

ACTION MINUTES

LAND USE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

May 26, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Frank Axe, Supervisor District 4
Richard Forster, Supervisor District 2

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Glenn Spitzer, County Counsel
Chuck Beatty, Planning Director
Michelle Gallaher, Code Enforcement
Mary Ann Manges, Recording Secretary

Supervisor Axe called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

AGENDA: Approved

CORRESPONDENCE: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 22, 2021

PUBLIC MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA: None

ITEM 1: Discussion and possible action relative to creating a stronger ordinance enacting more severe penalties for littering in Amador County

Supervisor Axe introduced the item.

Discussion began with concerns about litter thrown out of car windows, dumping on private property, and repeated dumping at a number of locations throughout the county.

Supervisor Forster stated that he brought this forward and that he wants to put teeth into penalties to help deter this activity. Supervisor Axe shared that he is in favor of increasing penalties, but voiced concern that a stronger ordinance will be hard to enforce.

Supervisor Forster commented that he likes San Mateo County's ordinance as a model and believes that it is comprehensive. Mr. Beatty stated that he likes the wording used in it to distinguish between littering and dumping.

Ms. Gallaher stated that dumping is comprised of mostly large items and green waste and that so far this year she's had to facilitate removal of 5 motorhomes, 2 boats, 60 tires at one time, and 15-20 dumps of other stuff. She shared that signage and good cameras have helped in other counties. Ms. Gallaher was asked by the Committee to map locations and to speak to other code enforcement officers on how they do it and then bring the information back to the next Land Use meeting.

Counsel Spitzer shared that in order to give citations, the dumping has to be physically seen and that he will check out how infractions and misdemeanors are tried in court. He added that he will find out the cap on fines.

The Committee continued conversation about deterrence from a strong ordinance, signage, and cameras. They also shared scenarios of a tiered system, having people be responsible for cleaning up their illegal dumping, and having administrative penalties. Additionally discussed was using criminal penalties against people for major dumping and preferring to use misdemeanors unless there are multiple infractions. The Committee asked that a representative from Public Works be available at the next meeting since they are often involved with cleanup of illegal dumping along County roads..

The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m. The next meeting date is tentatively scheduled for June 24, 2021 at 2:00 pm.