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**PLUMAS COUNTY  
PLANNING COMMISSION**  
Minutes of the Meeting of April 7, 2016

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**PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS:**

**Dr. Robert Abbott**, *Commissioner* (District 1)  
**Dr. Shauna Rossington**, *Vice Chair* (District 2)  
**Richard Rydell**, *Commissioner* (District 3)  
**Larry Williams**, *Chair* (District 4)  
**John Olofson**, *Commissioner* (District 5)

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Plumas County Planning Commission (the *Commission*) convenes in a meeting on April 7, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. in the Planning and Building Services Conference Room, Quincy, CA; Chair, Larry Williams, presiding.

**II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

**III. ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners Present:** John Olofson, Larry Williams, Dr. Robert Abbott, Richard Rydell (attending telephonically), and Dr. Shauna Rossington

**Commissioners Absent:** None

**Also in attendance** (Supervisors, consultants, and staff)  
Randy Wilson, Planning Director  
Rebecca Herrin, Senior Planner  
Heidi Wightman, Recording Secretary

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY**

No public comment is given.

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 24, 2016**

Under Item VII., first bullet, Williams suggests clarifying that where it references cannabis it should be "medical" cannabis because there is a distinction. **Motion is made by Abbott, seconded by Rossington, to approve the Minutes of March 24, 2016, with the change made to reflect that cannabis is "medical" cannabis. Motion is passed by unanimous vote.**

**VI. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Randy Wilson, Planning Director, reports that the Flood Control District is working on the update of the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). The

plan is progressing and videos of past meetings and other information on the process is available on the website [www.featherriver.org](http://www.featherriver.org)

Wilson also reports that to date there has been no appeal filed on the High Sierra Rural Alliance lawsuit. There are about 30 days left in the 60-day appeal period.

**VII. PLANNING COMMISSION REVIEW OF PLUMAS COUNTY ORDINANCES IMPLEMENTING THE CA FIRE SAFE REGULATIONS (TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS BEGINNING WITH SECTION 1270)**

Olofson states that he feels the burden of requesting an exception to the Fire Safe Regulations falls on the property owner, not the County, and there should be a process available for people to request exceptions.

Senior Planner, Rebecca Herrin, states that the majority of the issues that come up are on properties less than an acre and not in a fire district. Most of the exception requests are on those parcels. Herrin reads the variance procedure currently contained in the Zoning Code, noting that if you can write the exceptions into Code, it streamlines the process. Planning Director, Randy Wilson, adds that it's important to have the standards built into the Code because there are a lot of parcels that are problematic.

Continuing, Herrin notes that in approving any project the County needs to find that any modifications to standards provide the same practical effect as State Law. With driveways there is a specific exception procedure that involves CalFire, local fire chiefs, and Public Works to get involved in the design. There are a lot of different procedures in State law and in the Zoning Code that allow the exceptions. Herrin states she will put together a list of those exceptions to bring back to the Commission for their review.

Wilson questions if the Commission supports an exception process like we've had in the past with refined language to meet today's situation. Williams replies that they need that in place and hopefully the exceptions will get approved by the Board of Forestry.

Shane Vargas with CalFire explains the process used in other counties where Section 4290 of the Public Resources Code has been adopted in its entirety with no modifications. Vargas explains that if the fire safe regulations are adopted into the County Code, CalFire then has no jurisdiction and the County would need to enforce the regulations. Joe Waterman, Fire Chief of the Chester Fire Department, notes that the concept works, and part of what the fire chiefs are asking is to have a say in the exceptions and hopefully that same standard would be applied countywide.

Bob Perreault, Public Works Director, provides a memo outlining Public Works' response to the proposed changes in the SRA Fire Safe Regulations. Discussion follows in regard to the roadway load weight requirement being increased from 40,000 pounds to 75,000 pounds. Public Works' recommendation is to revise Plumas County Code to make the weight design standard conform with the legal load per California Vehicle Code sections 35550-35796, with a minimum design

vehicle loading per AASHTO HB-17. There is discussion regarding driveways needing to meet the roadway load weight limits and the 150 foot exception. Perreault points out that Plumas County does not have a driveway ordinance. It has an encroachment permit ordinance, and the jurisdiction of that is only within the County right-of-way and they do impose the higher weights that are out there to accommodate the heavier weight vehicles. Because there is no driveway ordinance per se, the property owners have the ability to build a driveway that they think is necessary and the County doesn't have jurisdiction over that. The new state law is imposing a driveway ordinance on the County, but doesn't call it that. They call it fire safe regulations, but in effect it's making the County administer a driveway ordinance.

Wilson notes that right now, because we've been de-certified, the 150 foot driveway exception is legally not in effect anymore. Williams adds that he'd like to see a definition of a driveway that includes load standards.

This item is continued for further discussion.

#### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Williams calls for a Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion is made by Abbott, seconded by Rossington, with a unanimous affirmative vote recorded, to adjourn the meeting of April 7, 2016, at 11:45 a.m. The next regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting is set for April 21, 2016, at 10:00 a.m., in the Permit Center conference room.

  
Larry Williams, Chair  
Plumas County Planning Commission

  
Heidi Wightman, Recording Secretary