



# Logtown Fire Safe Council

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## Logtown Fire Safe Council March 12, 2016

1. Call to Order: Chairman Pat Dwyer called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Board members present were Pat Dwyer, Ken Hasse, Rod Repschlaeger, John Lindberg and Marc Regelbrugge. Dwyer thanked all in attendance, and requested that everyone remember to sign in.

Dwyer introduced the meeting's agenda, noting that as the guest speakers had not yet arrived, the business portion of the meeting would proceed.

2. Public Comment: None.
3. Special Guests: Postponed until later in the meeting.
4. Chairman's Report: Dwyer noted that the Newsletter had just been mailed, and alerted residents to watch for it and to read about all of the Fire Safe activities and happenings it summarizes.
5. Old Business: Several items were discussed.
  - a) Spring Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> in the parking lot at Bobby's Market (8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.). El Dorado Disposal is providing a dumpster for bagged household trash (please no hazardous materials, fluorescent bubs, e-waste, auto parts or construction debris). Snowline Hospice will have a truck accepting gently used items for donation and e-waste. Beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>, green waste dumpsters will be available for two weeks at Fire Station 44 on Quartz Drive, and at the Common Area on Dolomite Drive. El Dorado Disposal will also be conducting a special green waste pickup in Logtown during the weeks of 18-22 April and 2-6 May. Bundles of twigs and bags of green waste can be set out with your normal trash pickup. This is a free service from El Dorado Disposal.
  - b) The Logtown Hot Dog Social is scheduled for October 8<sup>th</sup> at Station 44. A volunteer sheet is included with these Notes that lists things that need to be done to make this year's Hot Dog Social a success, and that provides an opportunity for you to volunteer to help with those activities.
  - c) At our May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, we will be soliciting nominations from the public for Directors to serve on the Logtown Fire Safe Council Board for two-year terms. Ten-year veteran Director and Treasurer Ken Hasse has

already announced that he will be stepping down from the Board, so there are many opportunities for folks to help our community remain Fire Safe and Fire Wise through participation with the Board.

- d) Also at our May meeting, Master Gardeners Mark and Robin Stanley will visit us to discuss fire resistant planting. Attendees at that meeting will have the opportunity to receive an Evacuation “Go” Bag, with plenty of space – and a printed checklist – to pack necessary items to take in the event of an evacuation. Hasse mentioned that the checklist works best if followed *well before* any evacuation order: Be Ready!
6. New Business: Nothing reported.
7. Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Hasse reported on the following items:
- a) Completion of the LT-9a project – a 300 foot-wide shaded fuel break about halfway up the ridge from Highway 49 to Crystal Boulevard, running from Mica Street to Lauren Lane. The California Conservation Corps (CCC) crew treated sixteen acres in total, at a cost of \$1,000 to the Logtown FSC for CCC housing expenses at the Amador County Fairgrounds, and \$350 from the El Dorado FSC for flagging, mapping and environmental compliance work. The CCC work was funded by about \$58,000 of SRA funds from the State.
  - b) Spring newsletter costs of \$536.80 covering printing and mailing. Hasse noted that the Newsletter is sent electronically to residents for whom the Council has current e-mail addresses, thus saving both printing and mailing costs.
  - c) The Fire Safe Council’s current bank balance is \$8,137.93. It was noted that this balance results from donations and proceeds from the annual Hot Dog Social.

A member of the public noted that, under Director Hasse’s tenure, the community has benefited from over \$500,000 of grants to build and maintain Logtown’s “ring of protection” – fuel breaks and fuel reduction zones virtually surrounding the Logtown community. Hasse noted that a comprehensive \$417,000 grant from the US Forest Service enabled most of the Logtown perimeter work in 2009. A \$50,000 Proposition 40 matching grant from Cal Fire enabled fuels reduction work along Mica and at the southern end of Crystal. PG&E grants have added to that total for treatment of particular areas and vegetation species (e.g. gray pine).

Dwyer added that the Fire Safe Council will pursue a new Forest Service Grant to complete the LT-10 project (Dolomite Section) if Logtown’s LT-10 – Monitor Section proposal is approved for an SRA grant. Unlike earlier years, Forest Service grants now require a 1:1 match, which the Fire Safe Council could only provide in the near term through use of the potential, state-funded

LT-10 (Monitor Section) grant. Dwyer also noted that the County Fire Safe Council is pursuing additional PG&E grants this year as well.

8. County Fire Safe Council Update: Dwyer thanked the public for Logtown's great response to the EDFSC's recent on-line survey, and noted that those responses will be used by the County FSC to develop project plans for future grant proposals.

Dwyer also noted that the County FSC will have a booth at the upcoming Home & Garden show in May. The booth will feature an Embers Awareness demonstration designed to teach homeowners how embers from seemingly distant fires (e.g. up to several miles away) can land on and near their homes and ignite vegetation, furniture and/or flammable debris that could cause the entire structure to burn.

In response to a question from the public, Dwyer described the County Council's affiliation with Friends of Seniors to provide assistance to senior citizens who are unable to maintain defensible space around their homes. The Council works with Friends of Seniors and other affiliates and contractors to provide up to \$300 per dwelling to maintain defensible space for seniors in need. A portion of the funding for that program comes from the Friends of Seniors annual Spaghetti Feed, to be held on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Lyon's Hall from 2:00-6:00 p.m. Dwyer mentioned the event is an opportunity to enjoy good food for a good cause.

3. Special Guest: Dwyer introduced El Dorado County District 2 Supervisor Shiva Frentzen to address the meeting. Supervisor Frentzen thanked the Logtown community for inviting her again this year, and spoke on the County budget, approaches for addressing fire nuisance and weed abatement, and improving the County's broadband infrastructure.

Supervisor Frentzen first noted that the County's 2015-2016 budget is structurally balanced, and that the level of expenditures relative to budgets remains reasonable at this point in the fiscal year. She mentioned her focus on longer-term budget planning, and noted some concern over out-year projections that are in some cases sketchy, at best, and in others troubling. She specifically focused on out-year expectations for roughly \$2M reduction in Federal and State funding for County roads, and discussed ways in which she was trying to address this problem ahead of the shortfall.

Frentzen also addressed two aspects of the County's Strategic Plan – Safety and Infrastructure. On the topic of Safety, she discussed the County's difficulty in enforcing existing laws caused by lack of enforcement resources, including enforcement of the Sign Ordinance and laws controlling cultivation of marijuana. She noted some success in enforcement of certain existing laws to allow the Community Development Agency to compel a landowner in the

Grizzly Flat area to allow a fuels reduction project to proceed over his land that was not regularly maintained and had become particularly heavily grown. Although the County's code enforcement action allowed the fuels reduction effort to proceed, a systemic lack of planning and allocation of enforcement budgets has led Supervisor Frentzen to request agencies, such as the Sheriff's Department and the Community Development Agency, to define more specifically their requirements for enforcement so that budgets can be allocated appropriately.

On the topic of Infrastructure, Supervisor Frentzen discussed her push to build out a countywide broadband backbone to facilitate business development and improve quality of life throughout the County, with specific emphasis on extending broadband more extensively into our rural communities. The notion of "broadband as infrastructure is gaining increasing traction among policy makers," she said. In a similar vein, she discussed her intent to maintain El Dorado County's agricultural component by focusing in what farmers and ranchers need to succeed in El Dorado – in terms of County policies, water policies, transportation and broadband infrastructure. She mentioned a presentation by a program called "AG Plus" at the March 22<sup>nd</sup> Board of Supervisors' meeting for interested parties.

Supervisor Frentzen closed her remarks by noting the birth of her first granddaughter in Kansas City, Missouri, on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January 2016. Thereafter, she addressed questions from the public.

9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m. The next meeting will be May 14<sup>th</sup> at Station 44 (April 9<sup>th</sup> is our Spring Clean-up Day at Bobby's Market).