

# MINUTES



# County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

**April 13, 2021**

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in regular session at the hour of 8:31 a.m., on April 13, 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: Assistant County Administrative Officer Leslie Chapman, 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.

The Assistant Clerk of the Board said she had not received any letters as of then and nobody requested to speak via Zoom.

*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 10:01 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.

Drew Wickman referenced a letter he sent to the Board of Supervisors the day prior in which he highlighted the need to take care of people in the community who are living in their vehicles. He said while the entire Board voiced concern for this population at the February 16 meeting, a majority of the Board opposed the safe parking project and by virtue of doing so, have made it the Board's responsibility to find a solution. He asked a series of questions, such as what and who specifically are studying the issue for short- and long-term solutions, and requested a public workshop for the Board to update the public.

Chairperson Griffiths said a future workshop would be considered.

Noa Lish echoed Wickman's comments, and said she wanted the safe parking project to be at the top of the Board's priorities.

Supervisor Roeser announced that two pavement/pedestrian safety projects in the greater Big Pine/Independence area are on the agenda for next week's Local Transportation Commission meeting.

*County Department Reports*

Water Director Dr. Aaron Steinwand provided updates on the snowpack, runoff season, and LADWP's annual draft operations plan.

Public Works Director Mike Errante reported on the Bishop Airport and announced that emergency repairs would be commencing on South Lake Road.

Chief Probation Officer Jeff Thomson thanked Chairperson Griffiths for attending the recent Drug Court graduation and noted that his attendance means a lot to the graduates. He also announced the receipt of almost \$88,000 in Prop 64 grant funding to fund youth programs throughout Inyo County for three years.

*Employee Service Recognition – 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2021*

The Board of Supervisors recognized the following employees for reaching service milestones reached during the First Quarter of 2021:

- Michele Hartshorn, 10 years, Clerk-Recorder-Registrar of Election's Office
- Luis Huerta, 15 years, Herbert Dyer, 10 years, Dominic Andreas, 5 years, and Debbe Ditmar, 5 years, Public Works/Road Department
- Cindy Reeves, 5 years, Motor Pool
- Jazmin Valenzuela, 5 years, Sheriff's Office
- Rebecca Houle, 5 years, Donna Stephen, 5 years, Sarah Raley, 5 years, and Crystal Cox, 5 years, HHS

*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 that the State released four million doses of the vaccine last week and will imminently be revising its tier system, making it easier for counties to move up to less restrictive tiers and activities and capacities to be expanded. She added that as of April 15, the vaccine will be available to all individuals age 16 and older.

HHS Deputy Director-Public Health Anna Scott said as of last week, Inyo County is on track to have 35% of its entire population vaccinated, and noted upcoming mass vaccination clinics scheduled for April 24-25 in Bishop.

Public Health Officer Dr. James Richardson reported on the CDC pausing the use of Johnson & Johnson vaccines until it can do more study on the adverse reactions – specifically an extremely rare clotting disorder – that has so far affected about 6 in six million women.

Assistant County Administrator Leslie Chapman explained that with the recent and continuing changes to regulations for small counties, she is receiving feedback from businesses that things are getting confusion again. She said she will do some research and send out a clarifying email to the businesses on her distribution list.

During discussions, and by consensus, the Board directed staff to send letters to legislators requesting an event exemption for the Bishop Mule Days Celebration.

At the end of the update, it was announced that the State had just reported Inyo County moving into the Red Tier.

*HHS – HHS Admin Assistant*

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 one (1) HHS Administrative Assistant exists in the non-General Fund Social Services (055800), Mental Health (045200), Health (045100) and ESAAA (683000) 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 position, the vacancy could possibly be filled through an internal recruitment, but as a State Merit System position, an open recruitment is more appropriate to ensure qualified applicants apply; and C) approve the hiring of one (1) HHS Administrative Assistant at Range 70 (\$4,753 - \$ 5,781). Motion carried unanimously.

