

Supervisor-elect outlines what he wants to accomplish

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District 5 Supervisor-elect Clyde Clapp has an ambitious agenda to pursue once he takes office.

Rescinding an increase in the fee to appeal Calaveras County Planning Commission decisions to the Board of Supervisors and appointing Karen Sisk as the District 5 planning commissioner are on the top of his list.

The board increased the appeal fee earlier this year after a series of appeals, including those against placing an asphalt plant at the Hogan Quarry. Clapp was one of the main opponents of the asphalt plant and felt increasing the appeal fee from \$100 to \$600 was a “slap at the populous.”

Sisk previously served as the District 5 commissioner under then-Supervisor Darren Spellman. The board will consider Clapp’s candidate at the Jan. 10 meeting.

Clapp said he was surprised by the board’s recent decision to hire an interim county administrative officer because of CAO Shirley Ryan’s retirement. The board, with four of its five members departing within the month, hired Manuel Lopez, a retired San Joaquin County administrator, to serve on a temporary basis. He is set to be paid \$14,932 a month with a \$500-a-month auto allowance.

“(The current board) should have passed that on to the new board,” Clapp said. “He could be the greatest guy in the world, but (assistant CAO) Brian Moss has been doing the job and will probably still be doing it.”

Clapp doubts there is little the board can do if the current board gave Lopez “some type of golden handshake deal.”

Another issue the new board will likely have to live with is the decision of the current board in regards to the 10-year solid waste contract the county entered in with California Waste Recovery Systems.

Clapp said he has heard “big time” from his constituents about rate increases. But “a contract is a contract.”

“The (current) board had its own agenda and it wasn’t for the best of us,” he added.

As another break from previous board action, Clapp said he is looking forward to the urgency ordinance permitting commercial cultivation of cannabis coming to an end in February when it goes to the new board for an extension.

Instead, Clapp would like to see the boards avoid a costly special election and adopt the commercial cannabis ban petition that is about to be submitted to the Elections Department.

“I’d like to get that whole, ugly chapter (commercial cannabis) behind us,” Clapp said.

Also high on his list and stemming from his experience with the asphalt plant issue is a noise and traffic ordinance covering residential areas such as Gold Creek, La Contenta and Rancho Calaveras. It would limit construction, heavy equipment operations and hauling in residential areas to the hours of 7 a.m. through 6 p.m.

He believes county counsel and staff should look at proven ordinances from other counties in California that have been tested in court and rewrite them to fit for Calaveras.

If he can accomplish these tasks, Clapp believes he will fulfill his constituents’ wishes.

“Most of the people who voted for me want to be left alone,” he said. “They came here for the quietness and like things the way they are. If I can get things back to the way they were (before the current board), I will have done my job.”