

MINUTES



County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

April 6, 2021

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in regular session at the hour of 8:32 a.m., on April 6, 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.

Public Comment

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

Erin Shea, a parent and resident of West Bishop, said she wanted to remind the Board that it's been almost two months since it voted to block a well thought-out and vetted safe parking project at the Nazarene Church that was supported by the Bishop Police Department, School District, and Sheriff's Office. She urged the Board to find a solution to the problem it created by denying the project.

Closed Session

Chairperson Griffiths recessed open session at 8:35 a.m. to convene in closed session with all Board members present to discuss the following item(s): No. 2 **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION – Pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code §54956.9** – Name of case: *County of Inyo et al v. Two Brothers Ocean Pine LLC* (Inyo Sup. Ct. Case no. SICV-CV-2065575); No. 3 **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION – Pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code §54956.9** – Name of case: *Hollowell v. County of Inyo et al.* (Sac. Sup. Ct. Case No. 34-2021-00295566); and No. 4 **CONFERENCE WITH COUNTY'S LABOR NEGOTIATORS – Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6** – Regarding employee organizations: Deputy Sheriff's Association (DSA); Elected Officials Assistant Association (EOAA); Inyo County Correctional Officers Association (ICCOA); Inyo County Employees Association (ICEA); Inyo County Probation Peace Officers Association (ICPPOA); IHSS Workers; Law Enforcement Administrators' Association (LEAA). Unrepresented employees: all. County designated representatives – Administrative Officer Clint Quilter, Assistant County Administrator Leslie Chapman, Deputy Personnel Director Sue Dishion, County Counsel Marshall Rudolph, Health and Human Services Director Marilyn Mann, and Chief Probation Officer Jeff Thomson.

Open Session

Chairperson Griffiths recessed closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 10:02 a.m. with all Board members now present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Griffiths led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Report on Closed Session

County Counsel Rudolph reported that no action was taken during closed session that is required to be reported.

Public Comment

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

Tawni Thomson, Executive Director of the Bishop Area Chamber of Commerce, extended a heartfelt thank you to the Board for the Community Resiliency grant it received to help offset COVID-19 costs and losses.

Tiffany Lau, Treasurer of the non-profit called Goodent, announced and invited the community

to a virtual event they are hosting for Earth Day. She said more information is available at goodent.org.

David Foroudi said he has been in touch with the Planning Department and Assistant CAO Leslie Chapman requesting a public session/discussion on short-term rentals and equitable operations.

The Assistant Clerk of the Board read aloud letters from Linda Chaplin of Independence and Stephanie DeWolfe. Ms. Chaplin suggested the Board require outdoor dining establishments put wind-proof covers on their trash receptacles to prevent wind-blown litter. Ms. DeWolfe renewed her ongoing concerns and frustrations that no work is being done on her mother's homicide case, requesting an explanation in writing why the detective in charge of the case and the Sheriff have offered conflicting explanations on the lack of action taken, or at the least an explanation why they believe the case is unsolvable.

Proclamations – Wild Iris

Chairperson Griffiths read aloud proclamations from Wild Iris declaring April as both Sexual Assault Awareness and Child Abuse Prevention months in Inyo County. Wild Iris Executive Director Matthew O'Connor said a few words about the importance of these initiatives, and also thanked the County for giving Wild Iris a Community Resilience grant to offset losses from COVID-1. Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to approve: A) a proclamation declaring April 2021 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Inyo County; and B) a proclamation declaring April 2021 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Inyo County. Motion carried unanimously.

County Department Reports

Chief Probation Officer Jeff Thomson reported that the Juvenile Hall has passed its biennial inspection and also gave an update on SB 823.

Public Works Director Mike Errante reported that the environmental document for commercial air service at the Bishop Airport is available for public comment. He added that Engineering Assistant Trevor Taylor successfully applied for a Highway Safety grant that will fund the placement of guard rails along Onion Valley Road.

Inyo County Clerk-Recorder-Registrar of Voters Kammi Foote announced her last day in office will be April 9, as she has accepted a position as a Senior Subject Matter Expert with the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. The Board offered its best wishes and congratulations.

