

# MINUTES



# County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

## March 2, 2021

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in regular session at the hour of 10:01 a.m., on March 2, 2021, in the Board of Supervisors Room, County Administrative Center, Independence, with the following Supervisors present via videoconferencing per California Governor Executive Order N-25-20: Chairperson Jeff Griffiths, presiding, Dan Totheroh, Rick Pucci, Jennifer Roeser, and Matt Kingsley. Also present: County Administrative Officer Clint Quilter, Assistant Clerk of the Board Darcy Ellis, and County Counsel Marshall Rudolph.

*Pledge of Allegiance* Supervisor Griffiths led the Pledge of Allegiance.

*Public Comment* Chairperson Griffiths asked if there was any public comment pending for items not calendared on the agenda.

The Assistant Clerk of the Board said she had received none as of right then.

Two individuals requested to speak via Zoom.

Tiffany Lau from District 3 in Bishop respectfully requested Supervisors Pucci, Roeser, and Kingsley provide updates during Board Member and Staff Reports on their progress finding an alternate solution to IMACA's safe parking project following their denial of the project at the February 16 meeting.

Harold McDonald said there was a well-crafted, temporary plan between a non-government entity and a church for providing one solution to the area's homelessness problem and the Board ultimately chose not to support it. He said fear-mongering ruled the day and the Board's path of least resistance was to say no to the project. He said citizens are still incensed by the decision and will continue to put pressure on the Board to find an alternate solution.

*County Department Reports* HHS Director Marilyn Mann reported that the State has launched the Family Urgent Response System (FURS) 24/7 hotline.

*COVID-19 Staff Update* The Board heard staff's weekly update on the status of COVID-19 cases locally, as well as state and national trends. Staff also updated the Board on the distribution on vaccines and ongoing testing. HHS Director Marilyn Mann said Public Health is beginning to see a decline in COVID cases. HHS Deputy Director-Public Health Anna Scott said the County is awaiting word on how and when it will receive the newly approved, single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.–

Holly Mullanix from Bishop Twin Theatre expressed frustration about the ongoing business closures and the feeling that the County is picking and choosing what gets enforced – as evidenced by the ongoing lack of door monitors at Vons and the lumber store to ensure they're keeping to capacity limits. CAO Quilter said this was a reasonable and fair comment and staff will look into it.

David Blacker of the Death Valley Natura History Association shared residents' frustration at the four-hour drive required of elderly and low-income residents to attend the recent mass vaccine clinic in Bishop. He said the County will eventually have to come to Southeast Inyo if it wants to get the vaccine to everyone. He also bemoaned the ongoing closures, noting that is something doesn't change soon there will be adverse economic impacts this summer.

Lynne Greer spoke in support of Ms. Mullanix, calling it beyond ridiculous that the theatre and restaurants can't open but the gas stations and larger stores are packed full of customers. She

wondered if a letter to the Governor would help and said it feels like the mom-and-pop stores are being punished while so much other commerce is going on around them.

Tiffany Lau said she was happy to hear that a translator is available at testing sites, and wondered how staff is coming along with its outreach to the Spanish-speaking community.

*BOS – USFS  
American Outdoors  
Act Presentation*

The Board received a presentation and briefing by Inyo National Forest Supervisor Lesley Yen and her team regarding preparation efforts for Deferred Maintenance funding for projects on the Forest for 2023, including an overview of 2021 and 2022 programs. Lynne Greer, a permittee, encouraged the Forest to take note of the amenities and infrastructure currently being provided by permittees and said she hoped a private-public partnership would be part of the equation.

*Recess/Reconvene*

The Chairperson recessed the meeting at 12:09 p.m. for a break and reconvened the meeting at 12:32 p.m. with all Board members present.

*District Attorney –  
Office Clerk I-II*

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Pucci for the Board to find that, consistent with the adopted Authorized Position Review Policy: A) the availability of funding for one (1) Office Clerk I or II position exists in the General Fund, as certified by the District Attorney and concurred with by the County Administrator and Auditor-Controller; B) where internal candidates may meet the qualifications for the position, the vacancy could possibly be filled through an internal recruitment, but an open recruitment is more appropriate to ensure qualified applicants apply; and C) approve the hiring of one (1) Office Clerk I or II at Range 48 (\$2,851 - \$3,454) or Range 50 (\$2,975 - \$3,619). Motion carried unanimously.

