

**PORTOLA VALLEY TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING NO. 1000, NOVEMBER 11, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Mayor Aalfs called the Town Council's Special Teleconference meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Hanlon called the roll.

Present: Councilmembers Craig Hughes, John Richards, and Ann Wengert; Vice Mayor Maryann Derwin; Mayor Jeff Aalfs

Absent: None

Others: Jeremy Dennis, Town Manager  
Cara Silver, Town Attorney  
Laura Russell, Planning and Building Director  
Brandon Alvarez, Town Intern  
Sharon Hanlon, Town Clerk

Attendees: Caroline Vertongen  
Dale Pfau  
David Cardinal  
Gregory Rubens  
Jennifer Youstra  
Joyce Shefren  
Kristi Corley  
Mary Hufty  
MJ Lee  
Rita Comes  
Rob Younge  
Rusty Day  
Sarah Wernikoff

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Caroline Vertongen reviewed the instructions for participating during the meeting via telephone -- \*9 to raise hand and \*6 to speak. She asked the \$18,000 charge for the OpenGov permitting/licensing/code software is in addition to the big investment the Town made for OpenGov. She said she wanted to discuss Items #4, #5, and #7 on the Regular Agenda.

Rita Comes said she can no longer see attendees on the Zoom screen.

Mayor Aalfs said they have had to change some things in response to the Zoom interference. They eliminated Q&A and chat because they were becoming counterproductive to the meetings. Attendees may raise their hands, just as they would in a public meeting, if they wish to communicate.

Town Manager Dennis said he is working on making the attendees visible to all as the intention was not to change that feature.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

(1) **Approval of Minutes** – Town Council Regular Meeting of October 28, 2020. *[Removed from Consent Agenda.]*

(2) **Approval of Warrant List** – November 11, 2020, in the amount of \$86,405.31. *[Removed from Consent Agenda.]*

(3) **Recommendation by Finance Director** – Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund (OPEB)

Councilmember Hughes moved to approve Consent Agenda Item #3. Seconded by Vice-Mayor Derwin, the motion carried 5-0, by roll call vote.

(1) **Approval of Minutes** – Town Council Regular Meeting of October 28, 2020.

Councilmember Richards moved to approve Consent Agenda Item #1 as amended. Seconded by Councilmember Wengert, the motion carried 5-0, by roll call vote.

(2) **Approval of Warrant List** – November 11, 2020, in the amount of \$86,405.31.

Town Manager Dennis said the warrant list item for OpenGov is associated with a software that allows the Town's various software tools for classes, etc., to communicate with one another.

Councilmember Hughes moved to approve Consent Agenda Item #2, as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Richards, the motion carried 5-0, by roll call vote.

#### **REGULAR AGENDA**

(4) **Recommendation by Race & Equity Council Subcommittee, Councilmembers Derwin and Richards** – Land Acknowledgement and Future Collaboration with the Ramaytush-Ohlone

Town Intern Alvarez explained the background of Portola Valley being the ancestral homeland the Ramaytush-Ohlone people, their intentional practices of coexistence with nature, the "civilization" of the tribes, and the violence that native peoples across the globe have been forced to endure. He explained that the proposed land acknowledgment is an acknowledgement of the truth of the history of the land that we dwell upon and the history of the Ramaytush-Ohlone, and a first step toward work to undo the past injustices, as detailed in the staff report. The Race & Equity Council Subcommittee recommended that the Town Council review and approve a public land acknowledgment and meet with representatives and elders from the Association of Ramaytush-Ohlone once they return to session in January to discuss how the Town may be able to help in their mission of environmental and cultural preservation.

Mayor Aalfs invited questions from the Council. Hearing none, Mayor Aalfs invited questions and comments from the public.

David Cardinal said he understands the history of the Spanish mostly stealing California from the Native Americans and then that California was mostly stolen from the Spanish. He said it is a thing that happened but he does not understand why current citizens need to apologize to the Native American tribes for that history. He said he is supportive of listening to them about fire mitigation and helping out in any way possible but does not feel they need to be given part of Portola Valley. He said he is not a fan of reparations and his thought is that life goes on. Town Intern Alvarez clarified that this proposal was not about giving the tribe any part of Portola Valley, nor is it a history limited to the Spanish. They said the boarding school era happened under the U.S. Government. The actions of the welfare system continue to happen and is currently being legally challenged within the United States. They explained that land acknowledgment is meant to recognize the fact that these histories exist and by and large are actively being erased and not taught. They said while it may not seem significant, it is very important for indigenous youth and Native communities because this is ultimately their histories, things that continue to impact their lives today and continue to affect their communities today. Town Intern Alvarez said that the Ramaytush are not federal recognized and have no funding because they did not reach a treaty with the federal government before they were erased, which is why they currently only have one family in existence.

that can still speak to these things. They said that by acknowledging these histories, it is much more about being willing to recognize the impacts that the government has had on these peoples and being willing to contribute to their preservation as a people. Town Intern Alvarez said the history is that the U.S. Government has attempted to erase them and their culture from existence and it is very difficult for a Native person to have their entire history as a people yanked out from under them as if it doesn't exist or is not important. Mr. Cardinal said they are not idiots and understand the boarding school era and do have an education about these things. He said he is supportive of acknowledging all of the history and educating everyone on the history, but the resolution goes way beyond that to have Portola Valley admitting that they did this or did that. He said the U.S. has done a lot of bad things to a lot of good people. He said he agrees with most of what Town Intern Alvarez said but does not see that the resolution stops at education and elucidation but goes beyond to some sort of mea culpa to the people who live here now and he is not in favor of that.

Caroline Vertongen thanked Town Intern Alvarez for the presentation. She said she does not understand the connection, especially since they had the meeting with law enforcement. She said Town Intern Alvarez will be able to help the Fire Department with the controlled burnings which they used to do. She said with regard to race and equity, many people in Portola Valley have been fighting to make sure that people of all races are being respected. She said she is one of those people, in healthcare and education, but there is a hypocrisy and it is sad there is no dialogue about it. She said it starts with respect for everybody. She said Town Intern Alvarez could perhaps elaborate, having been a student at Stanford. She asked if Town Intern Alvarez had some kind of experience here in Portola Valley and, if so, she would like to hear about it because that would be a start to correct it. She said she has a problem with the resolution just like David Cardinal.

Town Manager Dennis said it is at the discretion of the Mayor to allow Town Intern Alvarez to be questioned but he wants to make sure the conversation is about the resolution before the Council and not other issues.

