larger proportion of the population, but that's not being reflected in the organization.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comment.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

5.1. Approval of Minutes from April 21, 2022 TAAG Board meeting

Motion to approve minutes was made, seconded, carried by voice vote.

5.2. Approval of Treasurer's Report

MURRAY POWELL, TAAG Treasurer: There has been no activity in the account, which still stands at \$1199. The presence of Bruce Jones at this meeting reminds the treasurer that the former chair is owed \$17.81 for expenses related to the March election.

Christine Nelson, who handles TAAG's web site, must be paying out of pocket the fees for its development and maintenance. She should not be paying for this. TAAG needs to contact her to discuss reimbursement.

There is also the matter of Zoom fees for the last two years; somebody has been paying for it. TAAG no longer needs the Zoom account, but still, it has been taken care of by *someone*.

BRUCE JONES, past TAAG chair: Eric Gorham [past TAAG delegate] was hosting the ZOOM meetings on his own business account, it was not an extra cost.

POWELL: I will check with him to be sure.

An additional item: TAAG may request \$500 from its representing county supervisors each year, and has not done so for several years. Powell will submit a request to the offices of supervisors Peschong and Arnold. (TAAG could conceivably request 3 x \$500, as it will be represented for a period by 3 different supervisors. But TAAG's budgetary needs are not great, the \$1199 account balance noted in the treasurer's report not having changed in at least 6 months.)

A motion was made to approve treasurer's report; it was seconded. approved by voice vote.

6. OLD BUSINESS

None

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1. At the June 16, 2022 TAAG meeting, Mandy Pickens from Angle Land Use Entitlement will give a presentation regarding N-DRC2021-0002, a vacation rental within 1,500 feet of an existing vacation rental.

MURRAY POWELL: This project is in the Adelaide area, where an ordinance requires a separation of 1500 feet between vacation rentals. This project is requesting a modification down to 400 feet. Mandy Pickens will present the project and ask TAAG to support its application to the county.

7.2. On Tuesday May 17, 2022, the County Board of Supervisor considered the adoption of a resolution to place a proposed SLO County Charter on the November 8, 2022 election ballot for consideration by SLO County voters. TAAG asked Supervisor Peschong to report on the actions that the Supervisors took during the May 17th Supervisor hearing on this matter. More information can be found regarding this matter at the following County website links: [Agenda item details - Provox IIP \(ca.gov\)](#) and [142272 \(ca.gov\)](#)

This item became a moot point. The Board of Supervisors voted on Tuesday to strike down the proposal to become a charter county.

BRUCE JONES: The charter county issue came up as a concern over the governor's (recently exercised) power to appoint a supervisor in the event of a seat becoming open mid-term.

On further consideration, it became clear that once a county enters charter territory, the amendment process becomes a big problem. The proposed change would introduce more problems than it would solve. Community members speaking at the Tuesday meeting were pretty much 100% against becoming a charter county. All the supervisors saw that.

DORIS DIEL: Special elections to fill vacant seats can be expensive, too, right?

JONES: Special elections are expensive, some estimates were \$1 million in SLO County. And special elections historically see extremely low turnout. But more than that, if we change the form of county government, there are all sorts of unintended consequences. The entire functioning of the government becomes more contentious; in the end, the vote on the board was 5 to 0 against it.

MURRAY POWELL: Don't charter amendments have to go to the voters?

JONES: There are two ways to amend a charter: By petition, i.e., with enough signatures it goes on the ballot. Or the Board of Supervisors can initiate a referendum to amend the charter. In counties where they've gone to charter government, it becomes an endless process of arguing about changes.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COMMITTEES

Project Review Committee

DORIS DIEL, chair: We will be dealing with vacation rental [item 7.1]. There is no information available on that yet, is there?

MURRAY POWELL: There was a referral to TAAG; a land use application came to us from the county. The applicant originally also wanted a permit for temporary events for maybe 150-200 people – I can't remember the figure. They later deleted that element of the plan. However, the application packet still contained the pages of information outlining the temporary events; only at the end there was a comment indicating "temporary events no longer requested." It would be better to consider the project when a revised application comes through.

Cannabis Project Review Committee

MURRAY POWELL, chair: I've been asking for updates about the projects in our area from Eric Hughes in County Planning Dept. Several have been withdrawn, notably two between Tin City and the Salinas River.

Two projects on South El Pomar Rd. have asked for project-specific Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs). Eric said they were out to bid, the deadlines should have passed by now. Bids over a certain amount have to go to the Board of Supervisors for approval?

XZANDREA FOWLER, Manager, County Planning Dept: County purchasing requirements specify that if the total cost surpasses \$250K, The Board of Supervisors has to approve – although it is the applicant who pays, and they may withdraw based on the cost of an EIR. I don't believe a consultant has been chosen to conduct this EIR. The two applicants on El Pomar are considering using one consultant together. There is no cost estimate yet.

SCOTT SILVEIRA: Can the two applicants share the cost of a single EIR?

FOWLER: No, there would be two EIRs, but there are analyses that may be common to both – traffic impact for projects that are next to each other, for example – so certain costs can be shared.

Community Outreach and Public Relations Committee

JOHN DONOVAN, chair: I've sent the board a synopsis of a brief meeting on raising the visibility of TAAG. We discussed taking a table at the Templeton Farmer's Market once a month, where we'd be available to answer questions. Then we have 300 names on our e-mail list. We'd like to survey those we already have.

SCOTT SILVEIRA: There is a social media group, What's Up North County, that has a lot of followers. Maybe we can get the word out in different ways.

Traffic Circulation Committee

No report.

Bylaws Special Committee

No report.

Water/Toad Creek Committee

No report.

Elections Committee

No report.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM DELEGATES (on items not on the agenda)

None.

10.ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed by voice vote. 7:50 pm