

COLAB SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

WEEK OF July 7-13, 2013

STRANGE ADAM HILL ARTICLE (SEE PAGE 4)

No Board Meeting on Tuesday, July 2, 2013

The Board did not meet on Tuesday, July 2, 2013.

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, July 9, 2013 (Scheduled)

Item 4 - Grand Jury Report on Consolidation of Fire and Sheriff Dispatch; Consolidation of City Police Departments and Sheriff's Dispatch; Consolidation of the Five Cities Fire Authority Dispatch with County Fire Dispatch. The Civil Grand Jury correctly recommends that public safety dispatching (city police departments and city fire and fire districts) ultimately be consolidated. The report focuses on the South County (Grover Beach, Arroyo Grande, and the Five Cities Fire Authority. There is resistance in some agencies. The Board of Supervisors was not requested to reply, only the Sheriff, Cal Fire, and some of the cities and districts.

Ultimately, it is optimal to have a consolidated dispatch center that can comprehensively dispatch police/sheriff, fire, ambulances, and requests for out-of-county resources, and simultaneously monitor/control multiple emergency events throughout the County. There are no cities or independent fire districts with large populations (over 100,000) within the county. Rather than wasting time on children's "Bills of Rights," locally grown food "systems," plastic bag bans, ICLEI Sea Level Rise Vulnerability resolutions, and dunes dust, the Board, as the "regional government," should exercise leadership in this key aspect of local government public safety operations. After all, more people die of myocardial infarctions than dunes dust particulate "induced" cancer.

Item 29 - Proposed contract with CAPSLO for Direct Family Services. The Social Services Department requests that the Board approve a \$424,000 contract with CAPSLO for Direct Family Services and education. The write-up states in part:

Direct Family Services and Parent Education is a DSS countywide voluntary child abuse prevention program that provides family support services to assist in maintaining child safety and family stability. Child Welfare Services (CWS) staff uses the Structured Decision Making® (SDM) Hotline Screening Tool to assess and determine the family's risk level for abuse. The SDM Hotline Screening Tool provides CWS staff with a simple, objective, and reliable tool with which to make the best possible decisions for individual cases. Based on the assessment if the family is at low risk for abuse the CWS Social Worker (SW) refers families who may be struggling to meet their family's basic needs to

CAPSLO. To ensure families obtain the appropriate services, a Family Advocate works with the family to evaluate their needs and create a family case plan. Based on the individual family needs and case plan, services are provided such as in-home parent education, assistance with food, household items, infant and toddler clothing, beds or cribs for children, cleaning and hygiene products, utilities, and appliances, as well as assistance with referrals to other community and county programs. In some cases the family has an active California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) case and CWS and CalWORKs services are linked to best benefit the participant. Each year over two hundred (200) families receive services that help keep their family safe and together.

It's not clear from the report if this contract covers staffing and counseling alone, or if the actual purchase of appliances, hygiene products, cribs, etc., come out of this allotment as well. If this funding does not pay for the items, where does that funding come from and how much is it annually? The report indicates that 91% of the funding is from State and Federal sources.

Item 30 - Proposed Cal Learn Contract with CAPSLO. This is yet another CAPSLO contract renewal (\$67,000). This one is for counseling services to pregnant and parenting teens. The write-up states in part:

The Cal-Learn program is a state mandated program that helps California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) eligible pregnant and parenting teens under the age of 19 attend and graduate from high school or obtain its equivalent. The program also allows for an otherwise eligible teen who is 19 years of age to continue to participate in the Cal-Learn Program on a voluntary basis until s/he earns a high school diploma or its equivalent or turns 20 years old. The program uses three (3) coordinated efforts to achieve academic success:

1) intensive case management, 2) supportive services like transportation and childcare, and 3) bonuses and sanctions to encourage school attendance and good grades. Each teen in the Cal -Learn program works with a case manager to establish and meet education goals, access medical care, expand parenting skills, and learn about appropriate community services. The goals of the program are to improve early access to prenatal and maternal health care, decrease subsequent pregnancies, increase the number of healthy life choices, and to complete a high school diploma or equivalent [e.g., General Education Degree (GED)]. Statewide the program serves approximately 15,000 teens monthly (2012, CDSS.ca.gov) and county -wide we serve an average of 28 teens per month and over fifty (50) teens each year (2012).

Item 34 - Consolidation of the Office of Auditor-Controller and the Department of Treasurer-Tax Collector-Public Guardian. The Board, on a split 3/2 vote (Teixeira and Arnold dissenting) directed staff to clarify certain provisions and to prepare ordinances to effectuate the consolidation. The Board will conduct a hearing on the proposed ordinances and may begin to adopt the consolidation on the first reading if it so chooses.

Background: It makes sense to abolish the separate Treasurer’s position and to consolidate the functions in the Auditor-Controller’s office. The plethora of county elected offices is a holdover from archaic English Medieval and Renaissance county structures, which were transmitted to the English colonies on the eastern seaboard in the 17th Century and then successively moved west with the nation’s expansion. In the old days treasurers were compensated with a percentage of what was collected, which led to abuses. Best local government practice is to have a consolidated professional Finance Department. The Treasurer should be a division head within a consolidated Finance Department, who is selected on the basis of his or her financial, economic, and investing education, prior performance, and expertise.¹ The office should be specifically apolitical and professional.