*HHS-Public  
Health/Prevention –  
Term-Limited RN or  
PHN*

Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Pucci for the Board to find that, consistent with the adopted Authorized Position Review Policy: A) the availability of funding for one term-limited (1) Registered Nurse at Range 78 or one (1) term-limited Public Health Nurse at Range 80 exists in non-General Fund budgets, as certified by the HHS Director and concurred with by the County Administrator and Auditor-Controller; B) where internal candidates may meet the qualifications for the positions, the vacancy could possibly be filled through an internal recruitment, but an open recruitment is more appropriate to ensure qualified applicants apply; and C) approve the hiring of one (1) term-limited Registered Nurse at Range 78 (\$5,741 - \$6,976) or one (1) term-limited Public Health Nurse at Range 80 (\$6,018 - \$7,320). Motion carried unanimously.

*Clerk of the Board –  
Child Care Planning  
Council Appointment*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to appoint Kat Duncan to an unfinished three-year term for a Local Agency Representative on the Inyo County Child Care Planning Council, ending November 4, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

*CAO-Advertising  
County Resources –  
Ben Ditto Blanket  
P.O.*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to approve a blanket purchase order agreement not to exceed \$25,000 payable to Benjamin Ditto for the provision of professional video services. Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works –  
Conspec Invoice*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to authorize payment of an invoice for the amount of \$48,069.57 from Conspec Inc. Construction Specialty of Lee Vining, CA for completing an emergency water line installation on Locust Street in the town of Lone Pine, CA. Motion carried unanimously.

*Planning – Vacant  
Lands/Zoning  
Workshop*

Planning Director Cathreen Richards and Robert Edgerton from HELIX Environmental Planning conducted a workshop with the Board on the Vacant Lands Inventory and Zoning/General Plan Evaluations for Possible Changes to Promote Housing Opportunities. Richards sought direction regarding the project description, parcel selection, and alternatives for the Environmental Impact Report. The Board directed Planning to prepare the EIR and identify which parcels will move forward with General Plan and zoning designation proposed changes.

*Water Department –  
Rocky Mountain  
Tree-Ring Contract*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to award and ratify approval of contract between the County of Inyo and Rocky Mountain Tree-Ring Research, Inc., for the provision of Tree Ring Chronology Services in an amount not to exceed \$15,000,

for the period of February 9, 2021 to June 30, 2022; and authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent upon the appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.

*Information Services – Northland Systems Sole-Source Agreement*

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Tothoroh to: A) declare Northland Systems, Inc. of Maple Grove, Minnesota, a sole-source provider of Server and Computer System Extended Support Services; B) ratify and approve the service agreement renewal between the County of Inyo and Northland Systems, Inc., of Maple Grove, Minnesota for the provision of Server and Computer System Extended Support Services in an amount not to exceed \$12,000 for the period of February 26, 2021 through February 25, 2022; and C) authorize the Information Services Director or Information Services Deputy Director to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.

*Personnel – Weurdig Contract/Reso# 2021-21*

Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to approve: A) a contract between the County of Inyo and Amy Weurdig for the provision of personal services as the Regional Child Support Director at a monthly salary of \$9,032.00 effective March 4, 2021 and authorize the Chairperson to sign contingent upon all signatures being obtained; and B) Resolution 2021-21, titled, “A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California, Amending Resolution 2006-06, Changing Salary and/or Terms and Conditions of Employment for Appointed Officials Employed in the Several Offices or Institutions of the County of Inyo,” and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

*CAO – C.O.B. Budget Amendment*

Moved by Supervisor Tothoroh and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to amend the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Consolidated Office Building Budget (011809) by increasing appropriation in Construction in Progress object code (5700) by \$350,000 (*4/5ths vote required*). Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Comment*

The Chairperson solicited public comment for the final public comment period.

The Assistant Clerk of the Board did not receive any emailed comments and nobody requested to speak to the Board via the “hand-waving” feature on Zoom.

*Board Member and Staff Reports*

Supervisor Kingsley said he attended the Standing Committee meeting on Monday, spoke with RCRC about Assembly Joint Resolution 5, and attended the first BLM Central California Resource Advisory Committee in four years.

Supervisor Roeser reported a lot of meetings and communication with constituents, and being on a conference call last week where Michael Morse of the Inyo National Forest was given the Ranger of the Year Award. She also hinted at big changes coming to Mendenhall Park.

Supervisor Pucci said with regard to the question of what the Board is doing to find an alternate solution to the safe parking project, he said he agreed to continue working on the issue and in addition to fielding numerous calls and gathering ideas from constituents, he spoke with Larry Emerson of IMACA about possible alternate locations. He added that he also attended the Standing Committee meeting.

Chairperson Griffiths said he just got word from CSAC that the White House has moved up the vaccine timeline so that every adult who wants one should be able to get one by May.

*Adjournment*

Chairperson Griffiths adjourned the meeting at 1:58 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 9, 2021 in the County Administrative Center in Independence.

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Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

*Attest: CLINT G. QUILTER  
Clerk of the Board*

by: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Darcy Ellis, Assistant*