

PORTOLA VALLEY TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING NO. 885, SEPTEMBER 10, 2014

Mayor Wengert called the Town Council's regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Hanlon called the roll.

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

Absent: None

Others: Nick Pegueros, Town Manager
Brandi de Garneau, Sustainability & Special Projects Manager
Howard Young, Public Works Director
Leigh Prince, Town Attorney
Sharon Hanlon, Town Clerk

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

- (1) Approval of Minutes: Regular Town Council Meeting of August 13, 2014 [*Removed from Consent Agenda*]
- (2) Ratification of Warrant List: August 27, 2014 in the amount of \$375,923.86
- (3) Ratification of Warrant List: September 10, 2014 in the amount of \$371,703.29

By motion of Councilmember Richards, seconded by Councilmember Derwin, the Council approved Items 2 and 3 on the Consent Agenda with the following roll call vote:

Aye: Councilmembers Derwin, Hughes and Richards, Vice Mayor Aalfs, Mayor Wengert.

No: None.

- (1) Approval of Minutes: Regular Town Council Meeting of August 13, 2014

Councilmember Richards moved to approve the minutes of the Town Council meeting of August 13, 2014, as amended. Seconded by Councilmember Hughes, the motion carried 4-0-1 (Wengert abstained).

REGULAR AGENDA

- (4) Discussion and Council Action: Peter Drekmeier, Policy Director for Tuolumne River Trust, with Support of Sustainable Groundwater Management [7:34 p.m.]
 - (a) Adoption of a resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley in support of Sustainable Groundwater Management in the San Francisquito Creek Area to ensure its availability during droughts and emergency situations (Resolution No. 2633-2014)

Mayor Wengert welcomed Mr. Drekmeier, who said 85% of the Town's water supply, delivered by the California Water Service Company (CalWater) comes from the Tuolumne River. The remaining 15% comes from local watersheds, Calaveras and Crystal Springs reservoirs as well as Milagra Creek.

With population and jobs growth, interest in groundwater has increased, he said, noting that the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) not only limits the amount of water available, but the water is getting more expensive. Climate change and environmental regulations also come into play. For example, he said that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife now requires Calaveras and Crystal Springs Reservoirs now to release extra water into creeks for steelhead, further reducing the supply available for distribution.

Referring to a PowerPoint slide, he pointed out sources of groundwater in the Bay Area, explaining that the Santa Clara Basin, which extends into the East Bay and up to San Mateo. San Francisquito Creek is a major source of recharge in this area, he added; the water passes down through Stanford, Menlo Park and East Palo Alto. There's an alluvial fan there. The creekwater and that from a sub-subbasin, the San Francisquito Cone, recharge, as does water from the aquatard, a surface layer above the aquifer, which reaches about 300 feet in depth.

The Santa Clara Valley Water District taps into it as well when there's not enough water in the system. In fact, Mr. Drekmeier said Santa Clara County has 300,000 acre-feet of storage in groundwater – almost as much as the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, with 360,000 acre-feet.

Mr. Drekmeier said his interest in surface water began while he was serving on the Palo Alto City Council when a significant number of homes were being built with basements and they required pumping out groundwater when they hit it. In one instance, he recalled a property from which over 8 million gallons of groundwater were pumped out a period of several months.

Noting that groundwater is a less-expensive alternative to reservoir water, Mr. Drekmeier discussed Palo Alto's \$4.7 billion Water System Improvement Program to retrofit the system to make it seismically sound, which has resulted in rates doubling since 2008 and likely to increase another 50%.

A SFPUC study exploring the effects of climate change on the water supply in the future described one scenario of 30% less water available by the year 2100.

Don Pedro Reservoir, downstream of Hetch Hetchy and much larger, provides a significant portion of the Central Valley's irrigation water. Paying for nearly half of the San Pedro Dam gives the SFPUC a water bank there to supplement what's available in Hetch Hetchy. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FER), however, requires higher flows to replenish and retain the salmon population.

At the same time, the state water board is working on the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan. Designed to protect water supply while improving the dismal conditions in the Bay Delta, it would take more water – anywhere from 20% to 60% of unimpaired flow – from the Sacramento and San Joachin Rivers. Tributaries feeding the San Joachin include the Stanislaus, Tuolumne and Merced Rivers. Mr. Drekmeier said the role San Francisco will play in providing that water isn't yet clear, but it likely will diminish the amount available to Bay Area residents.

Mr. Drekmeier said another challenge is the fact that the Hetch Hetchy pipeline crosses several major earthquake faults, including the Hayward Fault, where a significant seismic event hits about every 100 years and the US Geological Survey has estimated a 63% chance of one occurring by 2036. Although pumps in Palo Alto could supply emergency water, seismic upgrades are needed to minimize the risk of an earthquake cutting off the water supply from the Sierra Nevada that we rely on.