Mayor Aalfs said Ms. Vertongen's concern was noted and could be pursued separately.

Rusty Day thanked Town Intern Alvarez for bringing this forward. He expressed strong disagreement with the prior sentiments. He said what he sees in the acknowledgement is a commitment on the part of Portola Valley, "to working with the Ramaytush to better understand and integrate these histories into public knowledge." He said he also sees the commitment to "working with the Indigenous leaders in its ongoing climate efforts to better mitigate and redress this ecological arm." He said the difference between those two sentences is striking. He said what Town Intern Alvarez is bringing to the Town's attention is the erasure of the culture that inhabited these lands for 5,000 years before our Spanish and Anglo ancestors occupied the land. He said the culture of that Indigenous population has simply been erased, moved off the landscape, not recognized, not honored, not respected. He said the Town should be going further and not less, committing to mitigate and redress the cultural harm, the erasure of this culture that occurred here. He said it not just boarding schools. He would be interested to hear about what became of the 5,000 Ohlone people who lived along Jasper Ridge, Webb Ranch, and the Stanford Wedge, and who have a burial ground at Alpine Hills Tennis Club. He asked why the United States, after taking control from Mexico, adopted legislation that allowed indentured servitude, effectively slavery, of Indian children. He asked why they encouraged militias to abduct Indian children and put them into indentured servitude until they were 35 years old. He said the Town needs to come to grips with this history and understand exactly what happened here 200 years ago and hallow this land just as we hallow Gettysburg or Yorktown, setting aside land to honor the culture that preceded us. He said it was a magnificent culture with a lot to relish, cherish, and esteem, and that needs to be brought forward so that there is much greater respect for the land we occupy and the people who occupied it before us, and what we did to them. Mr. Day said he understands there are three tribes – Ramaytush, Muwekma, and Amah Mutsun. He wondered why this is limited to the Ramaytush and asked what was being done to reach out to the Muwekma and Amah Mutsun people.

Town Intern Alvarez said the land that Portola Valley rests on is the Ramaytush ancestral land, although on their website, they do note that they are open to collaborating with other members of the Ohlone peoples and do so regularly. They said they reached out to the Muwekma tribe who deferred them to work with Ramaytush, at least for the time being. Town Intern Alvarez expressed appreciation for Mr. Day's affirmation and further explication on the history of the Native peoples here in California. They said he is not as familiar with the other tribes as most of his work has centered around the Ramaytush. They appreciated Mr. Day's articulation that a lot of this is trying to undo the cultural damage that has happened here. Town Intern Alvarez said that, as a Native person, it is difficult to explicate that. As an example, they talked about the Split Feathers Study, which discussed about the Split Feather Syndrome, which is a psychological syndrome experience by Native peoples – extreme psychological distress due to not being able to connect or access one's own culture and history. Town Intern Alvarez said being birthed into a world where that is denied to you is terrifying and incredibly isolating. They said someone who was a participant in the study, in his 80s, after being separated from his family during the boarding school era, was never able to go through a naming ritual to receive his own tribal name and was never able to access the pieces of knowledge and healing and history that belonged to him. Town Intern Alvarez said, on a personal level, they did not have access to their own language until arriving at Stanford and it took going to an elite academic institution to be able to have any access to their own culture and history, which was incredibly distressing. Town Intern Alvarez said that they feels a burden and responsibility, along with a lot of other Native people, that there is a history and culture that is actively dying out and if they don't invest in it in a personal way or desperately find some way to access it, it will die out and no longer exist and their descendants will have no idea where they came from or why the cultures they came from are so important. Town Intern Alvarez said Portola Valley being a part of that is more in helping to prevent that eventual cultural death because without any active effort or recognition, it is what will happen.

Rita Comes asked how many people are in the meeting because it hasn't shown up yet. Town Manager Dennis said there are 16 attendees and 12 panelists.

Rita Comes applauded Town Intern Alvarez's report, including a lot of the timeline of the Native people, who have had a rich life in this beloved town. She referred to Nancy Lund's book on Portola Valley which touches a bit on the history of the Native Americans in this area. She said she hopes they can see the Native sites at Jasper Ridge and the dance circle at the Stanford Wedge. She encouraged Town Intern Alvarez to continue to work on the diversity, especially the anti-racist piece for African Americans in this town and she would love to work with Town Intern Alvarez's continuing work on this project.

Mary Hufty complimented Town Intern Alvarez for the beautifully done project. She said she's seen acknowledgements done easily in many institutions that are land-based where they actually acknowledge at the beginning of every meeting that affects land management, taking a moment to acknowledge what has gone before on that land and how we can learn from the people who have gone before us. She said there is a place still left in Portola Valley, which the stone quarry across from the Wedge. She said she worked with Nancy Lund quite a bit on it, trying to understand a bit of its history, but it appears the stones sacred to the Indigenous people were blasted for quarry and for the stone used at Stanford and the old Windmill School at Alpine. She said it is critical that the Town assesses what remains in terms of the tiny bit that can be done to honor the people that went before. She said the monument of the blast holes that go through their sacred stones are a dramatic piece of artwork, if nothing else, to the heritage. She hopes that both Stanford and Portola Valley will work together to make sure we understand what is there.

With no other public comment, Mayor Aalfs brought the item back to the Council for discussion.

Vice-Mayor Derwin acknowledged Town Intern Alvarez's extraordinary work on this project. She said when they were asked by Kim Acker to consider doing a tribal acknowledgement, she, Councilmember Richards, and Town Manager Dennis talked with Town Intern Alvarez, who was so excited about doing it. She said she never imagined his work product would be so excellent. She said she is sad to say that Town Intern Alvarez is leaving because they got a real job and it will be a huge loss for the Town. She said this request is not for a mea culpa or an apology or to give back land. She said the request is that the

Town formally acknowledge that this land was once the ancestral land of the Ohlone Ramaytush and that the Town acknowledge the wretched truth of what happened to their people and commit to dismantling these legacies and do better.

Councilmember Richards expressed appreciation for Town Intern Alvarez's excellent work. He said he appreciates the public comments as well. Councilmember Richards said this is a great start and he hopes at one point to connect with Ramaytush elders and make a little difference to the culture.