*HHS-ESAAA – CDA  
Amendment 1*

Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve Amendment No. 1 to the Standard Agreement for Contract Number AP-2021-16 between the County of Inyo and California Department of Aging, increasing the contract by \$27,827 to an amount not to exceed \$1,032,222 for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.

*Probation – Kern  
County Agreement*

Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve the agreement with Kern County to provide detention facilities and services for Inyo County for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets, and authorize the Chief Probation Officer to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works –  
Brown's Supply  
Blanket P.O.*

Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to authorize issuance of a blanket purchase order in an amount not to exceed \$20,000, payable to Brown's Supply of Bishop, CA for purchases of parts and materials for all Public Works divisions. Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works –  
Maintained Mileage  
Log/Reso# 2021-25*

Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh: A) approve Resolution No. 2021-25, titled, "Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California, Annual Certification of the 2020 Maintained Mileage Log," and authorize the Chairperson to sign; and B) authorize the Department of Public Works to file the Resolution with the District 9 Office of the State of California Department of Transportation. Motion carried unanimously.

*CAO – Direction on  
Filling Unexpired  
Clerk-Recorder Term*

The Board was asked to provide direction to staff regarding how to proceed with filling the unexpired term for the Office of Clerk-Recorder-Registrar of Voters. After a discussion of the options, the Board directed staff to recruit for applicants and appoint a committee to screen applications to eventually be presented to the Board for consideration in open session.

*HHS-First 5 –  
SPCFA Agreement*

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to ratify and approve the agreement between the County of Inyo and First 5 California of Sacramento, California for the provision of Small Population County Funding Augmentation services in an amount not to exceed \$814,415.00 for the period of April 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets, and authorize the HHS Director to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.

*BOS – Letters  
Requesting FY 2022  
Appropriations &  
Supporting Olancha-  
Cartago Project  
Funding*

Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve a letter requesting Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriations for Community Project Funding for the Eastern Sierra Small Business Resource Center and a letter Member Directed Project through the Transportation Authorization Bill for the Olancha-Cartago Widening Project. Motion carried unanimously.

*BOS – USFS  
Deferred  
Maintenance  
Workshop*

The Board of Supervisors participated in a workshop with U.S. Forest Service Washington and Regional office leadership to facilitate a cooperative relationship to secure funding for Deferred Maintenance projects on the Inyo National Forest.

*Water Department –  
Draft LADWP Urban  
Water Management  
Plan Comments*

Water Dr. Aaron Steinwand asked the Board to consider a letter submitting comments on the draft 2020 Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Urban Water Management Plan. Chairperson Griffiths asked for the following to be added to the end of the third paragraph: "LADWP's goal of reducing reliance on imported water should expressly apply to the LAA as well because water derived from the Eastern Sierra and delivered via the LAA is imported, not local, water." Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve a letter commenting on the draft 2020 Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Urban Water Management Plan, as amended, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. 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 April 6, 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 Kingsley reporting holding a small public meeting in Tecopa and while there, participated in a Zoom meeting regarding the town’s water store.

Supervisor Totheroh said he attended a meeting of the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority last Thursday, and noted he has had several talks with Larry Emerson of IMACA regarding alternatives for the safe parking project.

Supervisor Roeser reported having a lot of meetings and addressing constituent issues, and gave an update on the Carson & Colorado Railway Company preparing to move the train temporarily to Durango, CO.

Supervisor Pucci reported having several conversations about the safe parking project and trying to work with IMACA, in addition to fielding many calls about COVID-19 testing and vaccines.

Chairperson Griffiths said he attended the recent Drug Court graduation, had a call with the NACo Justice and Public Safety Commission, attended the meetings of the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority and Eastern Sierra Council of Governments on Friday, as well as last night’s City Council meeting and several meetings with the State over the past four days.

*Adjournment* Chairperson Griffiths adjourned the meeting at 1:12 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 20, 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*