

MINUTES



County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

August 18, 2020

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in regular session at the hour of 9:01 a.m., on August 18, 2020, 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 Matt Kingsley, presiding, Dan Totheroh, Jeff Griffiths, Rick Pucci, and Mark Tillemans. Also present: County Administrative Officer Clint Quilter, Assistant Clerk of the Board Darcy Ellis, and County Counsel Marshall Rudolph.

Public Comment Chairperson Kingsley asked the Assistant Clerk of the Board whether there was any public comment emailed for today's meeting for items not calendared on the agenda.

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

Nobody requested to speak to the Board via the "hand-waving" feature on Zoom.

Closed Session Chairperson Kingsley recessed open session at 9:02 a.m. to convene in closed session with all Board members to discuss the following item(s): No. 2 **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION** – *The County of Inyo v. Two Brothers Ocean Pine, LLC* (Inyo County Superior Court Case No. SI-CV-CV2065575).

Open Session Chairperson Kingsley recessed closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 10:06 a.m. with all Board members present.

Pledge of Allegiance CAO Quilter 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 Kingsley asked if there was any public comment pending for items not calendared on the agenda.

Derek Hoffman, an attorney representing Meadowbrook Dairy in Indian Wells Valley, addressed the Board on the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority and its "flawed and inconsistent" Groundwater Sustainability Plan. He encouraged the Groundwater Authority to consider a proper and vetted plan and to work with stakeholders instead of against them.

County Department Reports The Chairperson opened the floor to department reports and there was no-one wishing to address the Board.

COVID-19 Staff Update HHS Director Marilyn Mann reported a continued rise in the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths, which can be traced to the outbreak at Bishop Care Center. She called it a sobering reality of the effects of the virus, which presents in a wide range of symptoms, from none to severe. She noted that the County was notified on Friday of its imminent placement on the State watch list due to some worrisome metrics, especially Inyo's positivity rate. Mann discussed the implications for the school districts, who Public Health Officer Dr. James Richardson recommended forgo in-class learning late last week prior to notification from the State. She explained that as a result of being placed on the watch list, additional industries would be required to close down as of midnight tomorrow. She added that staff will be working with the State on a mechanism for reopening those businesses assuming Inyo County is removed from the list.

Deputy HHS Director-Public Health Anna Scott reported on COVID numbers, noting that as of

yesterday Inyo County had 148 positive cases – 83 of which (58 from the Bishop Care Center and 25 out in the community) were discovered over the last two weeks. She said a majority of the cases have so far been in the north county but are starting to spread south and east as well. She said officials are seeing trends in the positive cases: people who have traveled out of the county or people who have welcomed visitors from out of the county to their homes. She said there have also been increased household and workplace spread. Scott also reported on the measures the County will have to take to be removed from the watch list, including continued enforcement of infection control policies.

Dr. Richardson said he believes, after meeting with school superintendents, that the schooling situation has pretty much been solved, although there are outstanding transportation and daycare issues to address. He mentioned new information about COVID suggests 10-20 cases account for 80% of transmissions – which he said reinforces the notion that this virus is not like the flu, in that asymptomatic carriers can easily and unwittingly spread it to the others. He said the availability of rapid, inexpensive home testing will be crucial to identifying asymptomatic cases and “super spreaders” and halting the spread. Dr. Richardson also projected that the virus would continue to be a threat at least through the upcoming fall and winter. He also shared reports that more children are being diagnosed, with children accounting for 9% of all cases nationwide.

Chairperson Kingsley said he is particularly concerned about how distance learning will work for economically challenged families and hoped there would be some ideas about how to help out these community members.

Dr. Richardson discussed the spread of new cases to the south county, noting that the virus is like a fire with no boundaries and the ability to spread rapidly and move without anyone knowing.

Assistant County Administrator Leslie Chapman reviewed for the Board the changes to local industries after being added to the watch list. She also mentioned a small-business grant program that is up for Board approval today, and noted that staff is interested in working with businesses on creative solutions to staying open.

Sherri Newman of Lone Pine asked why the County wasn't identifying the specific locations of new cases and was told that the Health Insurance Privacy and Accountability Act has very specific guidelines in place about how much information the County can release about cases. Mann said that, in the absence of precise location information, every citizen should operate under the assumption that others they come in contact with are carriers of COVID, which means taking on the responsibility of wearing masks, social distancing, and practicing good hygiene.

