

From: Town Staff <tiburontalk@ci.tiburon.ca.us>

Subject: The Tiburon Talk Newsletter, February 24, 2012

Reply: tiburontalk@ci.tiburon.ca.us



MAYOR JIM FRASER - VICE MAYOR EMMETT O'DONNELL - COUNCILMEMBER RICHARD COLLINS
COUNCILMEMBER ALICE FREDERICKS - COUNCILMEMBER FRANK DOYLE

February 24, 2012

A WORD FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

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Marin's Regional Approach to Government

We have a pretty lean local government here in Tiburon. This is due in part to the myriad ways in which the Town receives services that are organized at the regional level. Of course, you likely already know about the special districts that supply

some services, such as the Marin Municipal Water District. But in addition to special districts that serve multiple jurisdictions, some efficiencies are gained through direct city-to-city collaborations, and there is growing interest in increasing this trend.

Many of these collaborations are accomplished through Joint Powers Authorities. As the name would suggest, JPAs allow governments to act in tandem when that arrangement is more efficient. Animal control services are a good example of a useful JPA. If Tiburon undertook animal control itself, it would need a pound, special equipment and vehicles for capturing and transporting loose or dangerous animals, special training for officers, and so forth. As a small Town with few animal control issues, this would be expensive and inefficient. As an alternative, Tiburon and many other towns and cities in Marin jointly contract through a JPA with the Marin Humane Society. By acting together, as one, we all get excellent service at a lower cost than if we did this individually.

Marin has a surprising number of JPAs covering a vast array of topics from cable service to recreation, from renewable energy to insurance. Closest to home is the almost 40-year-old JPA between Tiburon and Belvedere that provides for joint recreational services. This

Facts About Marin Clean Energy

collaboration continues to offer very cost-effective services to the peninsula. Another, less conventional, JPA is the Marin Energy Authority. The mission of this entity, in which all towns and cities in Marin and the County now participate, is to offer "greener" electricity for interested local consumers. Like most JPAs, its governing board includes elected representatives from each of the member entities, so cities get to keep a direct hand in the outcome. There are JPAs on Hazardous and Solid Waste, Telecommunications, Emergency Radio Communication, even mapping via MarinMap, which fulfills a need of all agencies with planning or public works functions. By coming together through JPAs we enhance our buying power, our technical savvy and ultimately the quality and price of services for each locality.

There is also growing interest in sharing services and personnel directly between agencies, such as where one employee might work for two agencies at the same time. Tiburon and Belvedere already do this with a shared emergency services coordinator. Other agencies in the County are exploring newly creative ways of sharing services, especially with police and fire personnel. Some very exciting new ground is being plowed in this area, and taxpayers stand to benefit from the result.

One might ask, though, is it the logical continuation of this approach that we should simply have one regional government handling all affairs in an integrated and efficient manner? The problem with that construct is what we would give up: government that is small enough to be in touch with and responsive to local needs and preferences and ultimately in charge of its own destiny (at least in the areas within our purview, as we can't control state or national policy!). Through these JPAs and other collaborations, ones we carefully decide to join, we are able to elect a shared approach when it is sensible and our interests are aligned, and go our own way when it is not. Local elected officials get to choose.

It is good news that so many Marin cities and towns are interested in these shared approaches, as that means the possibilities for new efficiencies abound. That our elected officials meet monthly through the Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers (MCCMC - a mouthful), as do I and my counterparts via the Marin Managers Association, means there is a lot of regular communication about how best to get work accomplished in a smart, cost-effective and even cutting-edge way. We hear so much about dysfunctional government these days; it is nice to know that in Marin County, the reality of service delivery is usually quite different. I believe we are characterized far more by our cooperation and collegiality than by any of the polarization that afflicts state and national politics. In Marin, local government works even better than in many other locales, and I think that is in no small way due to the

very high level of collaboration I have described above.

Sincerely,



Peggy Curran

NEWS BRIEFS

Nextdoor: A Social Network for Neighborhoods

With the rise of social media, neighbors have even more ways to stay connected and get informed. One such development is a new private social network called Nextdoor.

According to the Tiburon Fire Protection District, a proponent of the new service, "Nextdoor was specifically designed to make neighbors feel comfortable sharing information with one another to help build stronger communities. All members must verify that they live within the neighborhood. Information shared on Nextdoor is password-protected and cannot be accessed by those outside the neighborhood or found on Google or other search engines..."

While the Town does not endorse this, or any, company or product, and cannot vouch for how it manages information it gathers, Nextdoor is spreading and may be a useful tool.