At this time, the Palo Alto Mutual Park Water Company, the O'Connor Tract Cooperative Water Company and some irrigation wells in Atherton provide 500,000 gallons of groundwater daily, Mr. Drekmeier said. East Palo Alto has the lowest per-capita water use in the Bay Area, he added, but the amount allocated is also extremely low – 2 million gallons daily (versus 17 million gallons for Palo Alto, where the population is not much more than twice the size of East Palo Alto's). Mr. Drekmeier encouraged Portola Valley, as a stakeholder in the watershed, to send a representative to a September 29, 2014 meeting on East Palo Alto's new Groundwater Management Plan, which is intended to increase well production and serve as a

stepping stone for larger-scale planning in the San Francisquito Creek groundwater subbasin. He said that Menlo Park also plans to put in emergency wells to supplement its water supply.

The Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA), as part of its Long-Term Water Supply strategy, is exploring the feasibility of desalinating brackish groundwater, too. Salt-water intrusion from the Bay affects streams such as San Francisquito Creek, creating a vacuum that could suck more water out of the groundwater system, Mr. Drekmeier said, and land subsidence, the result of extracting excessive amounts of groundwater from an aquifer, is a big problem. One consequence of overpumping and significant land subsidence, as has occurred in the Central Valley, is the land losing capacity to store water.

Having worked on San Francisquito Creek issues for some 25 years, Mr. Drekmeier said the creek is a wonderful resource that's still quite natural in some places, and still contains steelhead and rainbow trout. He said he wants to explore the feasibility of recharging our groundwater basin so it can be tapped sustainably, noting that stormwater is an option that could be even more feasible with use of more permeable surfaces as well as installation of rain barrels and cisterns.

Another option is recycling water, he said, explaining that Palo Alto's Regional Wastewater Quality Control Plant, which serves Palo Alto, Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Stanford and East Palo Alto, treats and releases over 20 million gallons of water into the Bay every day, and has capacity to handle up to 80 million gallons, including water from storm drains and seepage from Bay water that gets into sewer pipes. Up to 2 million gallons of recycled water go to golf courses, parks and the area around Google in Mountain View. A public forum focusing on recycled water, and using it as a drought resource instead of feeding it back into the Bay where it can disrupt the ecosystem, is scheduled for December 11, 2014 at Palo Alto City Hall, he said.

Mr. Drekmeier also called attention to Orange County's Groundwater Replenishment (GWR) System, which pipes purified recycled water to two recharge basins to percolate back into the groundwater supply – at the rate of 70 million gallons. He said this program was well-received when presented to the Santa Clara Valley Water District, which recently brought online the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center, which uses microfiltration, reverse osmosis and ultraviolet disinfection to produce up to 8 million gallons daily of what he said is essentially distilled water. It's potable but also can be used for irrigation and to recharge groundwater.

Formed in the 1920s, when land subsidence was severe, the Santa Clara Valley Water District takes water management seriously and has nearly 400 acres of ponds, which hold mostly Delta water but it could also be recycled water, Mr. Drekmeier said. Intermittent sources such as San Francisquito Creek dry up, but these ponds benefit the ecosystem while recharging groundwater as it goes into the subbasins.

He said that Lake Lagunita, located between Governor's Corner and Florence Moore Hall on the Stanford campus, needs water from San Francisquito Creek to be pumped in most of the year to enable the egg masses in the lakebed to mature and sustain the California tiger salamander population. Although insufficient rain unfortunately blocks instream flows below the Searsville Dam, San Francisquito Creek also serves as an anchor watershed for the recovery of wild steelhead trout in the Bay, and hosts rare and threatened native species such as the red-legged frog, western pond turtle, San Francisco garter snake, wood ducks and steelhead trout.

Mr. Drekmeier called the resolution the Council is considering a baby step toward facilitating collaboration among jurisdictions to help increase awareness of the issues, better understand the basin, and work together to devise and implement a plan for sustainable groundwater management. Particularly accompanied by recharging groundwater with recycled water, this would provide an emergency local water supply in this era of climate change and long droughts, mitigate impacts on surface water resources such as San Francisquito Creek, reduce the need for over-pumping and the risk of land subsidence and take pressure off the Tuolumne River.

Mayor Wengert asked how the amount of groundwater currently in storage, being recycled and being used compares to the amount either being recharged or recaptured from stormwater. Noting that natural recharge results in up to 4 to 8 million gallons daily; Mr. Drekmeier said if the drought extends for another year or two and we're forced to cut consumption by 20%, we'd be taking as much from the groundwater basin as in the 1950s, when we had the land subsidence problem and no Hetch Hetchy. Thus, he said, one could foresee a scenario of more significant land subsidence and salt-water intrusion again.