Town Intern Alvarez said he appreciates everyone's kind words and Vice-Mayor Derwin's synthesis of all of this. They said that by and large none of this is meant to evoke pity or sorry or anything like that. Town Intern Alvarez said that approaching this work from that perspective is not the goal at all. They said when people see this history narrated to them, it's scary to have to hold and feels wrong because it's not what anyone would stand for today. The work that the Ramaytush and other tribes do, here in the US and elsewhere in the world, will continue because they have to in order to survive. Town Intern Alvarez agreed with Vice-Mayor Derwin's encapsulation, reiterating that this proposal is ultimately meant to be an acknowledgement and also a commitment to involving Portola Valley with the Ramaytush and other tribes to dismantle those legacies and help ease the burden of that survival work that the Ramaytush and other tribes will continue to do for decades and beyond.

Councilmember Hughes expressed his appreciation of Town Intern Alvarez's work and said it is a tremendous thing to bring to the Council to contemplate. He said in reading through the resolution, his initial concern was along the lines expressed by Mr. Cardinal, but as he digested it and read over it again, he believes the language is very thoughtfully put together to not do what Mr. Cardinal was concerned about. He said there is no apology or acceptance of blame and it is really much more recognizing that it happened as opposed to pity or apology. He said he would potentially change the word "stolen" in the title. He said reducing this subject to the legal concept of theft takes away from the rest of what is in the message. He suggested the word "taken" or something that doesn't have such a strong legal implication, which recognizes what happened and continues to carry the spirit of the message but removes the only word he found problematic in the resolution.

Councilmember Wengert thanked Town Intern Alvarez for an amazing body of work and for all of the thought that went into producing it. She said for the past 20 years, in addition to her work on the Town Council, she has been a docent at Año Nuevo, which were the lands of the Quiroste, one of the sub-tribes of the Ohlone. She said she always struggled in her presentations to the visitors when talking about the history of the land at Año Nuevo, because what they were taught to relay to their guests and visitors was sorely lacking. She said the good news is that over those 20 years that has changed a lot and there is much more interaction with the Native Amah Mutsun, the surviving descendants of that portion of the tribal area, and they have really got to see some very special spots in their lands that are still held within the State park but not available to the public. She was encouraged how that narrative changed in her time there. She said it was always a horrific story to tell about what happened to the Native American, the original inhabitants to the land before the Spanish arrived, and other parts of the history. She said that having to try to succinctly explain to people why that was such a horrific period always clearly pointed out some major lapses in how we all learned about the Native American history in the U.S. and particularly along the coastlines of California. Councilmember Wengert agreed that "stolen" might be brought back to a lesser legal term. She said the spirit, the recognition, and the acknowledgement is terrific.

Mayor Aalfs thanked Town Intern Alvarez for the great work on this project, and thanked Vice-Mayor Derwin and Councilmember Richards for their assistance and support. He said while we may know the history, perhaps we don't recognize what it means to say that a culture has been eradicated. He said we may never fully understand it but we can't stop looking at what happened or pretend it didn't happen. He fully supports the acknowledgement. He said "stolen" does feel legal and agrees that "taken" is as good a word as any.

Councilmember Hughes moved to approve the Resolution for Land Acknowledgement and Future Collaboration with the Ramaytush-Ohlone as amended. Seconded by Vice-Mayor Derwin, the motion carried 5-0, by roll call vote.

(5) **Study Session** – Ad-Hoc Wildfire Preparedness Committee Proposals 2

Chair of the Wildfire Preparedness Committee Michael Tomars and Member Karen Vahtra presented the background of the creation of the Ad-Hoc Committee; the second quarterly report detailing goals that have been completed, are underway, are underway and continuous, and have not yet begun; and the second round of proposed recommendations, as detailed in the staff report. The Committee requested the Council review and provide their initial feedback and suggestions regarding the Committee's proposed recommendations.

Councilmember Hughes asked why there are restrictions only for underground transformers instead of those at grade or on poles. Ms. Vahtra said PG&E maintains the clearance of the transformers on poles. Councilmember Hughes asked about other pole-mounted transformers, such as for cell phone towers. Ms. Vahtra said she does not know about cable or cell phone transformers or if that's an issue. Mr. Tomars said PG&E already has a program in place to visibly look at transformers on poles; however, that is not occurring for underground transformers. He said that on his on-site walk, he observed vegetation very close to the transformer. He said that lesson was learned after the incident at the Ranch. He said the recommendation became crystallized based on conversations with Don Bullard. Councilmember Hughes pointed out there are transformers mounted at grade level on a pad with a bush up against it as screening. Mr. Tomars agreed that is an excellent point and suggested the recommendation be broadened to cover those issues. Ms. Vahtra said in Blue Oaks there are above-ground transformers with clearly-marked signs banning vegetation. Councilmember Hughes said on Alpine Road a bit up from Zotts there is equipment, possibly AT&T, including a transformer, that could catch fire. He said he remembers it because when he was on ASCC they required plantings to screen it from the road. He suggested the regulation not be limited to underground.

Councilmember Hughes asked, with regard to the extra clearance required for 30-degree slopes, how that slope will be measured and where it is measured from. He also asked about a situation where people do not own the 200 feet downslope from their building. Ms. Vahtra said they did think about that issue. She said the regulation could be more complicated with more specifications, but Woodside Fire suggested to keep it simple because they will not be coming out to make exact measurements. She said if there is a situation where someone does not own the slope directly below their home, it should be responsibility of the homeowner below who does own that slope. She said it got complicated and she did not get a lot of support in requiring the downslope neighbor to take care of it. Councilmember Hughes agreed it could get complicated, for example if the downslope neighbor had no one above them for many years and then the uphill property gets developed with a new house and they are now being required to clean up that slope.

Councilmember Hughes asked why there was a residency requirement for the low-income grants. He said there are situations where someone may have inherited the property, may have moved back home, and cannot afford to clean up their property. He said he understands the income restriction but does not think it should matter how long someone has lived there. Ms. Vahtra agreed.

Councilmember Wengert said Councilmember Hughes' points were well taken about the potential interference of property lot lines regarding the recommendations for slopes. She said the Committee has done an unbelievable job in inventorying all of this. She asked if there was an idea of how many properties might have the 30-foot slope issue. She asked if the entire slope would need to be cleared if any part of the slope hit a 30-degree mark. Ms. Vahtra said the 30 degrees was considered an average.

Councilmember Wengert said the map is great, showing all of the parcels of greater than 50 acres. She said it is a divergent group of public, institutional, and private. She said the Town has tried to work with

Mid-Peninsula for many years and have not been able to exert the leverage hoped for and she is not optimistic that will change any time soon. She asked if there had been any outreach to any of the private landowners, which will have a significant burden placed upon them, particular with El Mirado, which has a complicated ownership structure. Ms. Vahtra said they have not yet reached out directly to the landowners.