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 reported a continued, significant decline in local case numbers and anticipated the State verifying today that Inyo County has achieved one week in the Red Tier metrics (two weeks will allow a move to the Red Tier). She also discussed upcoming changes by the State to its Blueprint for a Safer Economy, specifically how to move forward beyond a tier system when more people are vaccinated and the vaccines become more widely available.

Deputy HHS Director-Public Health Anna Scott encouraged residents between the ages of 16-49 with underlying health conditions to make a vaccine appointment soon. She explained that health officials have become more liberal in their acceptance of health issue claims and are no longer requiring doctor verification. She said next week, the vaccine will be available to anyone under the age of 50. David Blacker, Executive Director of the Death Valley Natural History Association, said excitement is high for tomorrow's vaccine clinic in Southeast Inyo, and also encouraged people in the Bishop area – where most of the new cases are cropping up – to continue adhering to health guidelines.

Assistant CAO Leslie Chapman said staff is finished distributing the Community Resiliency grants for local non-profits, noting that between the County's contribution and a matching grant from Metabolic Studio, they were able to award 25 grants totaling \$200,000.

Presentation – CCRC State-Level Redistricting

The Board received a presentation from Linda Akutagawa and Jane Andersen of the California Citizens Redistricting Committee on the 2021 state-level redistricting process.

*Presentation –
Bishop Fire Dept.
EMS Expansion*

The Board received a presentation from Bishop Fire Department on proposed Emergency Medical Services (EMS) expansion activities.

*Child Support –
Child Support Officer
I-III & Admin
Analyst I-II*

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to:

- A) Change the authorized strength within the Child Support Department by:
 - 1. deleting one (1) Program Manager, Range 78 (\$5,741-\$6,976) and one (1) Office Technician I, Range 55 (\$3,343-\$4,065);
 - 2. adding one (1) Child Support Officer I-III, Ranges 57-64 (\$3,499-\$5,011) and adding one (1) Administrative Analyst I-III, Ranges 68-72 (\$4,533-\$6,050); and
- B) Find that, consistent with the adopted Authorized Position Review Policy:
 - 1. the availability of funding for the requested positions exists in the non-general Child Support fund, as certified by the Child Support Regional Director and concurred with by the County Administrator and Auditor-Controller;
 - 2. the positions could be filled by internal recruitment; however, an open recruitment would be more appropriate to ensure qualified applicants apply; and
 - 3. approve the hiring of one (1) Child Support Officer I-III, Range 57-64 (\$3,499-\$5,011), depending upon qualifications; and approve the hiring of one (1) Administrative Analyst I-II, Range 68-70 (\$4,533-\$5,781), depending upon qualifications.

Motion carried unanimously.

*Clerk-Recorder –
Office Tech I-III*

Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to:

- A) Change the Authorized Strength in the Clerk/Recorders Department by adding one (1) Office Technician I-III, Range 55-63 (\$3,343 -\$4,895); and
- B) Find that, consistent with the adopted Authorized Position Review Policy:
 - 1. the availability of funding for one (1) Office Technician I-III, Range 55-63 (\$3,343 - \$4,895) exists in the General Fund, as certified by the Clerk-Recorder and concurred with by the County Administrator and Auditor-Controller;
 - 2. 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
 - 3. approve the hiring of one (1) Office Technician I-III at Range 55-63 (\$3,343-\$4,895), depending on qualifications.

Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works –
Item Pulled*

The following item was pulled from the agenda at the request of the department:

- 19. **Public Works** - Request Board accept and approve the Highway Easement Deed from the United States of America, acting through the Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, for the realignment of a portion of road related to the Carroll Creek Road Bridge Replacement Project.

*Emergency Services –
Container Alliance
Purchase*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to declare Container Alliance Company of Santa Barbara, CA, the successful bidder for storage containers per Inyo County Bid No. 2021-03; and B) authorize the purchase of three (3) storage containers from Container Alliance of Santa Barbara, CA, in an amount not to exceed \$19,503.75. Motion carried unanimously.