In response to Councilmember Derwin, Mr. Drekmeier affirmed that the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors recently passed the resolution. The County's Environmental Health Department keeps an eye on the quality of groundwater, but doesn't monitor how much is pumped. Public Works Director Jim Porter has been really involved in the groundwater issue, he said, and has suggested the water could also come under the aegis of the San Mateo County Flood Control District. Another idea, Mr. Drekmeier said, would bring the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (JPA) into the groundwater issue.

Councilmember Richards asked whether any consideration has been given to establish a coordinating body to pull everything together, given the regional nature of the issue, its complexity and the various agencies involved. Mr. Drekmeier said yes, that's what they're working toward. At this time, the coordinating group is informal, with representatives of the different jurisdictions as well as hydrologists and engineers. Response has been encouraging, he said, noting that more than 30 decision-makers participated in a meeting in January 2014, and many are expected at East Palo Alto's Groundwater Management Plan upcoming meeting (September 29, 2014).

Councilmember Hughes asked about a timeline – how imminent the problem is and how quickly we could begin implementing some solutions. In some cases, he noted that significant infrastructure work is needed and multiple agency involvement. Mr. Drekmeier said it depends to some extent on how long the drought persists, but his goal would be to get folks together, invest some resources, understand the hydrology and develop a general plan so we have a head start the next time a drought sets in, or the next time a stimulus package comes along or a water bond passes and money becomes available.

Taking the Lake Lagunitas issue as an example, Vice Mayor Aalfs asked what would have to happen to get water there throughout the year. Would it mean redirecting and diverting stormwater and wastewater to recharge? Mr. Drekmeier said Stanford already diverts water from the Stanford Dish, but historically – until steelhead were listed as threatened in the mid-1990 – the lake was refilled with water pumped from San Francisquito Creek. He said it's doubtful that recycled water would work in replenishing the creek itself due to the impact of its higher temperature on the steelhead, but he pointed out that Palo Alto's Recycled Water Project Phase 3 would run purple pipe up to the Stanford Research Park, where any new building must be dual-pumped to take advantage of recycled water. This pipe costs about \$1 million per mile, he added, and it's also very expensive to add to existing structures.

In response to a further question from Vice Mayor Aalfs, Mr. Drekmeier said the majority of the recycled water goes to Mountain View, where Google has its headquarters. In addition to its main campus, Google now has a location in the Stanford Research Park, which works nicely because it's not uphill, he said, adding that this year, the Silicon Valley Water Conservation Awards Coalition recognized Google, which is now using about 15 million gallons of recycled water annually and anticipates upping the volume to 24 million gallons by year-end.

Speaking to the complexity of working with multiple organizations with varying objectives, Mayor Wengert, asked what a community such as Portola Valley might do to further the agenda Mr. Drekmeier described. At this time, he said we don't have a good handle on how groundwater pumping affects surface water and other issues here, but taking a "whole watershed" approach, he said it would be great for the Town to be involved. He explained that New Zealand reorganized political boundaries to match watersheds, an idea that 19th Century geologist John Wesley Powell – who recognized that water, or the lack of it, would be a major ongoing problem in America's westward expansion – promoted when he was exploring the west.

Underscoring the problem of different organizations having different objectives, Councilmember Derwin said she received a letter last week from the San Mateo County Office of Emergency Services advising those who use wells or springs to ensure having sufficient potable water by connecting to a public water system, arranging for potable water delivery or – very disturbing to Councilmember Derwin – drilling new or deeper wells.

Jerry Hearn, Los Trancos Woods, said that along with Mr. Drekmeier he's been working on creek issues for a quarter of a century or more. The connection between groundwater and surface water and creek drainage came to his attention many years ago, when he realized that surface flows diminished suddenly even during normal rainfall years. Researching the issue, he said learned that the County keeps scant records on wells and does no monitoring, which remains true to this day. It was long ago, he said but even then it was apparent that as development occurred along the creek, wells drew too much from the creek. He said they didn't make much headway toward addressing the problem then, but they did assemble the San Francisquito Watershed Council, which did a lot of work on the creek, including help in establishment of the JPA that has both regulatory powers and resources. Publicly acknowledging Mr. Drekmeier for taking the reins on this issue and moving forward, he said many of those from old Watershed Council are looking at the issues again now that the issues are becoming more apparent to more residents.

Applauding Portola Valley for its reputation for being very forward-thinking and thoughtful in conservation efforts, of which wise water management is a part, he encouraged adoption of the resolution. Mr. Hearn also indicated that Jim Eggemeyer, former Director of Building and Planning in San Mateo County, is gung ho about water issues and has been named to oversee and coordinate countywide stormwater initiatives and centralize sustainability efforts via a new County Office of Sustainability that opened its doors in July 2014. Mr. Hearn suggested that this might be exactly the organization to bring together the diverse interests of various agencies to ensure that they're all pulling in the same direction.