Councilmember Wengert also agreed with Councilmember Hughes that the 10-year residency requirement was not necessary.

Vice-Mayor Derwin asked how the Portola Valley Clean-Up Campaign would be run. Ms. Vahtra said that has not been worked out yet. She said the Woodside Fire Foundation does mailers and there can be advertising on the Forum and things like that.

With no further questions from the Council, Mayor Aalfs invited public comment.

Dale Pfau said he is on the Ad-Hoc Wildfire Committee and the only person who voted against these recommendations because of two of the items – the slope requirement and the large parcel. He said he is all for private property rights and his concern is that passing such an ordinance appears to be a public taking that could create a significant unforeseen and unfounded hardship on certain parcel owners.

Rob Younge complimented the Committee on the difficult work they've done. He said he has been worried about this for the past five years as we see global warming starting to take effect and the drastic changes in the environment. He said Portola Valley was lucky in the CZU fire, which was a rare event in this area in that the humidity went down but there were no winds. He hopes the Town keeps that in mind because there are only two roads out and if, for some reason, there was a stronger wind and the citizens needed to evacuate quickly, it could be a bad situation. He said as developments happen, it should be made sure that the very little evacuation access is not further restricted. Mr. Younge said the Town funded a study called the Moritz Study, where they identified areas of wildfire concerns. He said he lives near the Cervantes and Westridge intersection at the top of the Wedge. He noted that a number of Shady Trail residents are starting to clear the underbrush in their properties but there are still significant issues. He said he is extremely worried about some of the other canyons in the city and the tall trees. He said he's removed more than 20 Monterey pines over the last 30 years. He suggested there be a plan developed for clearing underbrush in the canyons. He said he fully supports the Committee for what they are doing and hoped they have prioritized the biggest hazards in Town. He said he would very much like to donate to this effort in a significant way.

Mayor Aalfs said Mr. Younge's point is well taken. He said the efforts are divided between the public properties, public rights of way, and then private properties, which are all important. The Town has more control over what happens in the public rights of way. He agreed the prioritizing would help them decide on what can be done to have the biggest impact on overall public safety. He said this is an attempt to engage more with the private property side.

Rita Comes thanked the Committee for their much-appreciated report. She asked if the choices had been aligned with the 2008 FEMA guidelines to construction and wildfire zones. She asked Councilmember Hughes if the ASCC used those FEMA guidelines. She said she lives on Westridge and a couple of weeks ago collected more than 30 cigarette butts along her property. She said as she dropped her daughter off at school this morning, some of the road crew workers on Arastradero were smoking cigarettes. She hopes the Town will send messages to construction crews and others about not smoking on the roads and throwing their cigarette butts.

Rusty Day thanked the Committee for their work. He sent an email to the Council and Committee earlier this evening requesting that a graphic be presented, which Town Manager Dennis shared. The graphic was prepared by Moritz in 2008 in their fire hazard study, ranking the various hazards across town. They found 19 highest hazard areas, which Mr. Day described. He said he believes the Town is looking at an

existential threat, which he understands that Ms. Vahtra disagrees with. He said he would be interested to hear what Fire Marshal Bullard thinks about it. He said it is important for the Town to recognize that in 2015 the Governor's office issued a directive requiring towns with very high hazard fire zones in town, as are in Portola Valley, to amend their General Plan and perform a comprehensive hazard and risk assessment of the entire Town. He said the hazard based on vegetation understates the hazard because it does not integrate the underlying topography and does not show where the homes and infrastructure are. He said to do an integrated hazard and risk assessment, the vegetation must be laid atop the terrain, amidst the houses and roadways and population to understand what hazard is really presented, the priorities, and what it will take to address them. He urged the Council to look at the Governor's directive, when he sent with his email today. He said this approach will help the Town Council set its priorities, deciding whether they should spend \$100,000 to remove eucalyptus trees or build a fire break, if that will not protect against the greatest hazards in town or protect the most lives, or if they will prioritize the money spent to accomplish the greatest good. He said it will also help firefighters anticipate and prepare responses to the greatest risks that will be confronted. He said he hopes that the next time there is a study session on this, Fire Marshal Bullard is present, and that there can be agreement that it is time to do a comprehensive hazard and risk assessment for wildfire. Mr. Day said the CZU was close, but a closer analog was the Glass Fire in Napa, where the terrain, the ecosystem, the humidity, and vegetation are much more similar to Portola Valley. He said both fires exploded from 10,000 acres to 40,000 acres overnight and Portola Valley is only 7,000 acres. He said there is no time to evacuate this town if it experiences cataclysmic conditions that give rise to a wildfire here.

Kristi Corley thanked the Committee for their presentation. Ms. Corley said the City is seven square miles with 33 miles of roads. She said in looking at other cities, she wanted to offer other ideas. She said some cities have been divided into smaller zones, taking care of perhaps only one zone at a time, and within five or six years they had dealt with the entire city. She suggested the Town could do it that way, planning the finances over a five-year period. She said it is important to make sure that the Town is ready in May for the upcoming fire season and not still working on it into October. She said May through October is fire season so the Town should be ready by May. She suggested consideration of perhaps three chipper crews, a forest health department to take care of the dead trees and forest management, and a defensible space crew to check all the homes in January.

Mary Hufty thanked the Committee for the great presentation. She said the 200-foot shade break goes along with the wetland corridor. She said it would be nice to enhance the wetland corridor as part of fire resilience. She said we could get a lot more out of the water we have in terms of defending ourselves. She said it has already been done by unroofing the Sausal Creek and there is more to unroof and develop along there that will provide some fire resilience. She said to help with the climate change, the Town can restore the wetlands, improving the carbon sequestration, which also helps the Town's own resilience, bringing water back into the valley. Ms. Hufty said she thinks the Town has to do more about enforcement. She said the Fire Department cannot spend another 10 years asking Stanford to clean up with no enforcement support. She said the Town needs to truly give the power to the Fire Department to hold our feet to the fire, not just telling us it is dangerous but help us figure out how to do it, how to pay for it, etc. and make it happen.

With no further public comment, Mayor Aalfs brought the item back to the Council for discussion.

Town Manager Dennis said the Committee wanted to bring this to Council to assess how they are doing, get some feedback for their proposals, and receive guidance from the Council regarding items they want more work done on or items they want dropped. Town Manager Dennis said some of these proposals may end up on the Woodside Fire Protection District's Code instead of the Town's, in particular the item related to the large undeveloped properties, and it may be Council's direction to continue that conversation. Town Manager Dennis said cost estimates have not yet been developed.

