

TEMPLETON AREA ADVISORY GROUP (TAAG)

Minutes of the Board Meeting

Thursday October 20, 2022 6:30 PM

Templeton Community Service District Board Room
502 Fifth Street, Templeton, California

2022-2023 TAAG BOARD MEMBERS

Scott Shirley, Delegate/Chair

Murray Powell, Delegate/Vice-Chair/Treasurer

Doris Diel, Delegate/Secretary

John Donovan, Delegate

Jerry Jones, Delegate

Scott Silveira, Delegate

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Scott Shirley called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm . . .

2. Pledge of Allegiance

. . . and led the pledge of allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Scott Shirley	present
Murray Powell	present
Doris Diel	present
John Donovan	present
Jerry Jones	present
Scott Silveira	present

4. AGENCY REPORTS AND UPDATES

4.1. Sheriff's Office

MICHAEL MANUELE, Commander of Sheriff's North Station, reported on Sept 2022:

There were 2,149 calls for service, as compared to 1,747 last year. This represents an increase of 23%, although Templeton was even with last year, with 409 calls in Sept 2022, compared to 408 in Sept 2021. Those calls resulted in 263 reports, a small increase over last year's 255. Templeton actually showed a decrease in reports (77 compared to last year's 88).

There were 6 reports of assault and battery, including a family disturbance; a hospital security employee attacked; a battery on school grounds; and 3 domestic violence cases.

There were 25 calls about disturbance, but only one report (and arrest); this was the case of a person using pepper spray on protesters on the 101 overpass at Vineyard Dr.

There were 5 reports of burglary and theft, all from vehicles (although Cmdr. Manuele noted that the widespread theft of catalytic converters finally seems to be abating), and 4 reports of vandalism (including damage to the park's pool pump).

No local phone scams to report.

16 calls about suspicious circumstances -- including call about a person with a rifle in the town park, which turned out to be 3 juveniles playing "Assassin" -- resulted in 3 reports.

A group of juveniles were arrested as suspects in a robbery in which the victim was jumped, a cell phone smashed, and a scooter taken.

One person was assaulted by the driver for a transit company that picked up the victim.

CMDR MANUELE also announced the addition of a new sergeant to the North County staff.

MURRAY POWELL: What is the staffing situation at North County?

MANUELE: It fluctuates. We generally have 3-4 on a day shift, then some on other shifts as needed; graveyard shift may have 2-4 deputies on duty. It varies. We try to anticipate needs, but you can't predict crime. I remember the days when my partner and I were the only people covering the whole area down to Nipomo.

We do have people going through the academy and the 6-month training program. It takes much less time to take in "laterals," people who

already work in other agencies and want to work on the Central Coast. They don't have to do the full training, we just have to teach them our procedures. When I started, training took a year and began with a large pool of applicants, now it's hard to find people who want to do the job.

We also have people covering specialized areas: school resource officers, a rural crime deputy, and I have K-9s at the station. I would like to have more people to assign to specific tasks.

POWELL: How many more would you like to have?

MANUELE: It's the County Sheriff's responsibility to answer that. We all have a wish list, whether it's at home, at work, or in government. You can't always get everything you want.

4.2. California Highway Patrol

no report.

4.3. Supervisorial District One

JOHN PESCHONG, District 1 Supervisor: There was not a lot on the agenda at the last board meeting. It was cattleman's day.

There is a plan in the works for a county-run desalination plant. One question is: Where to put it? This is a long-term plan, and very expensive. The Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant has a desalination component, which the county was considering taking on, but now that the power plant shutdown is delayed, we need to move in our own direction.

Adding to the sheriff's comments on lateral moves, there are other jurisdictions offering bonuses to hire trained deputies, so there is competition, even among local departments. Sometimes we are competing with ourselves. But we do have good local recruits, and I am very supportive of those efforts.

Regarding the recently approved emergency dispatch center, I disagree with minutes posted from TAAG's last board meeting [that Supervisor Peschong had not represented TAAG's objections at the county level]. The vote on the Board of Supervisors was 5-0 on this issue. The Sheriff and Cal Fire said this is the one location that would work. There will be no flooding. There will be no additional traffic problems. I live in Templeton at that end of Main St., so it's a local issue for me as well. It's a great location for the center, and it will save lives.

At the other end of Main St, we are paving in front of Templeton High School. It was in bad shape. The plan is to put a berm in on one side. There's a lot of trash dumping there. Trash services has been very good about taking care of that area where the school district property and Union Pacific land come together. Mattresses can now be recycled for free, that should help.

A Planting Ordinance will come before the planning commission on October 27 and have a hearing on December 6. Supervisor Debbie Arnold and I believe it will help with the distribution of water to family farms. Property owners have a constitutional right to use the water under their land. By law, we have to balance our groundwater basin. We believe the way to do that is to monitor the water and know who is using it. This will save the Williamson Act in SLO County.

County information on this proposed ordinance is available at:

<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Planning-Building/Grid-Items/Community-Engagement/Active-Planning-Projects/Paso-Basin-Land-Use-Planting-Ordinance.aspx>

<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Planning-Building/Forms-Documents/Planning-Projects/Paso-Basin-Land-Use-Planting-Ordinance/Final-Program-Environmental-Impact-Report/Paso-Basin-Final-PEIR.pdf>

POWELL: I can't understand why the county is going ahead with this plan. Not only do elements of the EIR (Environmental Impact Report) argue against it, the whole ordinance can be overridden by the state and the GSP (Groundwater Sustainability Plan). The basin is going into overdraft.

PESCHONG: The purpose of this ordinance is not to correct the overdraft, but to help family farms. They are not the ones putting the basin out of balance. Yes, the state is going to demand that we balance the basin, but that needs to be addressed in a different way.