Tess Byler, a California certified hydrogeologist, said we need to get a handle on the groundwater issue, because with all the drilling going on, we have a "pumping arms race" to be the first to grab more of it. She also encouraged the Council to support the resolution.

Councilmember Richards said he absolutely supports it, that the issue has been ignored for too long, and it's time to get on board.

Councilmember Hughes, agreeing that we don't know the situation vis-à-vis wells although a lot of people have dug them during this drought, said he favors the resolution too, because we must plan to ensure replenishing as much as we take out of the groundwater basin.

Councilmember Derwin echoed Mr. Hearn's praise of Mr. Drekmeier, adding that she's spent much time with Danna Breen lamenting the groundwater problem – but he's actually been doing the work. She also that her eldest son is in his second year in Georgetown Law School, crediting Mr. Drekmeier as the reason he wants to practice water law. Working with Mr. Drekmeier at the Tuolumne River Trust was a complete turning point in his life, she said, so in addition to supporting the resolution, she told Mr. Drekmeier she's here for him if there's anything she can do personally to help.

Vice Mayor Aalfs concurred with his colleagues; he said he's all for this resolution as a starting point.

Mayor Wengert said it's obviously unanimous, adding that a regional approach is the only logical route to a solution because the issues are so enormous. She also acknowledged that despite the Town's leadership role on the environmental front, we are big water users.

Councilmember Derwin moved to adopt the resolution in support of Sustainable Groundwater Management in the San Francisquito Creek Area. Seconded by Commissioner Richards, the motion carried 5-0.

- (5) Discussion and Council Action: Public Works Director status report on recommendations from the Bicycle, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Committee concerning road shoulder enhancements to arterial roads [8:42 p.m.]

As Mr. Young explained, the Town engaged Fehr & Peers Transportation Consultants to evaluate the opportunities to enhance the bicycle experience on sections of the Town's two main arterials: Alpine Road (Corte Madera Road to the Ladera border) and Portola Road (to the Alpine Road to the Town limits) and to determine whether a bike lane and/or wider shoulder areas were feasible. In the interest of exploring the potential on Westridge Drive as well, Fehr & Peers made the required measurements at several sections and found insufficient roadway width to consider bikeways or a wide shoulder consistent with other areas of Town. As for the arterials, however, the consultants' study, which went on to the BP&TS Committee for review, determined that enhancements can be made and identified areas that could be considered for widening. As part of its street resurfacing projects, this summer Public Works already widened shoulders on both arterials, on Alpine Road between Corte Madera and Los Trancos Roads, and on Portola Road from Alpine Road to Portola Green Circle. Two of the study recommendations involve major capital improvements to the tune of about \$400,000 and needed a funding source.

With Council support, the BP&TS Committee, staff and Council liaisons invested a lot of time and effort in applying for San Mateo County Transportation Authority (SMTA) grant funds. In June 2014, the Town was officially notified that pinch-point widening projects on Portola Road at Town Center and Alpine Road at Arastradero Road were approved for funding. The funding agreement was fully executed in August 2014 and the design process is scheduled to begin this winter. The goal is to have the projects ready for construction and completion in 2016.

BP&TS Committee recommendations, which Mr. Young said he has also shared with Public Works Committee Chair Mark Paris, reflect all of this work. Specifically, the BP&TS group voted 7-2 in favor of wider shoulders for bicyclists as suggested in the Fehr & Peers report, and 9-0 on shoulders consistently 5 feet wide, versus the Caltrans 4-foot standard where no concrete gutters exist.

Staff is incorporating the road widening as the Town systematically resurfaces its streets and roads according to its Pavement Management System. Some 80% of the Portola and Alpine Road shoulders are already 5 feet across, or wider, Mr. Young said, and narrowing travel lanes or expanding the edge of the road can achieve additional widening where necessary. Since this calls for either new striping or physical shoulder improvements, Mr. Young said it's most cost-effective to do it in concert with larger projects. To the extent feasible, he said that among approximately 30 locations identified by Fehr & Peers as needing enhancements they will work to even out road edges.

Some BP&TS Committee members wanted to focus on hot spots first, replacing all striping, widening shoulders and patch-paving within one year. Staff supports doing the work as roads are resurfaced through the Town's annual capital improvement project, though, not only to make costs and funding a relatively minor factor but also to avoid grinding the road surface and leaving visible scars until it's due for resurfacing.

In response to Mayor Wengert, Mr. Young affirmed that scheduled resurfacing will take care of completing widening work on the remaining identified sections of Portola and Alpine Roads potentially but based on road sections PCI - Pavement Condition Index. These include the Portola Road stretches from the Woodside border to Town Center, from Town Center to Portola Green Circle.

Councilmember Derwin asked whether the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) keeps track of the PMS schedule of projects. Mr. Young said yes, the Town receives grants from MTC, so we have to submit the information when the plans change.

Mayor Wengert said it seemed the only segment MTC might question if it were bumped up in the schedule would be the one from Glen Oaks Equestrian Center to Town limits at Ladera. Councilmember

Richards said the pinch-points that will be addressed with the SMTA grant funding are where the safety concerns are most significant.

Mr. Pegueros said the pinch point project is yet to be designed. Staff was not prepared to answer questions about staging the project but we can come back relatively soon and answer questions about what would appear to be the most logical implementation of the SMTA grant funds, how many feet on each side would be replaced and also an update on PCI's and what next measurement will be for the major roadway sections that are outstanding.

Leslie Latham, a member of the BP&TS Committee, said the work is being discussed in terms of lane-widening, but in fact, it's a lane-narrowing project as far as vehicular traffic is concerned. Thus, they're thrilled that where possible, implementation will produce dual benefits – for bicyclists as well as motorists; greater separation for cyclists, more maneuvering room for motorists.

Councilmember Hughes asked about potential traffic impacts of tackling both arterial corridors simultaneously over a one-year period versus spreading the work out a section at a time. He suggested that doing it all at once might create two months' worth of disruption and extreme traffic frustration.

Councilmember Derwin commented that we've made a great deal of headway on this issue, noted that Ted Driscoll was on the Council when he fielded the idea of widening arterial shoulders for bicyclists as part of the Town's normal course of roadwork, and said that even though the Council isn't taking action tonight, she's leaning toward approval of staff's recommendation.

(6) Recommendation by Ad Hoc Water Conservation Task Force: Request to Approve a Portola Valley Water Conservation Logo [8:52 p.m.]

As her September 10, 2014 memorandum indicates, Ms. de Garmaux said the Ad Hoc Water Conservation Task Force worked with a professional designer at Acterra on a logo to brand the Town's water-conservation efforts on the Town website and in outreach materials, including brochures, flyers and other collateral. The Council had several iterations of the logo to consider, some of which display the word "conserve" to further communicate the goal. A common visual in the design is a water drop formed by bubbles that represent water's complexity, its multiple sources and varied uses and positioned between hands that symbolically protect the resource and show that we hold it precious.

Task Force Chair Mike Ward suggested the Council consider simplicity as a point to think about.

Ms. de Garmaux said Task Force members prefer abbreviating the Town name (PV) in the logo, but staff recommends spelling out Portola Valley. Mayor Wengert said she prefers spelling it out, too, because she thinks "present value" when she sees "PV."

Councilmember Hughes said the word "conserve" seems somewhat misleading in the water context inasmuch as the effort is much broader than conservation, and he prefers spelling out Portola Valley not only for clarity but because of its appealing aspect ratio.

Vice Mayor Aalfs said at first he thought the bubbles were grapes. Similarly, at first glance, Councilmember Richards saw the bubbles as a cluster of gems, but when he showed it to his daughter, she interpreted it immediately as conserving water, even without the word "conserve."

Councilmember Hughes moved to approve Option 3 as the official logo. Seconded by Councilmember Derwin, the motion carried 5-0.

Councilmember Derwin there's an item on the agenda of the City/County Association of Governments (C/CAG) Board meeting on September 11, 2014, to review and approve a resolution authorizing execution of an agreement with BAWSCA to fund a pilot countywide rain barrel rebate program.

(7) Recommendation by Town Manager: Local Emergency Ordinance [9:05 p.m.]

- a) First reading of title, waive further reading, and introduce an ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley replacing Chapter 2.24 [Emergency Organization and Protection] of Title 2 [Administration and Personnel] of the Portola Valley Municipal Code (Ordinance No. __)

Mr. Pegueros said the proposed ordinance incorporates responsibilities, roles and powers of the Town's emergency operations organization, including material recommended by the state Office of Emergency Services (Cal-OES) such as language related to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the creation of a Disaster Council to coordinate both emergency preparedness and emergency response, and clarification of the line of succession for the Director of Emergency Services.

Based on discussion at the 5th Wednesday joint meeting of the Town Council and Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC) on April 30, 2014, the proposed ordinance would provide a line of succession that exhausts the Town's senior staff and public safety personnel before calling on Town Council members to serve as Director. Except for the line of succession, the Portola Valley ordinance conforms to the Cal-OES model ordinance, Mr. Pegueros said.