*CAO-Museum –
CCRW Sublease*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to authorize the County Administrator or designee to provide written consent for Carson and Colorado Railway, Inc. (CCRW) to sublease Southern Pacific Narrow Gauge Steam Locomotive #18 to the Durango Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad for the period from May 10, 2021 to October 15, 2021, in accordance with Section 15 of the lease agreement between Inyo County and CCRW. Motion carried unanimously.

*Recycling & Waste
Management – Tire
Amnesty Fee Waiver*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to waive all gate and disposal fees associated with the Tire Amnesty Events to be conducted in April and October 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

County Counsel –

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to approve proposed contract with Thomson Reuters for online legal research service for a total amount not to

<i>Thomson Reuters Contract</i>	exceed \$48,130.14 over a three-year period commencing November 1, 2021, contingent upon Board's approval of future budgets; and authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>County Counsel – Jarvis, Fay & Gibson LLP Contract</i>	Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to approve Amendment No. 1 to the agreement between the County of Inyo and Jarvis, Fay & Gibson, LLP of Oakland, CA, increasing the contract limit to an amount not to exceed \$110,000, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>HHS-Social Services – UC Davis Contract Amendment 1</i>	Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to approve Amendment No. 1 to the contract between the County of Inyo and the Regents of the University of California, on behalf of its Davis Campus University Extension, for training services, extending the contract period by an additional four months with a new contract end date of October 31, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Public Works – Kern Machinery Blanket P.O.</i>	Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to authorize issuance of a blanket purchase order for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 in an amount not to exceed \$30,000, payable to Kern Machinery of Bakersfield, CA for the purchase of equipment repair and service items. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Public Works – Mercy Air Lease Agreement</i>	Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to approve the lease agreement between the County of Inyo and Air Methods (DBA Mercy Air) of Greenwood Village, CO for certain lands at the Lone Pine/Death Valley Airport, in an amount not to exceed \$7,200.00 per year for an initial term of April 15, 2021 through April 15, 2022, with four one-year renewal options through April 15, 2026, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Public Works – ACRGP Airport Grants</i>	Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to authorize the Public Works Director to sign the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Coronavirus Response Grant Program (ACRGP) grants for the Bishop Airport and Lone Pine/Death Valley Airport. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Road Department – Conexwest Storage Container Purchase</i>	Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to: A) declare Conexwest of San Francisco, CA the successful bidder for storage containers per Bid No. 2021-04; and B) authorize the purchase of two (2) storage containers from Conexwest of San Francisco, CA in an amount not to exceed \$13,549.48. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Sheriff – Dooley's Sole-Source P.O.</i>	Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to: A) declare Dooley's Enterprises, Inc. of Anaheim, CA a sole-source provider of ammunition; and B) authorize the issuance of a purchase order in an amount not to exceed \$24,500 payable to Dooley's Enterprises, Inc. of Anaheim, CA for ammunition. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Sheriff – Mobile Relay Assoc. Radio Purchase</i>	Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to: A) declare Mobile Relay Associates of Paramount, CA the successful bidder for seventy-eight (78) Kenwood NX5300K3 portable radios per Bid No. 2021-02; and B) authorize the purchase of seventy-eight (78) Kenwood NX5300K3 portable two-way radios from Mobile Relay Associates of Paramount, CA in an amount not to exceed \$45,929.00. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Sheriff – Policy Waiver/Jeep RFP</i>	The following agenda item was moved from Consent to Departmental for further discussion. Sheriff Hollowell said the policy in question is more of a matter of past practice for Motor Pool, and no official policy exists. He said there was still a Dodge/Jeep dealership in Bishop when the Sheriff's Office applied for and received a grant for the OHV program in which they specified a Jeep Rubicon. That dealership has since closed. Supervisor Totheroh asked why the item is being brought forth for Board approval if there is no policy to waive. Assistant County Administrator Leslie Chaplin explained that Motor Pool does have a policy requiring the County to only work with vendors who can perform all warranty work on purchased vehicles within 100 miles of Bishop. She said what the staff report fails to mention is that the grant to be used for the purchase does not cover equipping of the vehicle to law enforcement standards. Supervisor Roeser asked why the vehicle had to be a Jeep. Sheriff Hollowell said the program requires a high-clearance vehicle. Ms. Chapman asked whether a Toyota would do, and was informed that its clearance is not high enough. CAO Quilter asked whether the grant could be

changed to specify a different make and model of vehicle. Sheriff Hollowell said it could not, because the County would lose the grant. Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to waive the Motor Pool Policy that vendors must have the ability to have all warranty work performed within 100 miles of Bishop and allow the Sheriff's Office to do an RFP to purchase a Jeep Rubicon for the OHV program. Motion carried unanimously.