Sheriff – Food Cook

Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh for the Board to find that, consistent with the adopted Authorized Position Review Policy: A) the availability of funding for the requested position comes from the General Fund, as certified by the Sheriff and concurred by the County Administrator and the Auditor-Controller; B) where internal candidates may meet the qualifications for the position and the position could possibly be filled by an internal recruitment, an open recruitment is more appropriate to ensure the position is filled with the most qualified applicant; and C) approve the open recruitment and hiring of one (1) Food Cook position at Range 51A-51C (\$3,047 - \$3,525). Motion carried unanimously.

*HHS –
CBHDA
2020-2021 Dues*

Moved by Supervisor Tillemans and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approval to pay County Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA) dues for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 in an amount not to exceed \$16,083.80, contingent upon Board's adoption of FY 2020-2021 Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works –
ESE Contract*

Moved by Supervisor Tillemans and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve and award the contract for Engineering Consultant Services for the Lone Pine Sidewalk Construction and ADA Improvement Project to Eastern Sierra Engineering of Bishop, CA in an amount not to exceed \$317,473.44, and authorize the Chairperson to sign contingent on all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.

*Child Support
Services –*

Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to approve a proclamation declaring August 2020 as Child Support Awareness Month in Inyo County.

*Proclamation for
Child Support
Awareness Month*

Motion carried unanimously.

Recess/Reconvene

The Chairperson recessed the meeting at 11:11 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 11:19 a.m. with all Board members present.

*CAO – REVIVE
Grant Program*

Assistant County Administrator Leslie Chapman introduced a program to use a portion of the County's CARES Act funding for grants for small businesses impacted by COVID-19. She said a team was put together to design the program, including Auditor-Controller Amy Shepherd, Treasurer-Tax Collector Alisha McMurtrie, Senior Budget Analyst Denelle Carrington, with assistance from County Counsel and Deputy IS Director Jayme Westervelt. Chapman, Carrington, McMurtrie, and Shepherd took turns presenting the program to the Board via PowerPoint, discussing eligible expenses, the application process, the program's timeline, and scoring criteria. McMurtrie previewed the new REVIVE Program webpage and Chapman noted staff will be doing extensive advertising of the program to reach local businesses. Chairperson Kingsley and Supervisors Totheroh, Pucci, and Griffiths commended the grant team for its thoroughness and organization, and for making the application process so easy. CAO Quilter complimented the team for an amazing job, which was accomplished in addition to the already full plates they have in their respective positions. Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to: A) Adopt the Restoring Vital & Valuable Inyo County Commerce (REVIVE) grant program to be funded with up to \$800,000 of CARES Act funding, as proposed or amended, contingent upon funds being received by the County; B) Authorize CAO, Clint Quilter, to sign agreements with grantees; and C) Authorize staff to make non-substantive changes to the grant documents. Motion carried unanimously.

*Information Services
– Corrected CBC
Sole-Source
Agreement*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to declare the California Broadband Cooperative, Inc. (CBC) of Vallejo, CA a sole-source provider of symmetrical Internet Access Services; B) approve the corrected Service Agreement between the County of Inyo and the CBC for the provision of symmetrical Internet Access Services in an amount not to exceed \$141,200 (\$20,160 annually for 7 years, paid monthly at \$1,680) for the period of June 1, 2020 through May 31, 2027, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets; and C) authorize the Information Services Director or Deputy Director to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.

*Clerk of the Board –
Approval of Minutes*

Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Tillemans to approve the minutes of the regular Board of Supervisors meeting of August 11, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

The Chairperson solicited public comment for the final public comment period. No additional comments had been emailed and nobody requested to speak to the Board via the "hand-waving" feature on Zoom.

*Board Member and
Staff Reports*

Supervisor Pucci said he had an LTC meeting this week.

Supervisor Griffiths reported being on numerous calls with CSAC about the emergencies happening in California.

CAO Quilter said he misspoke last week when he said the FY 20-21 budget would be published today and the real publication date is August 28.

Chairperson Kingsley noted discussions about the statewide initiatives at RCRC meetings.

Adjournment

Chairperson Kingsley adjourned the meeting at 12:12 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, August 25, 2020 in the County Administrative Center in Independence.

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

*by: _____
Darcy Ellis, Assistant*