Councilmember Richards thanked the Committee for the great presentation. He said the underground transformer regulation is a slam dunk whereas some others will take a bit more effort and study. He was



concerned that as the ideas are put out, such as the slope clearing, people may think they need to get right out there and clear their slopes. He said there are disastrous examples in town of incorrect approaches to this task and people need to understand the great care that must be taken in that regard. He said he likes they are looking at the possibility of some financing options to help people in town who are financially strapped. He said there might be some fundraising considered for this.

Councilmember Hughes said the report is a great piece of work and useful. He said other than removing a lot of trees, many of the suggestions are good ideas that can be put into practice fairly quickly. He agreed a big component will be education, telling people how to do it correctly, not just clearcutting and leaving bare dirt. He said distribution of an education or messaging packet will be important.

Michael Tomars said they did think about overall plans, taking into consideration the General Plan, and came to the conclusion that would take a long time and they were more concerned with the urgency given what has recently occurred. He said in meeting with the fire experts, the goal was to come up with things that can be acted on now that are deemed high risk. He said urgency and high risk was at the top of the list. He said one of the proposals that is a bit contentious is the large land mass issue. He said this is talking about a proposal that impacts 50 percent of the land mass in Portola Valley. He said if 50 percent of the land mass can be brought under control, that's a big win. He said it is not that they're giving up on working on other tasks as well, but they are looking at what can be done that has the biggest impact right now.

Mayor Aalfs said all the items on the list are worth pursuing. Some are complicated, such as managing slopes carefully and financing. He said a lot can be done without the financing, with a lot of property owners who can address things on their own. He agrees that the large property plans would be a huge step forward.

Councilmember Wengert agreed there is more bang for the dollar in the concentrated holdings. She encouraged the Committee to add members or ask for whatever help they need. She said she is excited that they are willing to take on fundraising. She said the timing is right and their approach is incredibly compelling and they will likely get a good response from the community.

Mr. Tomars agreed with Councilmember Wengert that there needs to be some form of outreach to the large landowners and that each of the parcels is very different.

Town Manager Dennis said the Council might consider granting the Committee authority to have those communications now as they are developing the proposals further.

Mayor Aalfs asked if the Committee would work with the Fire District to reach out to landowners or through a separate channel. Town Manager Dennis said it makes sense to include Fire Marshal Bullard, who has very longstanding positive relationships with some folks. Councilmember Wengert and Vice-Derwin agreed. Vice-Mayor Derwin said the Committee has created a remarkable document.

Councilmember Hughes moved to authorize the Committee to contact the large landowners. Seconded by Councilmember Wengert; the motion carried 5-0 by roll call vote.

- (6) **Recommendation by Town Manager** – Activity Restrictions on High Fire Danger days – First Reading of Ordinance Adding Chapter 8.34 [Red Flag Warning/ Spare the Air Days/ PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoff Restrictions] of Title 8 [Health and Safety] of the Portola Valley Municipal Code
  - (a) First Reading of Title, Waive Further Reading, and Introduce an Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley Adding Chapter 8.34 [Red Flag Warning/ Spare the Air Days/ PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoff Restrictions] of Title 8 [Health and Safety] of the Portola Valley Municipal Code (Ordinance No. \_\_)

Town Manager Dennis presented the Wildfire Preparedness Committee's recommendations to mitigate impacts from and strengthen the Town's response to a potential future wildfire, including an amendment to the Municipal Code to restrict various activities during high fire danger events (PSPS events, Red Flag Days, Spare the Air Days), as detailed in the staff report. Staff recommended the Town Council accept the recommendation and amend the Municipal Code as proposed.

Mayor Aalfs invited questions from the Council.

In response to Councilmember Hughes' question, Town Manager Dennis said he thought all PSPS events were also Red Flag Days. Councilmember Hughes said he was concerned about having PSPS be a trigger. He said Red Flag Days and Spare the Air Days are purely based on fire conditions, whereas the PSPS events are based on PG&E's inability to manage their infrastructure combined with weather events and don't necessarily imply fire danger in Portola Valley.

With no other questions from the Council, Mayor Aalfs invited public comment.

Rita Comes asked how the information would be communicated to homeowners that may be out of town and especially to the contractors and service people that may be performing work within the community. Town Manager Dennis said the Town has relationships with the most active contractors in town and would be pushing materials out through those relationships. There are also businesses identified through the business license program, which is another way to push information out to businesses and service providers. Residents would also be asked to help the Town communicate that to anyone who works on their property. He said it is particularly challenging reaching out to landscapers and gardeners and they would ask for assistance from residents in that effort. He said there are other general ideas being considered as it relates to making sure everyone understands the new regulations.

With no other public comment, Mayor Aalfs brought the item back to the Council for discussion.

Councilmember Hughes suggested not including the PG&E PSPS events into the Town's municipal code, especially since they are covered by Red Flag Day warnings. With regard to injunctive relief, he asked if the public nuisance is the responsibility of the person wielding the power tool or the property owner whose hired the person with the power tool. Councilmember Hughes said it should be up to the property owner to make sure their contractor and the contractor's employees are doing the right thing. He would not want to see a gardener being carted off by the Sheriff's Department for using a weed trimmer on a Red Flag Day.

Town Attorney Silver said any municipal ordinance violation is a misdemeanor unless it is specified that it should be an infraction. She said that as currently drafted the violation would be a misdemeanor charged against the person using the equipment. She said there are other ways to enforce this ordinance because the enforcement provision does allow the Town to bring a nuisance cause of action, which would be against a property owner for allowing the nuisance to occur on the property. In response to Councilmember Hughes' question, Town Attorney Silver said they could modify the ordinance to be an infraction instead of a misdemeanor. Town Manager Dennis suggested the Town should have some authority to cite repeat offenders who are gardeners or landscapers as well. In response to Councilmember Hughes' question, Town Attorney Silver said there are three different ways to enforce these violations – criminal enforcement through a misdemeanor or infraction, a public nuisance cause of action, or an administrative penalty provision. She said there are some general administrative penalty provisions in the Code but she would suggest including a specific administrative penalty provision in the ordinance.

Councilmember Wengert agreed that the penalty should be levied against the homeowner and not the person working on the property. She agreed with Town Attorney Silver's recommendation to bring this back with some revised language.

Councilmember Wengert said she is still trying to think of a scenario where there would be a PSPS not on a Red Flag Day. She would like to look at that more closely to be sure something is not being left behind by taking that out. She said if the ordinance will be delayed to rework the enforcement language, maybe the PSPS/Red Flag Day scenarios can be looked at more closely. Town Manager Dennis will check with PG&E and see what helpful data they can provide in that regard.

Mayor Aalfs said the local Red Flag alert takes precedence over whatever PG&E is declaring somewhere else. He was, however, happy to explore that further.

Councilmember Richards agreed with Councilmember Hughes that the PSPS event or warnings could probably be eliminated but would like to see what staff can learn from PG&E in that regard. Councilmember Richards said enforcement is a new concept and care should be taken on how that is accomplished.

Town Manager Dennis said the Code does need some harmonization as it relates to the types of fines and what's available. He said one of Town Intern Alvarez's final projects is to go through the entire code and find where code enforcement or compliance is mentioned and whether or not there is a fine attached, and creating a spreadsheet with that information. Town Manager Dennis said it is anticipated to bring back the survey on code enforcement issues in a December meeting.

Councilmember Richards agreed that the enforcement should be directed to the homeowners; however, he noted there are cases in which contractors are repeat violators and should be held responsible. Town Manager Dennis reminded the Council that the Webb Ranch fire a few years ago was caused by a repeat offender who had caused more than one fire on Stanford property.

Vice-Mayor Derwin would like to hear what Town Manager Dennis learns from PG&E regarding PSPS events and warnings. She would prefer an infraction versus a misdemeanor, especially for a first offense. She would prefer homeowners be penalized and not the gardener/contractor unless the user of the machinery is a repeat offender.

At 9:50 p.m., Mayor Aalfs called for a five-minute break.

(7) **Report by Town Manager and Planning and Building Director – Regional Housing Needs Allocation Update**

Town Manager Dennis provided the RHNA update and shared information regarding an upcoming public comment hearing. He described the background of the Housing Element requirements, RHNA Cycle 6 allocations, and the opportunities available to engage ABAG-MTC regarding the draft methodology, as detailed in the staff report. Staff recommended the Council accept the RHNA update, create a subcommittee responsible for finalizing a comment letter to ABAG-MTC, and provide recommendations on attending the hearing. Staff suggested the Council consider the content of any engagement on the draft RHNA methodology; whether or not the Town will be represented at the November 12 meeting and by whom; and, if the creation of a subcommittee of the Council, responsible for amalgamating and transmitting the Council's thoughts on the draft RHNA numbers, would be useful.

Planning & Building Director Russell added that a State law change affects this round of Housing Elements that puts equity at the forefront. She said the language being used and that comes from that law is to affirmatively further fair housing, which is why some of the equity issues were a major consideration in how this methodology was developed. She said this is a shift and a new emphasis from previous Housing Element cycles.

Mayor Aalfs invited questions from the Council.

Mayor Aalfs said he is aware of other communities that have faced legal vulnerabilities because their Housing Elements were not certified. He asked if there are more concrete penalties now for not having a certified Housing Element. Planning & Building Director Russell said State laws kick in around streamlining of development applications, which may or may not apply to Portola Valley. She said there are limitations on funding opportunities, in general being very difficult to receive any grant funding if you don't have a certified Housing Element. Town Manager Dennis said the State in recent years has ramped up those conversations with the communities that have either not adopted a Housing Element or have made changes to their zoning that the State believes would affect the Housing Element's ability to be successful, which will likely occur again now that there are additional tools. Town Attorney Silver said if the Town does not have a certified Housing Element, there is a cause of action and people can sue, can collect attorney's fees when they win, and the court can also issue remedies to incentivize the creation a Housing Element, which includes things like mandating that all building permits for housing be issued without any local control or review. She said there is a robust set of policies designed to encourage compliance.

Hearing no further questions from the Council, Mayor Aalfs invited public comment.

Caroline Vertongen asked what law Planning & Building Director Russell was referring to regarding equity. Town Manager Dennis and Planning & Building Director Russell said two related bills are SB-828 and AB-686. Ms. Vertongen said she has been watching the Housing Element Committee and shared one of those documents with Planning & Building Director Russell in 2018 that came from Assemblymember Gordon. She said the RHNA numbers are very complicated but they basically say the numbers are generated for each city based on projections upon projections and are not real numbers. She said the study presented in April 2020 has been a projection for the last 10 years and every time she asks the government officials to tell her what it is based on, what kind of jobs they are looking for, why they want to increase housing – there is no inventory of everything that is being built. Then COVID happened and many people lost their jobs and Ms. Vertongen again asked why they are using those projections on projections.

Dale Pfau said as part of the Evacuation Subcommittee of the Wildfire Committee there are some fairly complicated issues associated with evacuation with frightening preliminary numbers. Mr. Pfau said they are working with Fire Marshal Bullard and Zonehaven to try to get an idea of if Portola Valley can be evacuated. He said he is concerned that the RHNA numbers were done without adequate review of the particular situation here in Portola Valley. He said the evacuation situation is far worse here than any other community with only two exits and both of those exits heading east and none heading west. He said if that many homes are added, hours will be added to the time required to evacuate Portola Valley.

Rusty Day said it strikes him that any allocation methodology that does not consider the seismic and fire safety in Portola Valley is flawed and must be rejected by the Town Council. He said this reinforces his earlier comment about the criticality for this town to fulfil the Governor's directive from 2015. He said if the Town had followed the directive then, it would be done already. He said it is not doing what is urgent but is doing what is necessary. He said if the Town understands what the integrated hazard and risk is – whether the town can be evacuated, how much more housing can be added safely, how it affects the current residents – which the Governor directed the Town to prepare and including in the General Plan, then there is a basis to negotiate an appropriate set of new housing requirements, otherwise we are flying blind. He said he has listened to the generalized advice about complying and the concern about legal liability. Mr. Day asked if ABAG, the originator of these requirements, is the town's insurer. Town Manager Dennis said the insurer is a Planned JPA and not a part of ABAG. Mr. Day said the citizens should see specifically the reasoning laid out in writing of why the Town must comply with the RHNA requirements. He said the Town should not be proceeding on anecdotal opinions or assertions that the Town is liable if it does not go forward with a Housing Element certified by ABAG that does not consider the impact that housing allocation has on safety in this town. He said that analysis needs to be prepared and shared with the citizens of the town.

Rita Comes said the Ad-Hoc Fire Safety Committee made excellent points regarding the increased fire hazards and safety issues in town, as well as seismic issues. She said it does not seem realistic that the State would require adding 250 buildings into this town when these issues exist. She said hopefully those issues will be taken into consideration.