This is not a TAAG agenda item, and should be taken up at another meeting.

POWELL: People's wells are going dry.

PESCHONG: The county has been working with individual well owners to address the problem of wells going dry. We figure out ways to get them additional water. Some don't even want to tell the county their wells are dry because fire insurance rates go up. We help get costs down, help them apply for grant money.

4.4. Supervisorial District Five

no report.

4.5. County Planning Department

no report.

4.6. Templeton Community Services District

no report

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

no comment.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

6.1 Approval of Minutes from September 15, 2022 TAAG Board meeting

PESCHONG: The final item in the minutes includes opinion, not fact, from board member Powell. I ask to have that deleted from the minutes. Regarding discussion of the tower at the county board of supervisors meeting, I pulled it from the consent agenda for separate discussion and a separate vote.

DORIS DIEL: There is an understanding or feeling that because Templeton is not incorporated, projects are pushed here and we don't have the power to say no.

PESCHONG: Incorporation has nothing to do with it. I live in

this community, and I don't feel we are a dumping ground. In 2017 when I was first seated as supervisor, I got additional sheriff's deputies for North County. It's expensive to incorporate. I hear this from Shandon, too. San Miguel feels the same way. That tower needs specific conditions, that location is perfect and unique. It has elevation, it has line of site, all law enforcement and emergency services supported that site. That's why I voted for it.

POWELL: That project EIR has a whole section, right at end, with a very technical survey of the plans for the operations center. There were nine possible locations, four were accepted in that study for line of sight and necessary height. The whole center could have been located elsewhere. Your statement that this was the only place for it is just wrong. Why do we have studies if we ignore them? Why spend the money on an EIR?

SHIRLEY: Motion to approve the minutes of the September TAAG board meeting as published, with Supervisor Peschong's objections noted in the minutes of the October meeting.

Motion approved by unanimous vote.

6.2 Approval of Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report, noting a balance of \$1,008 with two charges for the month, was approved by voice vote.

7. OLD BUSINESS - NONE

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Call for Candidates to fill vacant Delegate position: Per Bylaw IV, Section 7, "When there is an open or vacated Delegate or Alternate seat, if deemed necessary, TAAG shall make a call for candidates. The call for candidates shall be published in local newspapers, newsletters, on local websites, or by any other means that may generate responses from the public. At its next Board meeting, TAAG shall appoint, by an affirmative vote of approval by five (5) or more delegates, a replacement for the remainder of that term."

Doris Diel and John Donovan propose a candidate encountered at the farmer's market visiting the TAAG table. She is interested, newly retired, and has a master's degree in public administration. She was not present at tonight's meeting (possibly because TAAG neglected to invite her).

Scott Shirley will contact her and ascertain that she meets residency requirements (lives within the boundaries of Templeton School District) and is registered to vote here.

8.2 Establish an Election Committee: Per Bylaw XII, Section 7, “The TAAG Election Committee shall conduct the annual TAAG elections. (a) The Committee shall consist of three (3) TAAG Board members who are not running for election. (b) The Committee will confirm that declared candidates have met residency and voter registration requirements as set forth in the Bylaws. (c) The Committee may enlist community volunteers to assist in the conduct of the election. (d) During the conduct of the election, at least two (2) Committee members should be on site at all times.”

Shirley called for volunteers for the election committee.

Members NOT up for election are: Doris Diel, Scott Shirley, Jerry Jones.

Motion made and seconded to appoint these three to the committee. Approved by unanimous vote.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COMMITTEES

9.1 Project Review Committee

no report

9.2 Cannabis Project Review Committee

POWELL: Of the three projects adjacent to each other on South El Pomar, one application has been withdrawn. The other two requested full EIR reports; both are on hold at the moment.

9.3 Community Outreach and Public Relations Committee

JOHN DONOVAN: Next farmers market will be November 12.
TAAG board members are asked to volunteer from 8:30 - 12:30 to meet public and increase public awareness of TAAG.

9.4 Traffic Circulation Committee

SHIRLEY forwarded road fee annual report to the board.
Funding is available for improvements at the Main St./101 interchange.

DIEL: Regarding roundabouts and the often-noted antipathy locals feel toward them: I went to first night of the county's traffic forum. It was much more interesting than I expected. It turns out that roundabouts are much safer than 4-ways, and they keep the traffic moving.

PESCHONG: People will get used to the roundabout at Vineyard Dr and 46. They are very efficient.

SHIRLEY: If we are widening streets at that Main St/101 interchange, can we raise flood concerns again about the retention basin around the new emergency dispatch center? It will have a lot more concrete. I'd like to see better flood control.

PESCHONG: There are private landowners near that location, I won't get into issues of eminent domain.

SHIRLEY: Is the November hearing regarding the road fee a good time to bring these concerns up again?

PESCHONG: yes.

SHIRLEY: The traffic committee will come up with comment.

9.5 Bylaws Special Committee

no report

9.6 Water/Toad Creek Committee

POWELL: The water committee should come up with a statement regarding the Planting Ordinance (see item 4.3 above), for the TAAG board to approve and submit to the county. There is a 400-page EIR. It comes down to a couple of simple things: This ordinance will make the overdraft situation in the

basin worse, not better; and the state of California and the GSP (state-approved Groundwater Sustainability Plan) will override the county ordinance.

SCOTT SILVEIRA: chair of water committee, will discuss with POWELL.

CANDY NACHEL reported on the situation of her property, where her wells -- she estimates them at 200 feet -- have gone dry. She is situated "in between Stuart Resnick and J. Lohr." She does not have the resources to drill new wells, and is trucking in water. TAAG has put her in contact with Supervisor Peschong's office (although she is in Supervisor Arnold's District 5).

9.7 Elections Committee

See item 8.2 above.

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

no further announcements.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm.