

BOS Report – October 1, 2024

Plumas Business News

- **Last Friday, Supervisor Goss, myself, and Bob Marshall and Jeff Blagg of Plumas Sierra Telecommunications (PST) had a Zoom Meeting with Mark Monroe – Director of the Middle Mile Initiative for the CA Dept. of Technology (CDT) to discuss its decision to abandon many of the rural routes for fiber optics cable installment, including the line along Hwy 89 from Chester to Greenville and perhaps even further. The CDT had notified us about a month ago that they were abandoning the route due to the State's Budget Crisis. As staunch supporters of Greenville's recovery from the Dixie Fire, both Bob and Jeff worked hard to offer an alternative plan on another rural route still scheduled by the CDT that would save enough money to still install the fiber optics cable along Hwy 89 and leave millions of dollars left over for the State. We based our alternate route on the critical need for Greenville to rebuild for its own sake, but to also feed the economies of both Quincy and Chester, with the 1100+ people it had before the fire. We stressed the importance to anchor institutions such as the Greenville Rancheria which is in the process of building a 17,000 sq ft. medical and dental clinic that used to serve 80% of the town residents. The Rancheria is currently struggling with Frontier and getting fiber optics cable is absolutely critical for the Rancheria and the School System. With few jobs existing in Greenville, having fiber optics cable could attract home-based internet businesses to the area. We will keep you apprised of the upcoming decision by the CDT.**
- **In other tech news, this coming Friday, Jim Kossow, owner of Peak to Peak Telecommunications that owns the towers on Mt. Hough, myself and Matt Peterson of Connect Humanity, are replacing the microwave dish that was damaged during the winter of 2022-2023. It takes three guerillas to taken down that dish and replace it with a smaller, and more efficient dish that feeds the internet to Mt. Hough, and I have been chosen to be of assistance. We are replacing the dish this Friday, and I will**

update you on our progress in next week's report and what that will do for internet into Indian Valley.

- **Supervisor Ceresola:** On Saturday, the LSCC celebrated Railroad Days at the City Park in Portola. As you know, last year was the first revival of that community celebration in a number of years, and it needed a boost. This year, Jen Romero oversaw the event, and it was a tremendous success. Approximately 450 people attended, well beyond expectations. There were booths from local artisans, entertainment for everybody, and lots of things for kids. It was an opportunity for local businesses, some from Quincy, to demonstrate their products and services. The staff of the LSCC were unbelievable, standing out there from 11am to 5pm selling tickets to a great BBQ and some refreshing beverages. Besides being a commercial success, it was a great family event, only a small town and Chamber could put on. I talked to people originally from Portola that now live in Sacramento, Truckee, Modoc County, Butte County, Lassen County, and Tehama County that came because they still love Portola. It gives me hope that small towns can survive by working hard, advocating the great quality of life in a small town, and be successful while you're at it. The IVIH had a booth at the event, and we met almost 20 new product makers that we want to incorporate into our Made In Plumas County program.
- **Real estate sales remain sluggish in Plumas County.** According to the Plumas Realtors Association, the following sales were recorded in September 2024:
 - **Active Listings: 822; New Listings: 75; Total Properties Sold: 57 or less than 7% of Active Listings.**
 - **41 Residents were sold: 15 lots, and 1 commercial property.**
 - **56 Total Properties sold in June 2024**
 - **50 Total Properties sold in July 2024**
 - **54 Total Properties sold in August 2024**
 - **57 Total Properties sold in September**
 - **Little change in sales considering the Medium List Price has actually dropped from \$475,000 in June to \$425,000 in September.**
 - **Only 30 residential sales in the last 90 days.**

- My guess is that until the election is over, interest rates drop again in December, utility rates drop which is very unlikely, and fire insurance rates drop, which may not take hold for almost another 6 months or more, there will be slow real estate sales.
- Very alarming that we have only had 5 Commercial Properties sold in 4 months is not an indicator of economic growth or potential.
- Fictitious Business Name filings were slightly below in September compared to August 2024:
 - Districts 1 and 2 had no new filings
 - District 3 had 2 new filings and 4 refiling
 - District 4 had 3 new filings and 4 refiling
 - District 5 had 2 new filings and 2 refiling
 - 1 new refiling I could not find what District
 - A total of 18 Filings: 7 New Files and 10 Refiles
- Some regional economic news from Chico Start:
 - There were three layoffs in Tehama County in the last 10 months of 100+ employees; the last one resulted in 321 layoffs.
- This Thursday the following organizations are holding a Strategic Planning Session at Greenhorn Ranch:
 - Lost Sierra Chamber of Commerce
 - Quincy Chamber
 - Indian Valley Chamber of Commerce
 - Lake Almanor Chamber of Commerce
 - 2 Sierra County Chambers
 - Plumas County Tourism
 - The Almanor Foundation
 - Indian Valley Innovation HUB
 - Plumas County
 - The goal is to focus on the big picture economically, mostly driven by the CEDS. The Session will be facilitated by Lisa Kelly.
 - Two of the CEDS' goals will be discussed:
 - Economic Capital Goal – catalyze economic diversity.
 - Social Capital Goal – create vibrant, healthy, and resilient communities.

- I will report on Session accomplishments at next week's meeting.
- **Speaking of the CEDS: I know you are considering joining the Sierra Economic Development District later today. I wanted to remind you of statements in the CEDS regarding characteristics of rural communities:**
 - The smaller rural communities are experiencing a severe demographic deficit in the most productive age groups. For example, in the SEDD, the largest age group is 60-64 with severe deficits in nearly all working age groups up to age 40. In Plumas County the largest age group is the 65 – 70 age group. This is problematic because it contributes to a declining population in rural communities and a lack of employee base. It also reduces the number of young families who tend to be the larger consumers and users of services such as school districts, healthcare, and recreation. As a general rule, communities with sustainable economic prosperity tend to have a more balanced demographic representation with a strong workforce.
 - I feel our economic future will need to be focused on:
 - Down Payment Assistance and Lease to Own programs to attract young families, our target market.
 - Relocation Packages to attract younger people to Plumas County.
 - Site Selection initiatives to attract businesses to Plumas County.
 - Support for:
 - Business Capacity grants
 - Technology-based businesses
 - Environmentally sustainable development
 - Light manufacturing
 - Exports
- **Thank you. Clint Koble – Indian Valley Innovation HUB.**