Mary Hufty would like to see the Town submit a letter pointing out that without considering fire and seismic concerns, the methodology is flawed.

With no other public comment, Mayor Aalfs brought the item back to the Council for discussion.

Councilmember Hughes said all of the methodologies evaluated resulted in roughly the same number of units for Portola Valley. He said looking at Portola Valley relative to other cities in the mid-Peninsula, Portola Valley's number is one of the lowest as far as a percentage of the existing housing stock. Councilmember Hughes said the fire safety and geologic safety issues can be pointed out, as well as the infrastructure. He said the Town's road capacity is not great, there is not an extensive sewer network, and there may not be the power supply to add 250 units without substantially upgrading PG&Es infrastructure. He said these elements are not part of ABAG's methodology and do distinguish Portola Valley from other towns on the Peninsula. He said in his conversations with people from ABAG, Assemblymen, and others at the State, they are more or less acknowledging that those elements have not been taken into account in their methodology but these numbers are being assigned and it is up to the towns to figure out how to make it work safely, whatever that may involve. He said he is supportive of pointing out to ABAG the preferred methodology to look at infrastructure and what a town can actually bear. Councilmember Hughes said he does not logistically know how the Town can possibly build as many ADUs as required in the current cycle plus a project equivalent in size to the proposed Stanford Wedge project every year for eight years, which is how to arrive at 250 more units in Portola Valley. He said that is a colossal amount of building activity that cannot be supported without substantially upgrading the town's infrastructure. He said going forward the Town Council needs to talk to representatives at the State level and regionally to understand where the Town will get the resources to upgrade the infrastructure, how to convince PG&E to bring the necessary power to town in a safe way, how to make it fire safe and earthquake safe.

Town Manager Dennis said that regardless of the final number Portola Valley is assigned, there is a tremendous amount of work that comes up after that process starts, a multi-year process with full-blown engagement with the community. He said that tonight, however, the methodology is the primary focus.

Councilmember Wengert asked if the methodology adequately incorporated the impact of COVID in terms of the number of jobs lost and the higher percentage of workforce working remotely. She said these projection numbers were set long ago. She encouraged in any comments related to methodology to understand how much the towns and cities within the region have been impacted by the job losses and moveouts. She would not want to see the methodology based on pre-COVID numbers that will clearly be different going forward that could make it substantially lower for a number of communities.

Vice-Mayor Derwin said the Methodology Committee was given the big number in the aggregate and they figured how to distribute the number among the 20 cities based on certain criteria and had no way to change the total number, which came from ABAG, which was driven by Planned Bay Area. Councilmember Wengert asked if that is being revisited. Vice-Mayor Derwin said the question has come in meetings she's attended and there has not been a complete answer so she does not know. Mayor Aalfs said considering how long it takes to put a model like this together it may be impossible to adjust in a short period of time.

Councilmember Richards said there is a lot unknown and up in the air because of COVID. He agreed with Councilmember Hughes that the numbers will not change regardless of the methodology used and even if it did change and go down to 150 units, that is still a huge impact on the Town. He suggested the Town move ahead and see what they can do. He said that meeting the RHNA numbers is important and meeting the housing crisis is also important. He also agreed with Councilmember Hughes' comment

about infrastructure. Councilmember Richards said it is a massive problem that must be tackled. He would not oppose asking the State how to approach these issues in the process but it must be moved forward.

Mayor Aalfs said some sort of written comments to ABAG are in order, realizing that any impact on the methodology will be small and there will be no changing of the huge bottom-line number.

Councilmember Hughes agreed a letter would be appropriate should include Councilmember Wengert's central point verifying the accuracy of the total number and the methodology of how that gets subdivided, and whether infrastructure has been considered. He said the Town needs some understanding of how a Town with very little infrastructure is expected to support that number of units.

Mayor Aalfs said that will be a separate conversation. At some point, the Town will receive a final number and at that point the town may have to go back and explain why that cannot be done safely. In terms of these initial comments, however, Mayor Aalfs said the questions would be if COVID changes the projects at all, if the methodology could be adjusted in anyway to affect the infrastructure concerns and the unique fire and seismic safety concerns. He said he would guess any changes that could affect the methodology would be small, but it is probably worth raising these issues now.

Councilmember Wengert agreed with Mayor Aalfs. She said the Town is not sending the message that they don't want to be responsive to the need to create more housing, but there is enough to know that the new working conditions will have a big effect on the entire Peninsula. She said the Town will continue to develop plans to meet housing objectives.

Town Manager Dennis said staff would appreciate working with two Council members to assist in writing a letter. Mayor Aalfs agreed. He asked the Council if anyone wanted to listen in and comment on tomorrow's meeting versus writing a letter or if two Councilmembers would volunteer to work on the comments for the letter due November 27. Town Manager Dennis suggested that if the Council will write a letter, they don't need to have a member at the meeting tomorrow.

Councilmember Hughes and Councilmember Richards volunteered to serve on a subcommittee to work with staff to draft a letter to meet the November 27 deadline.

Vice-Mayor Derwin noted that this is a planning document and the State is not requiring 251 housing units. She said the Town has to plan for a number of housing units. She said they are working with 21 Elements, who are fantastic, and who are in direct conversation with HCD so some of the concerns can be relayed directly. She suggested people tune into the C/CAG meeting tomorrow night to hear opinions of many upset Councilmembers. She said Burlingame has to come up with 3,000 more housing units. She said everyone had infrastructure needs. She said ABAG will also hear from Santa Rosa, Healdsburg, Vacaville, Berkeley Hills, Oakland Hills regarding fire safety, with 55 percent of PG&E's service area being considered high fire risk areas.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **(8) Public Hearing – Adoption of Resolution Approving a Revised Fee Schedule**

- (a) Adoption of Resolution Approving a Revised Fee Schedule for the Town of Portola Valley's Administrative, Building, Public Works/Engineering, and Planning Departments (Resolution No. 2840-2020)**

Town Manager Dennis presented background information regarding the Town's Master Fee Schedule and adjustments made, as detailed in the staff report. Staff recommended a public hearing be held to review the proposed fee changes and adopt a resolution revising the Town's Master Fee Schedule to adjust all fees for Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases based on Council recommendations.

Mayor Aalfs invited questions from the Council. Hearing none, Mayor Aalfs invited public comment.

Rita Comes asked if it is necessary at this time, between the pandemic and fires, to increase these fees and add extra burden to the citizens of town that are trying to better the quality of their homes.