His staff report of September 10, 2014, outlines the Council's three-phase role:

1. *Before:* Policy setting, planning and resource allocation
2. *During:* Oversight and communication; as the public face of the community, the Mayor and Councilmembers interact and communicate with affected residents, media and elected officials to secure the necessary resources to respond to community needs
3. *After:* Recovery and corrective actions; with incident/recovery reports provided by the Director, the Town Council has the obligation of ensuring that any problems that manifest in a disaster are remedied or otherwise addressed to minimize recurrence in a future disaster

In addition, Mr. Pegueros emphasized that the Council retains sole control over who plays the Director role at any time before, during and after a disaster, and can relieve that person of duty if he/she is not responsive to policy guidance and Council decisions.

Mayor Wengert asked how often the Disaster Council would meet on a regular basis. Mr. Pegueros said ideally it would convene quarterly. A subgroup also could form, including the Directors of Emergency Services, Public Works and Planning Director, Mayor or Vice Mayor and others, such as representatives of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department or the Woodside Fire Protection District (WFPD), the EPC, American Red Cross and the schools.

In terms of the line of succession, Councilmember Derwin said it's clear that the Town might be ineligible for reimbursement in the wake of a disaster if the Director hasn't had the required FEMA training, but she said she's unclear about who would serve as Director if none of the senior staff identified are available. Would the Sheriff send someone, she asked, or would it come down to the Council? In a regionwide disaster that crippled the transportation system, it's entirely possible that only a couple of Councilmembers are in Town, she said.

Vice Mayor Aalfs asked whether any others in Town might take the required training and be added to the list. Supposing three of us are here, Mayor Wengert said, none of whom is comfortable with the situation, could we appoint someone with FEMA training? Vice Mayor Aalfs asked whether anyone in Town has the full FEMA training. Mr. Pegueros said EPC members do, and possibly some members of the Citizens Emergency and Response Preparedness Program (CERPP). Mr. Pegueros said the scenario Mayor Wengert described would occur in the very early stages of a disaster, and if the situation is severe, in

reality the total claim would be so enormous that FEMA denying reimbursement for a short period wouldn't make much difference.

Councilmembers discussed whether the "former Mayor" in line of succession should be someone still on the Council or could be someone whose term has ended. The consensus was the individual should still be serving on the Council.

Councilmember Derwin moved to read title, waive further reading, and introduce a new ordinance to replacing Chapter 2.24 of Title 2 of the Portola Valley Municipal Code, amended to clarify that the former Mayor in the line of succession be an individual still serving on the Town Council. Seconded by Councilmember Richards, the motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Pegueros said the ordinance coming to the Council for its second reading on October 8, 2014 would incorporate the amendment.

COUNCIL, STAFF, COMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(8) Reports from Commission and Committee Liaisons [9:21 p.m.]

Councilmember Richards

(a) Emergency Preparedness Committee

At the EPC meeting on August 14, 2014, Emergency Management Consultant Marsha Hovey reported on emergency preparedness progress being made with the Town and work on the Emergency Organization and Protection Ordinance. EPC members discussed two radio tests – one scheduled for next week and another in October 2014, a new radio for Los Trancos, and attempts to rejuvenate CERPP with the help of Coordinator Selena Brown.

(b) Cultural Arts Committee

Cultural Arts Committee members expressed some concern about the Committee's future at their meeting on August 14, 2014, and discussed the possibility of joining forces with another committee. Some members are discouraged by the lack of participation by Committee members and recruitment efforts that have not yet been productive.

(c) Conservation Committee

Debbie Pedro, Portola Valley's new Planning Director, introduced herself to Committee members at their meeting on August 26, 2014. The Committee also reviewed the process for presenting backyard habitat awards.

The primary topic of conversation centered on an area off Wayside Road that is partly Town-owned open-space land that needs cleanup. Mr. Pegueros explained the situation came to the Town's attention due to interest in potential emergency access in the area between the Wayside and Woodside Highland neighborhoods.

Councilmember Hughes

(d) Nature and Science Committee

With some members of the Ad Hoc Water Task Force and Conservation Committee in attendance at the August 14, 2014 the Nature and Science Committee meeting, they discussed their joint role in the October 18, 2014 Ecology and Drought Day event. Also

on the agenda was a discussion of the Hawthorns project on Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) property.

In addition:

- Committee Chair Yvonne Tryce obtained a freezer for Committee use via the PV Forum
- Ms. Tryce reported that Treena Diehl is now working in Fremont

(e) License Plate Readers

Councilmember Hughes said he, Ms. Prince and Mr. Pegueros met on August 22, 2014 with representatives of various law enforcement agencies to discuss license plate readers. Mr. Pegueros said the issue is tentatively scheduled as an item on the October 22, 2014 Town Council meeting agenda.