Water – OVGA Rep Direction

Water Director Dr. Aaron Steinwand sought direction from the Board for the County's the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority representatives in advance of the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority meeting scheduled for April 8, 2021. He reviewed the agenda. Supervisor Totheroh, the County's director on the OVGA board, said a groundwater model for the Tri-Valley area is extremely important and he would be in favor of supporting a grant application to fund it.

HHS-ESAAA – 2021-22 Area Plan Update

Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to: A) approve the Eastern Sierra Area Agency on Aging 2021-2022 Area Plan Update; B) set the minimum percentages for the Supportive Services subcategory as recommended by the ESAAA Advisory Council at 50% for Access category-transportation, 10% for Legal services, and 5% for In-home services; and C) authorize the Chairperson to sign two copies of the required Transmittal Letter. Motion carried unanimously.

Environmental Health – Fee Waiver/Reso # 2021-24

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve Resolution No. 2021-24, titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, Approving a Waiver or Refund of Certain Environmental Health Fees for Calendar Year 2021," and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

HHS-Public Health – Fairgrounds Rental (COVID Testing)

Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to ratify and approve the agreement between the County of Inyo and the 18th District Agricultural Association (Tri-County Fairgrounds) for the provision of indoor rental space to conduct OptumServe COVID-19 testing services in an amount not to exceed \$500 per day, \$44,000 total for the period of March 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021, and authorize the HHS Director to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

HHS-Public Health – Fairgrounds Rental (COVID Vaccines)

Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to ratify and approve the agreement between the County of Inyo and the 18th District Agricultural Association (Tri-County Fairgrounds) for the provision of indoor rental space to conduct COVID-19 vaccination services in an amount not to exceed \$800 per day, for the period of February 19, 2021, through December 31, 2021, and authorize the HHS Director to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

HHS-Public Health – MOU for Vaccine Eligibility

Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to ratify and approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Inyo and California Government Operations Agency for the purpose of establishing the Agency's expectations and conditions for the County's continued eligibility for allocation of COVID-19 vaccine for the period continuing until completion of COVID-19 vaccination services and ratify the signature of the County Administrative Officer. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk of the Board – Approval of Minutes

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to approve the minutes of the regular Board of Supervisors meetings of March 9, 2021 and March 16, 2021. 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 Pucci reported receiving a lot of calls from constituent, mostly regarding COVID-19 and a new homeless safe parking project location.

Supervisor Totheroh said he will be attending the OVGA meeting Thursday and meetings of the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority and Eastern Sierra Council of Governments on Friday, and noted that he received numerous calls over the past week regarding the safe parking issue.

Supervisor Roeser said she has been attending a number of meetings regarding impending issues with Lahontan Regional Water Quality Board, has been getting involved with the Great

Basin Air Pollution Control District Board, has had really good communication with the local fire districts, and thanked CAO Quilter and his team for all they have been doing to advocate for Inyo County during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chairperson Griffiths reported being busy with numerous calls with state officials, attending a dispersed camping summit and meetings of the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership, IMACA, and the Bishop City Council.

Closed Session

Chairperson Griffiths recessed open session at 1:11 p.m. to convene in closed session at 1:30 p.m. with all Board members present, except Supervisor Kingsley who had to leave at 1 p.m., to continue discussion and possible action as appropriate on previously noted closed session items.

Open Session

Chairperson Griffiths recessed closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 2:04 p.m. with all Board members present except Supervisor Pucci.

Report on Closed Session

County Counsel Rudolph reported that no action was taken in Closed Session that is required to be reported.

Adjournment

Chairperson Griffiths adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 13, 2021 in the County Administrative Center in Independence.

Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

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

by: _____
Darcy Ellis, Assistant