With no additional public comment, Mayor Aalfs brought the item back to the Council for discussion.

Councilmember Hughes suggested asking staff routinely apply CPI adjustments every year, not to raise the fees but because as the value of a dollar has gone down, doing the CPI adjustments means the fees stay flat instead of going down. Councilmember Richards agreed and said these are modest adjustments which is better than shocking increases due to trying to recover lost ground. Councilmember Wengert agreed it is important to use the CPI adjustment to stay even each year. She suggested, however, that the Town look at the fee for the Ford Field parking lot fee, which does not relate to an athletic field. Vice-Mayor Derwin supported the reasonable and appropriate CPI adjustments. Mayor Aalfs agreed that this is a fiscally responsible approach.

Councilmember Hughes moved to adopt a Resolution Approving a Revised Fee Schedule for the Town of Portola Valley's Administrative, Building, Public Works/Engineering, and Planning Department. Seconded by Vice-Mayor Derwin; the motion carried 5-0 by roll call vote.

(9) **COUNCIL LIAISON COMMITTEE AND REGIONAL AGENCIES REPORTS**

Councilmember Richards – Attended Conservation Committee meetings going over a firesafe plant list, discussed 880 Westridge, some tree permits. He attended the Emergency Preparedness meeting where they had a follow-up from the Fire Chief regarding the 22 active fires, most of which are now 90 percent contained, with 19,000 Firefighters out at one point and another 4,000 still cleaning things up. Zonehaven is scheduled to roll out to the public on November 16. They discussed updates to the fire station which will go the ASCC fairly soon.

Vice Mayor Derwin – Attended Library JPA meeting where they updated their investment policy, procurement policy, and sustainability policy. She said the Fair Oaks library in Redwood City is currently operated by Redwood City and is funded by the JPA. They did a study and found it was not meeting the level of a JPA library so the County transferred the operations from Redwood City to the JPA with a three-party agreement, which will be a very positive change for the library. The Directors Report described expanded curbside service, sewing machines available to check out at the Portola Valley Library, and grab-and-go book bundles for families with children's books. An industrial hygienist is scoping out the Library and if all goes as planned, they will open in January. Vice-Mayor Derwin reported that the Brisbane Library is finally completed. She attended the Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency meeting where they approved the MOU to design, permit, construct, mitigate for, operate, and maintain the Bayfront Canal and Atherton Channel Flood Protection and Ecosystem Restoration Project, building two culverts underground to divert water into these flood basins that were formerly salt ponds that are now owned by U.S. Fish and Wildlife. Three easement agreements were also approved. She said they adopted a resolution accepting a \$1 million grant from CDWR Urban Streams Restoration Program to restore Belmont Creek in Twin Pines Park. She said they will restore the creek channel and, through a C/CAG grant, will also design stormwater capture retention basins underneath the parking lots. They have not yet decided if that water would recharge the aquifer or be used for irrigation of the park. They are working on a potential FEMA grant to do some work on the shoreline in the Burlingame, SFO, Millbrae area which will be submitted in December. The Strategic Planning Committee met twice for long-term funding strategies and outreach. Vice-Mayor Derwin attended the virtual Rising Together Housing Leadership Day. She said they are one of the many groups that are beginning their meetings with an acknowledgment, stating: "We are on stolen land, land that belonged to the Ohlone people." She said Nicole Nelson, from the Justice Collective, led a guided meditation. She attended the Color of Law Local Edition workshop, a program developed by Menlo Park last year. She shared things learned in that workshop. She said the program is available for any city who wants to do it and she suggested Portola

Valley consider it. She said it could be personalized for Portola Valley. Vice-Mayor Derwin also attended the virtual Progress Seminar, with the keynote being Fiona Ma, the California State Treasurer, describing the impact of COVID. The panel discussion was The Future of Office in San Mateo County, Is It Premature to Call Time of Death? She said the focus was on biotech in South San Francisco which is doing very well right now. She pointed out that this is a health crisis driven by biotech, with the employees needing to go in and work in the labs and not remotely. There was discussion about the theory that people want to go into the office and have relationships with relational beings and the remote working will not hold but will more likely be hybrid models. The advantage to remote working is that employers can adjust wages to markets, paying less to people who do not live in the Bay Area.

Councilmember Hughes – Attended the Open Space Acquisition Committee meeting where they discussed acquisition versus maintenance and how the funds should be spent. They eventually reiterated the early statements that the funds should be used for acquiring land and the initial clean up of acquired lands and not ongoing maintenance, as this has been communicated often to those who have contributed to this fund. They will be putting an updated map on the website. Councilmember Hughes also attended the Bicycle, Pedestrian & Traffic Safety Committee meeting last week where they discussed the Windy Hill overflow parking along Willowbrook. He attended the initial PG&E Public Safety Subcommittee meeting with Mayor Aalfs where they discussed their focus.

Councilmember Wengert – Attended the Council of Cities first virtual Zoom meeting, hosted by East Palo Alto's Regina Wallace-Jones where they discussed the initiatives East Palo Alto has undertaken to create housing. She attended the Park & Rec meeting a week ago with Town Manager Dennis, where they discussed the field re-openings, Little League clinics, pickleball and tennis courts.

Mayor Aalfs – Attended, with Town Manager Dennis, a meeting with School District personnel. The schools are open four days a week, off on Wednesday. They were doing a lot of outdoor classes which will be more difficult as the weather changes. They are dealing with a lot of people walking dogs through the school while classes are going on and several of the dog walkers are being rude and aggressive when reminded that these are closed campuses while school is in attendance. They are also not cleaning up after their dogs and it seems to be deliberate.

(10) **TOWN MANAGER REPORT** – Town Manager Dennis reported that he and Assistant to the Town Manager de Garmeaux met with a subcommittee of the EPC with the second of two potential EOC vendors. He said that with the reannouncement that the leaf blower ordinance is coming into place, additional residents have indicated interest in trade-ins and they hope to have another nine by the end of the week.

#### **WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

(11) **Town Council Digest** – October 29, 2020

None.

(12) **Town Council Digest** – November 5, 2020

None

#### **ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION:** 11:19 p.m.

(13) **CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS:** (Gov. Code Section 54956.8)  
Property: APN: 076280130, 725 Portola Road  
Agency Negotiator: Jeremy Dennis, Gregory J. Rubens  
Negotiating Parties: Goodstein Family Partners



**REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

**ADJOURNMENT:** *11:35 p.m.*

Mayor Aalfs adjourned the meeting.

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Mayor

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Town Clerk