(f) Firewise Committee

On August 26, 2014, the Firewise group met and discussed:

- The wildfire situation in California, where wildfires are up 25% above average for this time of year; the good news is that the state is getting on top of the fires quickly and fighting them very aggressively
- Holding some Firewise classes; Councilmember Hughes said that Woodside seemed interested in taking part
- This year's robust chipper program
- WFPD plans for flow testing all hydrants in the District

The group also discussed eucalyptus trees, with the conversation driven primarily by the large eucalyptus that fell on Cañada Road near I-280 and Godetia Drive in Woodside on July 24, 2014, hitting a car, taking out the power and downing live wires, setting a fire and snarling traffic. It's amazing that the car's occupants managed to escape without being electrocuted, Councilmember Hughes said, and lucky that the area had been mowed recently so the fire didn't get out of hand.

Earlier this year, another eucalyptus fell and caused a fire in Woodside, prompting further discussion about addressing eucalyptus trees systematically, even if it's over the course of a few years. Councilmember Hughes noted that Woodside has a rebate program for fire abatement, and there was some talk about extending it to taking out eucalyptus. Even if the trees aren't removed, steps can be taken to stop the little ones from growing so they don't grow into big ones.

Councilmember Derwin

(g) Architectural and Site Control Commission (ASCC)

The project proposed for 465 Golden Oak Drive, to which a downhill neighbor objected, has been revised, the situation apparently resolved and the project approved by the ASCC its meeting on August 25, 2014.

The ASCC also approved a carport at 10 Franciscan Ridge, and considered the corrective fencing, overabundance of redwood trees planted and over-watering issues at 1260 Westridge Drive. Councilmember Derwin said ASCC member Danna Breen was frustrated that the ASCC was forced to go tree-by-tree on the property – and they identified only seven locations where redwoods could stay.

Ms. Breen also pointed out some landscaping at the firehouse, where they replaced the lawn with native plantings.

Ms. Pedro reported on the Minoca Road observatory, a dome-shaped building about 10 feet in diameter and 10 feet tall sitting on platform. Only the platform required a permit because it has an electrical outlet. Apparently the owners are talking about installing screening plants in response to neighbor comments.

Councilmember Derwin also indicated that Ms. Pedro wants to bring in another fire-safety speaker to discuss the balance the wildland-urban interface with conservation, keeping a defensible space but also maintaining habitat.

(h) Ad Hoc Water Conservation Task Force

The Ad-Hoc Water Conservation Task Force is working on the Ecology and Drought Day event scheduled for October 18, 2014. Two tracks of speakers are planned, addressing such topics as smart controllers, irrigation systems, non-potable gray water, cisterns, landscaping, etc.

(i) Resource Management and Climate Protection (RMCP) Committee

Part of C/CAG, the RMCP Committee met on August 27, 2014. San Mateo County Supervisor Dave Pine provided an update on the sea-level rise issue. The Coastal Conservancy is helping, and a meeting with FEMA to discuss risk mapping is scheduled for the end of the month.

Participants heard a presentation from Justin Kudo, Manager of Account Services for Marin Clean Energy (MCE). Its program, which serves 125,000 accounts including Richmond as well as Marin County, has reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 131 million pounds and saved their customers \$5.9 million this year, with rates that are currently lower than PG&E's.

RMCP members also discussed:

- The California Adaption Forum and reviewed some of its materials
- The Beacon Awards, sponsored by the Institute of Local Governments to recognize achievements in saving energy, reducing GHGs and developing best practices
- The City of Lancaster's efforts toward becoming the world's first zero net energy city

(j) Bicycle, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety (BP&TS) Committee

The BP&TS Committee is not yet ready to present its traffic calming report, but there have been no complaints about school-related traffic so far and perhaps a problem has solved itself, Councilmember Derwin said.

Committee member Angela Hay has informed bicycle groups about the construction on Upper Alpine.

Down to five members, the Committee is in the process of interviewing a perspective new member.

(k) Library JPA Governing Board

The Library JPA sent out a major data and demographic initiative report, which contained a lot of interesting findings based on surveys of patrons and residents, Councilmember Derwin said. Non-JPA libraries – for example, those in Redwood City, San Mateo and Daly City – were included in the report as well. According to the managing consultant, the results revealed the highest favorability ratings he's ever seen.

The JPA Board, which has five new members, also agreed to submit its investment policy and grant activities report annually rather than quarterly. The budget for 2014-2015 will be \$41 million; reserves are high. Staff Development Day is scheduled for October 3, 2014, at the Portola Valley Library, and the first meeting of the new donor funds group – which Councilmember Derwin will chair – is set for October 6, 2014.

Councilmember Derwin recommended that staff look at "OpenGov.com," an interactive budgetary tool, for opportunities to enhance transparency in Town finances. She noted that San Mateo County and Atherton are using it and apparently like it,

Vice Mayor Aalfs

(l) Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD)

Mayor Wengert, Councilmember Hughes, Vice Mayor Aalfs and Town staff walked a portion of the Alpine Road Trail with several MROSD representatives to advise MROSD of the Town's interest in trail improvements.