One neighborhood that has taken advantage of this new opportunity is the Del Mar Homeowner's Association. According to Colin Crawford, Del Mar Director of Communications, "Nextdoor is a great communications channel for the Del Mar neighborhood. Over 70 households have joined in the last month. The easy-to-use, secure platform has been used to share updates on the undergrounding project, photographs of the areas, favorite pets and historical information on the neighborhood. Residents have bought and sold items, offered babysitting services recommended local merchants and it even rallied the community to help out a family with a medical emergency. The participation through Nextdoor has been overwhelmingly positive."

Enhanced communication, of course, is always a plus for public safety; any additional means by which people can receive word about what to do in an emergency can help, including potentially the Nextdoor network.

Nevertheless, even if residents create their own Nextdoor network, the Town still urges all residents to make sure

they have registered all their phone numbers with us so that they can receive automated notices of emergencies in their areas. The Town is part of the Marin Emergency Automated Notification System (MEANS). This is likely to be the fastest and most reliable source of information in a time of need. To add your numbers to our emergency contact list, contact [Laurie Gordon](#) at the Office of Emergency Services, 435-7386. If you haven't already done so, please call her today.

Those interested in learning more about Nextdoor should contact [Jessica Power](#), Tiburon Fire Protection District Public Information Officer, at 435-7200.

Sincerely,
Diane Crane Iacopi
Town Clerk

Building Code Corner: Special Inspections



From foundation to final, the Town Building Inspector looks at most every phase of construction along the way during the course of your project. However, some operations and processes require much more time than the Town Inspector can reasonably spend at any one job, and they often require the use of specialized testing equipment to verify that that all the requirements and specifications are being met as determined by code or the project's design professional. On these occasions, it's a job for the Special Inspector.

Special inspectors are qualified professionals who receive extensive training in a few highly specialized areas of code knowledge and inspection technology. As specified in Chapter 17 of the California Building Code, some of these areas include: welding and high-strength bolting for steel construction; concrete testing and reinforcement placement; masonry placement, reinforcement, and grouting; pile and pier foundations; the anchorage and embedment of seismic hold down devices; and many other highly technical testing procedures, inspections, and observations as mandated by this section of the Code. They work for private firms or agencies that must first be vetted and approved by the local building official of each city or town in which they do business.

From a property owner's perspective, there are a few very important considerations that you should know about the special inspection process. First, it is up to the owner or the registered design professional in responsible charge (of

the project) acting as the owner's agent to select and employ the special inspection agency. Other than logistical concerns, such as scheduling inspection times, the contractor should not be involved in hiring or selecting the special inspection firm as this can present a conflict of interest. Secondly, it is critical to ensure that the special inspection agency, its field inspectors, and laboratory technicians are properly certified for the particular type of service that they are to perform. This can be done by verification of professional credentials as issued by professional accreditation organizations such as the International Code Council (ICC) or the American Concrete Institute (ACI). Finally, special inspectors cannot signoff or approve any facet of the project. Instead, they submit their inspection reports to the Building Division and, upon acceptance and approval by the Building Official, the Town Building Inspector will sign-off that part of the project.

Remember, if you need any assistance with or have questions about the special inspection process, or if you have any other concerns regarding your project, don't hesitate to call (435-7380) or visit the [Tiburon Building Division](#). We're here to help.

Sincerely,

Fred Lustenberger
Tiburon Building Official

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Tiburon Artist Laureate Program



ART TALK

Tuesday, March 20 - 7 p.m.
Town Hall Lobby

Let's talk about Landscapes--
What is your favorite landscape painting? Do you like modern or traditional landscapes? Have you ever painted one?

Come and be a part of this ongoing discussion of art. Bring some examples of your work or someone else. Please bring a friend too!

For more information, feel free to [contact me](#), Mary Musalo, at 435-2775.

Sincerely,

Mary Musalo
Tiburon Artist Laureate

Bel-Tib Library Community Calendar

For the scoop on events and meetings sponsored by local not-for-profit community and government organizations on the Tiburon Peninsula, visit the Belvedere-Tiburon Library's excellent [community calendar](#).



Council and Commission Meetings



Town Council: First and third Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m (March 7 and March 21).

Design Review Board: First and third Thursdays at 7 p.m. (March 1 has been cancelled; March 15).

Planning Commission: Second and fourth Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. (March 14 and March 28).

Heritage & Arts Commission: Fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room (March 27).

Parks, Open Space and Trails Commission: Third Tuesday every other month at 6 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room (March 20).

Unless stated otherwise, all meetings are held in the Town Council Chambers located at 1505 Tiburon Boulevard, Tiburon CA 94920.

Sincerely,

Town Staff
Town of Tiburon
435-7373

Editor: Diane Crane Iacopi

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