From time to time an argument is made against such a reform on the basis that it is a “check and balance.” This argument stems from misapplication of the constitutional separation of powers doctrine and the segregation of duties best practice. Under the former, the government is divided into legislative, executive, and judicial branches. Each of these provides checks and balances on the other two. In the case of the County, the CAO serves as an appointed professional executive. The Board of Supervisors enacts ordinances and policies and sets the budget. The Auditor-Controller serves as both CFO and auditor of the County agencies and auditor of the CAO (and Board, if necessary). The structure is already full of “checks and balances” and is somewhat fragmented.

With respect to the latter (segregation of duties), an appointed treasurer with duties and qualifications provided by ordinance is responsible for tax collection and making the investments (note: not pension investments, which are the province of a separate board). He or she is responsible for standard policies of safety, liquidity, compliance with State statute, and return. One does not have to be elected to carry out these objective duties.

On the tax collection front, fairness and objectivity are the key values. An official who is not subject to the vagaries of popular opinion, campaigning, fundraising, and political retribution may be in the best position (this is not to say elected treasurers are bad – we have known several highly efficient, high integrity elected treasurers). We have also known several total hacks who were deeply immersed in the political machines of their respective communities and states.

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| <p>San Luis Obispo County Council of Governments (SLOCOG) Meeting of Wednesday, July 10, 2013 (Scheduled)</p> |
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This is an abbreviated meeting with only two items on the agenda, general public comment, and an executive session to discuss real estate negotiations for the acquisition of properties in the Prado/Higuera area. The properties are being acquired for the future development of a transit center.

¹ The International City/County Management Association, National Civic League, and Government Finance Officers of America all recommend the reform structure.

**San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, July 11, 2013
(Scheduled)**

There are no matters of general policy concern scheduled on this one item agenda.

Supervisor Adam Hill Sends New Times a Strange Article

In an effort to denigrate those who oppose “smart growth,” Agenda 21, ICLEI and related plans, ordinances, and taxes, Hill has generated a strange self-absorbed and sophomoric New Times opinion piece --“Agenda 21 and Me” of July 3, 2013. It is apparently an attempt to be humorous. This week’s effort is reportedly Part I of II.

The Complete Hill Article is Reproduced Below

Agenda 21 and me

A confession (part 1)

BY ADAM HILL

It is hard to remember now—conspiring takes its toll on the ol’ noggin—but I think I first met Ban Ki-moon at a pagoda in a park in Brooklyn. We gave each other the one world government salute, which is sort of like a high-five only it’s done telepathically in perfect stillness.

Soon we were strolling among the shaggy hipsters, sipping herbal smoothies and speaking in Esperanto. Though we had never met before, I was an old family friend of the Secretary General’s, having spent several youthful summers dorming with his nephew at propaganda camp in the Catskills.

That initial meeting took place maybe four or five years ago, before “sustainability” had been turned into an ugly scare word like “liberal” or “fudge,” and those of us who were devout enviro-socialists still had stars in our eyes with wild dreams of sidewalks, bike lanes, and density.

At some point, the Secretary General handed me a thick binder, a green arm-band, and a feather. In a voice devoid of emotion, he said, “We are going to cure the sick appetite of America with its morbidly obese conception of freedom and its sprawling mastery of vulgar materialism.”

I smiled and reached back to tighten the ponytail of my toupee. Both of us stroked our Trotskyist chin hair and let some joggers pass.

He continued: “These citizens, we will seize their immunization records, round them up, and force them into tiny apartments above Laundromats and thrift stores. We will make them surrender their automobiles and their Bibles and their commemorative coins of the Founding Fathers.”

My straw scraped the bottom of my smoothie and I had to go to the bathroom really, really badly, so I said in a hurried voice, “How?”

The Secretary General tapped the numbers embossed on the binder and winked.

Agenda 21. Yes, it was like a revelation in a movie about revelations, only this was not a movie, though there was a dude playing Frisbee who looked suspiciously like Keanu Reeves.

Agenda 21—my first introduction. The Secretary General had handed me quite a weapon, like a knife without a blade that lacks a handle.

I couldn't wait to get back home to absorb myself in all 40 glorious chapters. In my yoga classes I would whisper, "ICLEI, ICLEI, ICLEI," until my contorting companions would finally ask what it meant or politely tell me to shut the hell up.

Many months later, when I was fully indoctrinated, when I shaved the beard from my face and shed the toupee, I would meet with clusters of planners, climate scientists, urban buskers, and other cosmopolitan elites with an interest in vivisectioning the Constitution in the name of power and new profit centers.

By then, the Agenda was spreading through the country—not like wildfire, there was already plenty of that—no, it spread more slowly, like a blood stain on the white tablecloth of rural America.

How do you know you're a redneck? If phrases like smart growth and walkable community make you shudder and reach for your shotgun.

Hicks, hillbillies, patriots—the strongest must be battled first, says Sun Tzu. Pepper them like chickens, says General Tsao.

And that's what has been happening.

O Dear Reader, this is but the beginning of my confession. There is so much I must still relate. Like: the links to 9/11. Like: the false flag ops of bike month. Such as: Obama's Martian past. But for now, please begin forgiving me my sins. The backlash has been bringing me so much clarity. Already I have begun to see the unintended benefits of pollution and drought

Adam Hill represents the 3rd District on the SLO County Board of Supervisors. Send comments to the executive editor at rmiller@newtimeslo.com.