Mayor Wengert

(m) Trails and Paths Committee

At their meeting on September 9, 2014, Trails and Paths Committee members discussed driveway scoring and the signage debate for the Alpine Trail on the other side of the C-1 Trail between Westridge Drive and Arastradero Road. Several members committed to follow up on some attractive signs Mayor Wengert told them about. She also noted that the issue is bound to spill over to other trails.

In addition:

- Members discussed the Town's draft Tree Removal Policy, and were reminded to come to the Town Council meeting on October 8, 2014, when it will be on the agenda
- The community hike scheduled for October 18, 2014, has been canceled; members agreed to an encore of the June 22, 2014 hike that ended in a picnic at Portola Valley Vineyards and attracted more than 100 people (plus about 20 dogs)
- The Committee calendared June 21, 2015 for its second annual Horse Fair

The first – which also was held on June 22, 2014 as part of the Town's 50th Anniversary observance – took place at the hitching rack in front of the Town Center tennis courts (where attendees had a chance to see miniature horses and Icelandic ponies, listen to a pony's heartbeat during a veterinary exam, decorate horseshoes, bob for apples, climb on a haywagon, play in an old governess carriage, and learn. They could learn about tack, embossing leather, what horses eat, the many uses of their manure (including making bricks, fuel, compost and plant food), and the role horses played in shaping Portola Valley and how they help it retain its beloved rural character.)

(n) 50th Anniversary Party

The Town has invited all residents to join the grand finale celebration of Portola Valley's 50th Anniversary of incorporation. As Ad Hoc 50th Anniversary Committee Chair Breen pointed out, the big day coincides with the autumnal equinox on Sunday, September 21, 2014. "In times and cultures past," Ms. Breen wrote, "(it) was a time of thanksgiving, when people gathered to reap the abundant harvest, offer gratitude for the bounty of the land, and contemplate the seeds of the future."

- The September 21 festivities include a Town-hosted picnic-style barbecue dinner and libations (lemonade, beer and Portola Valley wines). Heralded by a first-time symphony of bells ringing from the bell towers of Our Lady of the Wayside and Christ Episcopal Churches and the Priory chapel, along with the recently repaired 1894 school bell, the day will begin with an interfaith service (on the Town Center Performance Lawn). Afterwards, celebrants can enjoy:
- Special exhibits, an imagination playground, tricycle concert and opportunity to add to the Town's time capsule (in the Library's Heritage and Art Rooms)
- Kids' games (on the baseball field)
- A panel discussion, "Why We Live Here", with guest panelists including Town Planner Emeritus George Mader (at the Historic Schoolhouse)
- A square dance after dinner (on the baseball field)

Mr. Pegueros, who met yesterday with Ms. Breen and Karen Mobley, commented on how remarkably well the celebration is coming together. He also said that Brook Coffee is organizing a contingent of 30-plus volunteers to help with the "heavy lifting" on the day of the event.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS [9:43 p.m.]

(9) Town Council August 15, 2014 Weekly Digest

(a) #4 – PG&E with update on gas leak – Valley Oak

In response to Councilmember Derwin, Mr. Pegueros said the problem is under control, and PG&E will present a plan overview at the Council meeting on September 24, 2014.

(10) Town Council August 22, 2014 Weekly Digest – None

- (a) #7 – Letter from California Water Service Company – Launching two new programs: Customer Grant and College Scholarship – August 12, 2014

The Cal Water Cares Grant Program is designed to help customers who are having difficulty paying their water utility bill due to an economic or other hardship such as job loss, but Councilmember Derwin questioned the use of stockholder money to fund scholarships.

(11) Town Council August 29, 2014 Weekly Digest

- (a) #10 – California Housing Partnership Corporation – August 2014

Councilmembers found the housing market report, “How San Mateo County’s Housing Market Is Failing to Meet the Needs of Low-Income Families: Recommendations to the Leaders of the State of California and San Mateo County,” sobering and appalling, and said the County is way beyond the tipping point. With an insufficient supply of affordable homes, the report indicated that many of these families live in unhealthy or unsafe conditions, crowd multiple people into each room, and still pay more than 50% of their income on rent. It goes on to describe the magnitude of the shortfall, highlight those who are affected by housing program cuts and recommends local policy solutions to help mitigate the impact of the crisis.

(10) Town Council September 5, 2014 Weekly Digest

- (a) #6 – Invitation to Council of Cities Dinner Meeting – Friday, September 26, 2014

Councilmember Derwin said she’d be unable to attend the dinner meeting at Puerto 27 in Pacifica. The program will address the issue of building collaboration with San Mateo County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services to help citizens with mental health needs. Mayor Wengert said she would be there.

ADJOURNMENT [10:12 p.m.]

Mayor

Town Clerk